

MAXIMISING REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING

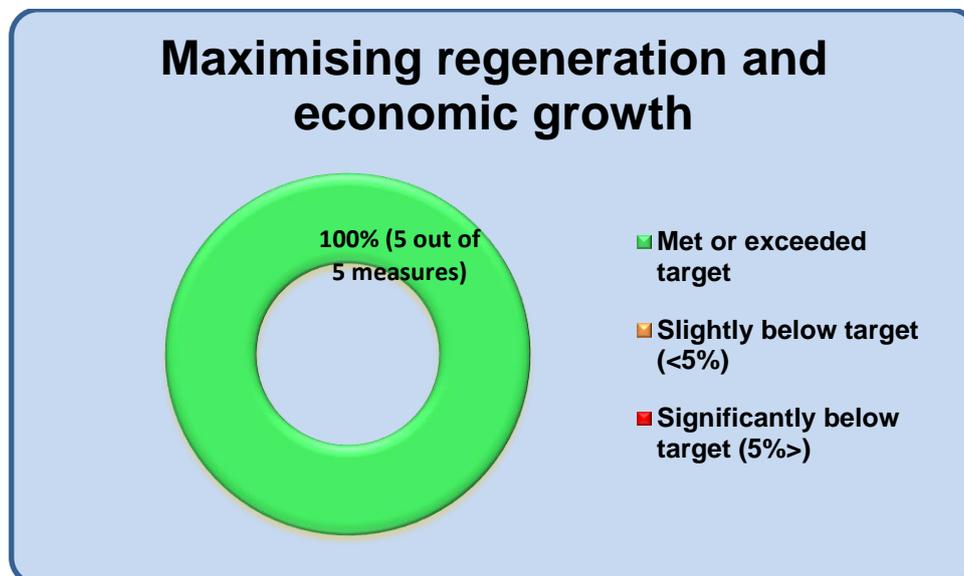
Performance: Quarter 1 2018/19

Key

 significantly below target (>5%)	 slightly below target (<5%)	 met or exceeded target	
 improved	 worsened	 static	
 data only, no target	N/A – data not available	Short – since last quarter	Long – average last 4 quarters
Benchmarking – compares favourably with national performance or standards	✓ Yes compares favourably	✗ No does not compare favourably	= similar performance

Council Plan measures: Summary Performance

There are 7 measures of success which fall under the remit of this Committee, however for Q1 we are reporting on 4 as data is not expected until after this report is published for 2 measures and 1 measure falls under the remit of the Children Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (percentage of 16-17 year olds not in education, employment or training).



Improved performance

- 60% (3 out of 5) improved long term (average of previous 4 quarters)
- 20% (1 out of 5) improved over the short term (since last quarter)

Measures in target (green)

Code	Status	Name	Long Term	Short Term
ECD13	✓	% of square footage let at Innovation Centre Medway (ICM)	↑	static
ECD20	✓	% of square footage let in council owned business units	↓	↓
LRCC4a	✓	Number of jobs created and safeguarded (cumulative)	↑	↓
MAE 2	✓	% Retention rate	↑	↓
MAE 3	✓	Achievement rate (pass rate)	↑	↓
NI 167 New	✓	Average journey time along 5 routes across Medway (mins per mile)	↓	↓
NI 156	✓	Number of households living in temporary accommodation	↑	↑
NI 117(16-17)	✓	The percentage of 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training	↑	↑
HC3	✓	No. of households with dependent children in B&B who have resided there for 6+ weeks at the end of the quarter	static	static
HC4	✓	Number of private sector properties improved as a result of the Council's intervention	↑	↑

Data not available

Code	Status	Name	Long Term	Short Term
NI 154	N/A	Net additional homes provided	N/A	N/A
New measure		Medway's economy as a whole (available Q3 2018/19)		

Highlights

- 50 jobs created and 25 protected - Locate in Kent.
- Medway Adult Education rated Good by Ofsted.
- 360 learners have/are attending vocational courses (17/18 academic year)
- 567 learner enrolments on employability skills programme
- 91 learners with learning difficulties or disabilities attended supported learning work skills courses
- Band 3 (highest) Highway Authority self assessment

Benchmarking/Achieve National Standards

	Council Plan Performance Measure - Compares favourably with national performance or standards?	Yes ✓ No ✗ Same =
NI 117(16-17)	The percentage of 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training	=
MAE2 & MAE3	Attention rate & Achievement rate MAE rated good by Ofsted	✓
NI 156	Number of households living in temporary accommodation rate of households in temporary accommodation	✓
NI 167 New	Average journey time along 5 routes across Medway (mins per mile) DFT Annual Self-Assessment Process for Highway Authorities – band 3 highest	✓

Council Plan Outcome: A strong diversified community

Programme: Business investment

Council Plan measures: performance

Code	Short Name	Success is	Q4 2017/18	Q1 2018/19				
			Value	Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
ECD13	% of square footage let at Innovation Centre Medway (ICM)		97%	97%	90%			static

Comments

The Innovation Centre Medway has a total space to let of 17,859.34 sq ft. The empty units vary, and as the sites are incubators there is always a “churn” of tenants coming and going, and moving within the building. The current empty square footage relates solely to vacant 'MyDesk' space, where tenants can take a single desk space in a shared unit. All units available for single-tenant use are currently let.

There are no specific trends in the nature of the vacant units at the ICM, and the Council has historically been able to adapt to need. For example, we are currently exploring adding more space to a 'small' unit by expanding it into the adjacent MyDesk area, which is not fully occupied. This would respond to current interest.

Code	Short Name	Success is	Q4 2017/18	Q1 2018/19				
			Value	Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
ECD20	% of square footage let in council owned business units		94.23%	92.79%	90%			

Comments

Council owned business units included in this measure are Hopewell Drive, Pier Road, Innovation Studios Medway and Innovation Centre Medway totalling 43,160 sq. ft. Units across the sites vary in size from approx. 120sqft to 1,500 sq. ft. At the end of Q1, all units available for single tenant use at Innovation Centre Medway are currently let (any empty square footage relates solely to vacant 'MyDesk' space). There are 6 vacant units at the other 3 Council owned sites totalling 3,100 sq. ft (288 sq. m). (To put this in context, a double garage is approximately 300sqft). Of the 6 vacant units 2 are currently under offer and 2 are awaiting necessary works to bring up their EPC rating before they can be returned to market.

Code	Short Name	Success is	Q4 2017/18	Q1 2018/19					
			Value	Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
NEW measure	Medway's economy as a whole	N/A		N/A					
Comments The methodology for this measure; based on the Cities for Growth publication by Price Waterhouse Cooper will be agreed in October 2018 with the Deputy Chief Executive.									

Project - Facilitating the delivery of Medway 2035 and Inward Investment

Comments

Medway Council is pursuing a range of projects and associated funding packages from a variety of sources, including the Government's Local Growth Fund, Growing Places Fund, Coastal Communities Fund and Housing Infrastructure Fund. These will assist to facilitate the creation of new business opportunities, such as Enterprise Zone status at Rochester Airport Technology Park, with the associated tax and planning benefits, to help secure a strong diversified local economy.

Public consultation on Medway 2035 (Regeneration Strategy) ran as part of the Local Plan consultation from 16 March - 25 June. The comments are currently being reviewed and will be considered for inclusion in the final document during Q2.

Actions

Medway Council has a joint contract with KCC for Locate in Kent to deliver inward investment services for Medway and Kent. Our joint investment is supplemented by European funds secured by Locate in Kent. The contract commenced in August 2016 for 3 years and was extended for an additional year to the end of July 2020. In Q1, Locate in Kent helped create 50 jobs in new businesses on the peninsula, and protect 25 in the centre of Chatham.

Project - Continue to encourage and help facilitate the growth of businesses in Medway

Actions

The Council is organising a further 'top ten business lunch' in quarter 2, with a focus on the draft Skills and Employability Plan for Medway and the Apprenticeship Levy. The Council had a stand at the Kent Vision Live at Detling on 16 May, where a number of contacts were made. The Council has booked a stand at the Kent Construction Expo in the Historic Dockyard on 4 October.

Project - Ensure Medway's regeneration agenda delivers economic growth, increasing high value businesses and high quality employment, and creating jobs and inward investment.

Actions

Q1 has seen the creation / safeguarding of 78 jobs in Medway, and 88 intensive assists for local businesses via the work of our contracted Inward Investment agency, Locate in Kent. This relates to two businesses on the Hoo peninsula. The Council has progressed three partners for growth loans. These loans are for individuals looking to start up new business in Medway. The Medway Innovation Board continues to meet, supporting the growth agenda. Work to deliver the Innovation Park Medway that is central to the Council's plans for high value businesses and high quality employment continues at pace, following recent South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) Accountability Board approval of a progress update regarding the funding they are providing for the project.

Project - Development of Innovation Park Medway (IPM) (maximising the benefits Enterprise Zone status brings) to provide the right infrastructure for business success

Comments

Following SELEP Accountability Board on 15th June 2018, approval has been given to revise the outputs for the airport infrastructure improvement works which exclude the hard paved runway and one new hangar. All outcomes, i.e. jobs created and safeguarded, remain the same. Rochester Airport Ltd are reviewing the planning application and starting the procurement exercise for a works contractor.

The masterplan is being developed further by consultants ready for consultation through September/October, subject to approval to consult by Cabinet in early September. If Cabinet approval is granted the masterplan could then be adopted in December 2018.

The business case for Local Growth Fund round 3 will be submitted to SELEP in November for Accountability Board February 2019. A business case has also been submitted for Growing Places Funding which will be taken to September 2018 Accountability Board. If approved, this will deliver an access road and associated infrastructure to the southern site alongside ICM.

Council Plan Outcome: Resident with jobs and skills

Programme: Jobs, skill and employability

Council Plan measures: performance

Code	Short Name	Success is	Q4 2017/18	Q1 2018/19				
			Value	Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
NI 117(16-17)	% 16-17 year olds -not in education/ employment / training		3.20%	2.90%	6.00%			

Comments and Benchmarking/Achieve National Standards

Whilst the rate of young people not in employment education or training is low, at 2.9% (May) it is important to note that the proportion of 16 and 17 year olds whose activity is not known is high, at 19.7% Nationally the rate of NEETS is also 2.9% but the rate of unknowns is considerably lower than Medway's at 2.9% also. Presently 205 Young people are recorded as NEET and 1380 as having an unknown destination.

Actions

The Youth Service team continue to work closely with geographical neighbours to "track" young people and now have two full time "trackers" in place that will support the identification of young people's destinations.

These issues have been exacerbated by Schools and Academies becoming unwilling to share information regarding young people's destinations. Considerable work to resolve these issues has been undertaken and the Service is confident the problem will now begin to reduce.

Better recording has helped rates of NEET/Not Known within the Troubled Families cohort rise by 20% since March, with an extra 73 young people adding to the cohort. Rates of NEET/Not Known have remained static in the cohort of young people on a Child Protection plan.

In line with the strategic priority of targeting our resources at supporting our most vulnerable young people good progress has been made in the cohort of young people known to Youth Offending Team who are NEET/Not Known. This has reduced by 30% since March 2018, (actual numbers have not been supplied to preserve anonymity). Similarly, the numbers of young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who are NEET/Not Known have dropped from 31 (March) to 21 (May).

Code	Short Name	Success is	Q4 2017/18	Q1 2018/19				
			Value	Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
LRCC 4a	Number of jobs created and safeguarded (cumulative)		409	78	35			

Actions

Figures for Q1 include three jobs created via Partners for Growth applications, with the remainder secured via the Kent and Medway contract with Locate in Kent (50 created across two employers, and 25 protected).

Code	Short Name	Success is	Q4 2017/18	Q1 2018/19				
			Value	Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
MAE 2	% Retention rate			Q3 data 95.48%	94%			

Comments

This PI is based on academic year rather than financial year.
Data as at 6 June 2018 for Q3 of Academic year (February - April 2018). Data extracted from AQUA MIS software using Crystal report.

Retention measures the number of learners who start a course with Medway Adult Education (MAE) and, at the end of the course/academic year, have completed their learning. Retention continues to meet the challenging target of 94% and this demonstrates that MAE's courses meet the aspirational, social and well-being needs of our learners.

Actions

The overall retention rate also reflects the rigorous monitoring of attendance by tutors and curriculum staff, and improved rigour in the Initial Assessment process (ensuring learners are placed on correct course for them). Medway Adult Education's approach to improving performance is one of continuous improvement through a range of quality measures including monthly quality review meetings scrutinising KPIs, observations of teaching and learning, learner and partner evaluations, self-assessment reviews and quality improvement plans at Service and Programme level. These measures ensure the Service's overall good KPI rates are maintained as evidenced by high retention and learner satisfaction rates.

Code	Short Name	Success is	Q4 2017/18	Q1 2018/19				
			Value	Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
MAE 3	Achievement rate (pass rate)			Q3 data 98.81%	96%			

Comments

This PI is based on academic year rather than financial year.

Data as at 6 June 2018 for Q3 of Academic year (February – April 2018). Data extracted from AQUA MIS software using Crystal report.

The pass rate measures how many of the learners, who complete their course, achieve a qualification or their learning aim. It shows that Medway Adult Education learners continue to achieve very high pass rates and demonstrates the excellent processes in place to support learners achieve their qualifications, or to achieve their learning outcomes in non-accredited provision (Recognising and recording progress achievement RARPA).

Actions

Medway Adult Education's approach to improving performance is one of continuous improvement through a range of quality measures including monthly quality review meetings scrutinising KPIs, observations of teaching and learning, learner and partner evaluations, performance and development reviews, self-assessment reviews and quality improvement plans at Service and Programme level. These ensure the Service's overall good KPI rates are maintained. Medway Adult Education has maintained its Information, Advice and Guidance Matrix kite mark, and monitors the effectiveness of assessment processes, ensuring learner needs are met through differentiation, and additional learning support if required, enabling learners to reach their goals and is evidenced in the good pass and achievement rates and high learner satisfaction.

In 2017 the Government published its Industrial Strategy – Building a Britain Fit for the Future, which promoted 10 pillars to realise greater productivity – specifically in high Gross Value Added Sectors. Two pillars are of particular relevance to 2.1 which were Develop Skills and Cultivating World Leading Sectors. Also, the government launched its National Careers Strategy calling for greater opportunity for the educational establishment and businesses to work together.

Project - A Skills Plan for Medway will be completed in 2018.

Comments

This plan will incorporate the objectives of the 16 – 18 Youth Strategy, alongside interests such as apprenticeships, degree apprenticeship and internships to support lifelong learning.

Actions

The Medway Skills Board was established in 2017 to prioritise skills development in target sectors and to ensure that all residents benefit from growth. The Skills Board (Members and Officers' Boards) is responding to national, regional and local policy in its work to establish Medway's five skills priorities. Working with the SELEP's Skills Advisory Group and the Kent and Medway Skills Commission, the Board is ensuring that Medway's skills priorities are embedded in wider policy development. The four skills priorities focus effort on 1) Matching Business Demand and Skills Supply, 2) Developing Medway's Talent Pool, 3) Eliminating

Barriers to Employment and 4) Transforming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) to EETs.

A high level draft of the Skills and Employability Plan has been shared with the Portfolio Holder Inward Investment and Strategic Regeneration, Council Officers and MidKent College. The draft will be presented to an audience of key local businesses at a lunch on 12 July.

Project – Medway Adult Education (MAE) learning programme to boost local skills level for those furthest from employment

Benchmarking/Achieve National Standards

During Q1 MAE was rated Good by Ofsted. Inspectors visited the learning centres in Gillingham and Rochester and spoke with the teachers as well as those studying a variety of courses. They praised the fact that the MAE has maintained its strengths while successfully tackling challenges since the last inspection. Feedback included a number of positive remarks including recognition of MAE's apprenticeship programme, working with the Council's Apprenticeship Academy, working with unemployed people and supporting those with learning difficulties, disabilities and those with dementia.

Actions

MAE learning programme has been redesigned in conjunction with Employ Medway to respond to the new Health and Work programme. Links are being made with other referral agencies to explore programmes that could be offered to clients.

To date for the academic year 17/18 MAE has provided courses and qualifications to support local skills development e.g. 360 learners have or are attending vocational courses which develop skills for specific work sectors such as child care/nurseries and adult social care.

The employability skills programme to date has had 567 learner enrolments. 91 learners with learning difficulties or disabilities have attended supported learning work skills courses. There have been 1,074 learner enrolments to date for English for Speakers of Other Languages, 202 for basic maths or English courses and 48 learners have attend either a Maths or English GCSE course.

Council Plan Outcome: Preventing homelessness

Programme: Preventing homelessness

Council Plan measures: performance

Code	Short Name	Success is	Q4 2017/18	Q1 2018/19				
			Value	Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
NI 156	Number of households living in temporary accommodation		348	344	400			

Comments

At the end of Q1 2018/19 there were 344 applicants residing in temporary accommodation provided by the Council in line with its statutory responsibilities. This is a decrease from the 348 households that were accommodated at the end of Q4 2017/18.

Benchmarking/Achieve National Standards

Latest available benchmarking figures from September 2017 identify that the rate of households in temporary accommodation is currently 3.05 per 1000 households, this is slightly lower than the national rate of 3.37 and significantly lower than the rate seen in London of 14.97.

Further benchmarking has been undertaken this quarter to identify how Medway compares with other similar sized unitary authorities. In September the numbers in temporary accommodation in Brighton was at a rate of 13.11 households per 1000 and Milton Keynes had a rate of 5.65 households per 1000.

Code	Short Name	Success is	Q4 2017/18	Q1 2018/19				
			Value	Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
HC3	No. of households with dependent children in B&B who have resided there for 6+ weeks at the end of the quarter		0	0	0		static	static

Comments

A snapshot at the end of Q1 2018/19 identifies that no families were in bed and breakfast accommodation. Additionally, throughout Q1 no families were placed into bed and breakfast for more than 6 weeks. This is also the case for 2017/18 as a whole.

Actions

Work is continuously underway to ensure that the use of bed and breakfast is kept to a minimum. This has been done by seeking more suitable temporary accommodation for households and using HRA properties as temporary accommodation. The Service has also reviewed its procedures to ensure that all cases with children or a pregnant are moved on from bed and breakfast within appropriate timescales.

Code	Short Name	Success is	Q4 2017/18	Q1 2018/19				
			Value	Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
HC4	Number of private sector properties improved as a result of the Council's intervention		162	287	150			

Actions

In Q1 2018/19, 287 private sector households were assisted in having their properties improved via Council intervention. Interventions from the Private Sector Housing range from urgent to non-urgent complaints that tackle lack of heating and hot water, insecurity of properties, water ingress as well as damp and condensation and statutory inspections.

The Councils Private Sector Team continues to handle and resolve complaints from tenants and landlords, inspect and licence Houses in multiple occupation and carry out other property inspections.

The Council continues to deal with routine and complex enforcement issues. The service is continuing to tackle two, particularly challenging blocks of accommodation where the Authority has taken the lead on enforcement action. The Housing Options Team continues to operate a preventative approach towards homelessness.

The Homeless Reduction Act (HRA) 2017 was enacted in April 2018, this act reinforces the duties placed on local authorities to ensure households threatened with homelessness receive earlier significant intervention. The legislation focuses on working with clients before the crisis stage of homelessness is reached. The HRA has introduced further prevention and relief duties for local authorities to take action to prevent homelessness for any at risk client regardless of their priority need. During Q1 2018/19 the Council has achieved 188 homelessness preventions and reliefs (this is a mix of cases under the old homeless duty and cases under the new HRA) compared to 156 in Q4 2017/18. Work on preventions will help minimise the amount of new applicants having to go in to temporary accommodation.

Project - Help Medway's people get a foot on the housing ladder

For Q1 2018/19 38 affordable housing units were delivered in Medway, these included 2x2 bed houses, 11x3 bed houses and 2x4 bed Houses all for Affordable Rent. 3x2 bed houses, 1x3 bed house 6x1 bed flats and 13x2 bed flats all for Shared Ownership. There are currently 430 units of affordable housing under construction across Medway; this represents an investment of over £50 million in affordable housing.

Council Plan Outcome: Delivering new homes to meet the needs of Medway's residents

Programme: Delivering new homes to meet the needs of Medway's residents

Council Plan measures: performance

Code	Short Name	Success is	Q4 2017/18	Q1 2018/19				
			Value	Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
NI 154	Net additional homes provided	+	553 2015/16 annual	N/A latest figs available 2016/17 annual	1000	N/A	N/A	N/A

Comments

This data has been published in the Council's Authority Monitoring Report and is available on the website.

The main findings from the Monitoring Report include the completion of 642 dwellings in 2016/17, which is a 16% increase from the previous year.

Actions

Housebuilding rates are still recovering from difficult market conditions in recent years. There are signs of growing confidence in development in Medway, such as progress seen in large regeneration schemes such as Rochester Riverside and Kitchener Barracks. There are also over 800 homes known to be under construction. However, rates of development are below the Council's adopted housing target of 1000 homes a year.

Benchmarking/Achieve National Standards

The development industry is also delivering significantly fewer new homes than the 1281 dwellings per annum identified in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment as Medway's objectively assessed need for housing. The introduction of the proposed Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) standard method for calculating housing need would lift the annual figure to 1665 homes. It is questionable if this scale of housing could be delivered by the development industry.

Project - Preparation of the new Medway Local Plan

Comments

The draft Local Plan with amended Local Development Scheme will be reported to Cabinet in December to seek agreement to go to consultation in January on the draft Plan, with an aim to get the draft Plan submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in the summer of 2019. The Local Plan will establish a housing target for Medway up to 2035. The Council is progressing a number of individual projects across the area, particularly along the waterfronts of Strood,

Rochester and Chatham that will help in delivering the housing needed for Medway's growing population and realising the area's regeneration potential.

Actions

Consultation on the Development Strategy document was held during March to June 2018. The Council is continuing to work on the evidence base including; Strategic Transport Assessment, Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment, and Playing Pitch Strategy. Interim sustainability and environmental appraisals (SA and HRA) have been carried out on the Development Strategy document. Consultation responses are currently being analysed to inform the next stage of plan.

The annual development surveys of housing and commercial land completions was carried out in Spring 2018 to inform the Annual Monitoring Report due for publication in December.

Project - Encourage the delivery of homes to meet our targets through investigation of new financing models and release of Council owned sites.

Comments

This will include the first operation of Medway Development Company, and the handover of the Chatham Waterfront development site for delivery, both in 2018/19.

Actions

The Council has created a Housing Company, the Medway Development Company Limited (MDCL) and appointed a Head of Operations to lead the initial work of the organisation. The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resources have been appointed to the Board and two other non-executive board members are in the process of been appointed. The purpose of the company is to build quality housing for profit and support area based regeneration with a focus on creating sustainable communities that will support economic development and prosperity.

This will also mean improving the number of affordable homes available in Medway and the company has a 5 year plan of sites for development with the delivery of approximately 600 units planned.

Whiffens Avenue

Both the Geotech and Ecology survey have been completed and the archaeology has also been checked. Pre planning application has been completed; a design review was undertaken on 22 May and Members received a presentation on 31 May.

Further public and member engagement took place in June 2018 and the planning application was submitted in August.

Chatham Waterfront

A High Level meeting took place on 22 May with the Richard Watts Charity on to discuss the heights for potential new developments. MDCL will be looking at 10 to 12 storeys that they will progress to design to include approximately 150 apartments.

Housing Revenue Account

In order to source funding for new build and regeneration projects the Council is working to make representation to Government for the HRA Debt cap to be lifted. The Government has recently set out the criteria for submitting bids for increasing borrowing and the Council will develop a bid by the closing date of 7 September. Building of new council homes would have

a positive impact on reducing the number of households in temporary accommodation, reducing budget pressures and reducing the number of households on the Housing Register.

The Council is now taking forward phase 3 of its new build program of council homes and draft plans for a development of six bungalows in Twydall have been produced. The plans have been reviewed as part of a pre planning application and consultation with residents near the proposed site took place in July. A timetable has been produced and it's anticipated the works will go out to tender in September.

The Council are also exploring opportunities for regeneration and development of existing HRA sites. The Council is compiling a report for a future Housing Board on options available to the Council either by direct funding or alternative means; including options around the type of design and build of potential new properties.

Project - Rochester Riverside

Phase 1 transfer was completed on 30 April 2018 with Phase 2 currently planned for August 2018. The homes are progressing well with piling complete, and the ground floor walls are under construction. The hotel operator has been confirmed as Travelodge, and they are hoping to start on site in July 2018. Updates are available at www.rochester-riverside.co.uk.

Project - Strood Waterfront

Works on the flood defences at the former Civic Centre site and Strood Riverside on Canal began in May, and are due to be complete in February 2019 (Civic) and May 2019 (Riverside). The works are being delivered by Volker Stevin.

An "expressions of interest" exercise was advertised in the Estates Gazette on 30 June, to promote the sites to potential housing developers and gauge their interest in bidding. The sites were also promoted at the Medway1 launch on 27th June.

Council Plan Outcome: Getting around Medway

Programme: Tackle congestion hotspots by transport and public realm improvements

Council Plan measures: performance

Code	Short Name	Success is	Q4 2017/18	Q1 2018/19				
			Value	Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
NI 167 New	Average journey time along 5 routes across Medway (mins per mile)		Q2 17/18 3.49	Q3 17/18 3.86	4			

Comments

In April 2018 the next tranche of Trafficmaster data was published by DfT. This covered the period up to December 2017. Officers commissioned the Aimsum model support consultant again to assess the data and provide mins-per-mile journey time. Once this data was provided officers updated all NI-167 accordingly up to Qtr.4 2017/18. The next tranche of Trafficmaster data covering the calendar year 2018 is expected to be released by DfT in early 2019.

In addition, the Basemap analysis software has been updated with the latest Trafficmaster data, covering the period up to December 2017. Officers are now able to utilise this system to interrogate specific section of the Medway highway network in finer detail to examine journey times.

The future prosperity of Medway depends on the prospect of continuing economic growth. The provision of adequate infrastructural investment of new and improved roads is fundamental to enable economic development to come to Medway. In conjunction with these infrastructure developments is the need to meet the challenge of social and environmental objectives of cleaner air and providing a pleasant environment in which to live, work and learn.

Medway Council is committed to enable citizens, visitors and business to move around Medway's road network easily and in the way they choose, i.e. car, public transport, cycling and on foot; encouraging sustainable transport where possible. The connectivity of transport hubs, leisure, shopping and health facilities is at the forefront of our planning so that there is an integrated approach to travel throughout Medway.

Project - Achieve Level 3 Award with DfT

Benchmarking/Achieve National Standards

Department of Transport (DfT) introduced an Annual Self-Assessment Process for Highway Authorities in 2015/16 that measures how Highway Authorities manage the Highway Network in respect of:

- Asset Management (Policy & Strategy)
- Resilience
- Customer
- Benchmarking & Efficiency

- Operational Services Delivery

The Self-Assessment operates on a banding score of 1-3 and Medway is currently self-assessed as a Band 3 Highway Authority being able to demonstrate outputs that support the implementation of key areas that will lead towards improvement. Band 3 is the highest band score a Local Highway Authority can secure and this resulted in Medway securing an Incentive Fund allocation of £430,000 this financial year for allocating to Highway maintenance.

Actions

Key work-streams delivered during Q1 to support the self-assessment for 2018-19 (submission date January 2019) have been:

- Establishing a dashboard reporting framework to ensure self-assessment targets are completed in advance of the self-submission date.
- A programme of on-line Asset Management Training for Principle and Senior Engineers to embed a better understanding of Highway Asset Management and its application in respect of operational delivery.
- Completing a review of life-cycle planning for key Highway Assets to inform funding requirements through the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Project - Transport and public realm improvements for Strood completed by March 2019

Actions

During Q1 work has completed on Phase 1 (Commercial Road car park and Tolgate Lane) and Phase 2 (Gun Lane) with the car park reopening on 5 May. Work has started on Phase 3 (central island on Strood High Street at junction with Station Road).

The final junction design at Commercial Road/Knight Road has been agreed and detailed design of all phases has now been completed. A bespoke 'Your New Strood' leaflet has been distributed to c.20,000 Strood residents, businesses and the Community Hub outlining the proposed improvements. Community and business engagement events are being planned for Q2, to be held in the Hub and the new market space. A project webpage has also been developed and updated as the project has progressed in Q1; updates will continue as the project progresses through Q2 to Q4.

Project - Support the development of Chatham Railway Station

Comments

Medway Council is working in partnership with Network Rail to deliver a transformed Chatham Railway Station. Match funding from Medway Council is from the Local Growth Fund, as part of the Chatham Place making Project.

Network Rail is leading on this project, the final design has been agreed and the delivery of the works will be carried out by both Medway and Network Rail. It is anticipated the work will start in Q2 to ensure completion by March 2019.