Full Council 11 October 2018 – Schedule of Written Responses to public and Members' questions

Agenda reference	Question	Response
	Public questions not answered at the meeting	
7A	Martin Rose of Rainham submitted the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer: "Lower Rainham will see more housing in the near future, generating potentially thousands of extra road trips every day. Currently the area is relatively poorly served by public transport, forcing many new residents to drive. With this in mind, more is needed to address safety and congestion, and enhance comfort for pedestrians and cyclists on Lower Rainham Road. Footways are not provided or are too narrow. Pot holes in the road and design of the speed cushions can pose a hazard to cyclists. Lastly, at the junction with Berengrave Lane, the chicane causes a pinch-point which can cause some drivers to undertake hard braking and rapid acceleration. As the local population grows, a design is needed which encourages walking and cycling whilst maintaining the vital road link. Will the Council review the road layout and seek to provide a design more suitable for meeting the needs of the area in the future?" As Martin Rose was not present at the meeting, he would receive a	Thank you for your question. We acknowledge that footway provision on Lower Rainham Road is limited due to the historic layout of the road and the limited extent of the public highway. At the present time this constrains our ability to provide new footways or cycleways or to widen existing footpaths. The road is regularly assessed for any safety deficiencies including hazards for cyclists. Any development proposal should have a transport assessment and we plan for future developments to ensure that suitable infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists is built in to the plans. We also review accident data to make sure that any patterns are noted and analysed. Following a request from the local members we recently reviewed the speed limits on the Lower Rainham Road, and we are currently considering whether or not we need to make changes. In terms of the chicane you refer to, there is no chicane at the Berengrave Lane junction, however, there is a priority system at the junction with West Motney Way and officers recently carried out a consultation on a new road layout working closely with the local members. This is also currently being reviewed.

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	written response to his question in accordance with Council Rule 8.6.	
7B	Alan Wells of Chatham submitted the following question to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe: "Long-established prides such as Brighton and London attract hundreds of thousands of visitors every year – there is a strong argument to bring rainbow-coloured joy to the Medway Towns, raising awareness for the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender (LGBT+) community. Canterbury currently hosts the biggest Pride event in Kent; Faversham, Margate, Folkestone and Tunbridge Wells also hold Pride events. A Pride event held annually in Medway would be an example of our Towns at their best, coming together as one to celebrate the contribution of the LGBT+ community in the Towns. Pride events, which are held all over the world, celebrate the lives of LGBT+ individuals, and recognize the struggles these communities face. Gay pride or LGBT+ pride is the positive stance against discrimination and violence toward LGBT+ people to promote their self-affirmation, dignity, equality rights, increase their visibility as a social group, build community, and celebrate sexual diversity and gender variance. Planning for a Pride event should be transparent and be inclusive of all communities and venues in the Medway Towns that support the LGBT+ community. Supporting Pride in Medway promotes diversity for the Medway Towns	Thank you for your question Mr Wells. Medway Council's Events Team supports and has supported in recent years, several external organisations to run events, such as the Chinese New Year celebration; Ethnic Minority Forum Mela and Remembrance Day marches. These are all subject to those organisations having the appropriate funding to run the event. Through the Medway Safety Advisory Group, advice and direction can be provided to ensure that support is given to any organisation wishing to run events, to do so safely and within the prescribed legislation. Support will continue to be given to such organisations, although it should be borne in mind that there is currently no provision within existing budgets for any costs that would be incurred in hosting such an event as you refer to Mr Wells. We agree that planning for a Pride event should be transparent and inclusive and would look to the organiser to be so.

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	and states clearly whatever your sexual orientation or gender, Medway is open and welcomes you. Would Medway Council support holding a Pride event in Medway?" As Alan Wells was not present at the meeting, he would receive a written response to his question in accordance with Council Rule 8.6.	
7C	Shirley Bliss of Chatham submitted the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer: "As a small business in Walderslade I'm concerned with the increased enforcement of people who are parking in the 1 hour zones. Would the Council urgently consider changing the timing to two hours as this will mean many customers will be able to carry out their business without fear of a penalty notice?" As Shirley Bliss was not present at the meeting, she would receive a written response to his question in accordance with Council Rule 8.6.	Thank you for your question. Your proposal has been considered, but unfortunately it will not be possible to extend the waiting restrictions as you have requested. A review has been carried out of the shops adjacent to the parking bays in question and there would be no benefit to shoppers who are unlikely to need more than an hour for each visit. Indeed, there may be an adverse consequence of the bays being used by non-shoppers or staff from neighbouring businesses if they have longer to park up.
7G	Bill Lewis of Chatham submitted the following question to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe: "Medway is a tremendous place and has some fantastic historic icons – however one thing missing from its cultural offer is a Medway Museum of Modern Art – a permanent home for the outstanding work and history of	Thank you for your question. I am glad you agree that Medway has a fantastic cultural offer and indeed we are proud that the Guildhall Museum reflects Medway's history along with the multitude of other heritage sites in Medway. Rochester Art Gallery within the Visitor Information Centre allows us to display a changing programme of contemporary work with a series of exhibitions throughout the year. Whilst a small gallery, the exhibitions on display are both interesting, thought-provoking and contemporary. The current

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	Medway's cultural offer over the past 100 years. Would you and relevant officers be willing to meet with me and other interested parties to explore this fantastic potential addition to our cultural offer?" As Bill Lewis was not present at the meeting, he would receive a written response to his question in accordance with Council Rule 8.6.	exhibition "Anatomica" by local artists Cabinet of Curiosity, also reflect the strength of local talent. A specific and dedicated Museum of Modern Art is currently beyond our resources and whilst we welcome a discussion, we have to be mindful of not unrealistically raising expectations as a consequence.
7H	Paul Chaplin of Rainham submitted a question to the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services, Councillor Brake: "Council may be aware that I have been running a campaign to reinstate a mental health facility in Medway. Our petition, presented to the Department of Health, contained over 1,200 signatures which were obtained during street stalls held throughout the Medway Towns, and two public meetings. Statistics tell us that 1 in 4 of us are expected to suffer a mental health episode at some point, with a population of 270,000 in Medway, that means up to 67,500 Medway residents could be at risk, and although treatment is available, there is no local unit for them to go to for help Will Medway Council write to the Department of Health supporting our initiative to reinstate a local mental health unit in Medway?" As Paul Chaplin was not present at the meeting, he would receive a written response to his question in accordance with Council Rule 8.6.	Thank you for your question. The provision of effective local mental health services is of vital importance and this is why we are developing a Medway Adult Mental Health Strategy, which will be considered by the Council's Cabinet in November 2018. Medway Council is an equal partner in the Kent and Medway Sustainability and Transformation Partnership, or STP, which aims to develop services which meet the physical and mental health needs of local residents ensuring that they are cared for in the right place, and are able to access the right services. A key focus of this work is to develop a local care model which includes the development of appropriate mental health services in communities, close to home.

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	Members' questions not answered at the meeting	
10I	Councillor Bowler submitted the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gulvin: Who will have the final say on the future of CCTV cameras in Medway - the democratically elected councillors in Medway or the unaccountable Medway Commercial Group?	Thank you Cllr Bowler for your question. Once the current review of CCTV coverage is completed, Medway Council will take a decision on any recommendations that are made.
10J	Councillor Johnson submitted the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (Lead Member), Councillor Mackness: Governors Services was a valued offer to all those who volunteer in our schools across Medway. This service was passed from Medway Council to Medway Commercial Group. Who took the final decision to axe this service in Medway - democratically elected councillors in Medway or the unaccountable Medway Commercial Group?	Thank you for your question, Councillor Johnson. Cabinet agreed to the transfer of Governor Services in June 2017. MCG were faced at the end of the summer term, with sensitive and serious employment issues in Governor Services which resulted in staff leaving the employment of MCG who had previously provided this service, including a dismissal for misconduct. Given the importance we place on Governor Services MCG were faced at very short notice, in taking swift action to ensure the service continued and new arrangements were put in place. MCG consulted with senior officers at Medway Council throughout the transition process. They have contracted with The Education People for a twelve month period to ensure continuity of the service. There was no gap in provision and the service has certainly not been axed. During this twelve month period MCG will continue to work with the department to ensure a robust and cost effective service is maintained for our governing bodies. Traded services to schools have traditionally been delivered by a mixture

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		of in-house and third party provision and there is nothing unusual about the current arrangements for Governor Services. Regarding the flippant comment on governance there are clear guidelines on governance processes which were established when MCG was formed .This includes 6 monthly reports to Cabinet and an annual business plan presented for endorsement by Cabinet.
10K	Councillor Maple submitted the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gulvin: "In papers for the recent Audit Committee it states regarding Medway Commercial Group governance and accounting "There has been a weakness in the Council's financial and performance monitoring of MCG" with the audit opinion of Needs Strengthening. Bearing in mind this is a company set up by the Council, what action plan is in place to resolve this urgently?"	Thank you for your question, Councillor Maple. The audit, which I must point out was of the client side, not of MCG, did identify some issues around the financial and performance monitoring and four recommendations relating to improvements for that monitoring were agreed as a consequence of the findings: • Firstly, the corporate client for recruitment services is required to have a process in place to receive KPI data and monitor performance against the agreed standards in the BTA; • Secondly, Cabinet should receive a co-ordinated report from corporate clients, to coincide with MCG's six monthly update reports, to advise on their satisfaction of service delivery by MCG; • Thirdly, arrangements should be agreed for MCG to provide Medway's Finance Team with the appropriate financial detail in the format required; • Fourthly, a dedicated corporate accountant should be appointed, to ensure that the accounts of MCG and other large commercial accounts are regularly monitored. I am pleased to be able to confirm, that the action plan in response to these

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		recommendations has already been implemented. One of the Finance Business Partners now has specific responsibility for MCG as part of their duties. They have been working with MCG colleagues, with a view to aligning their financial monitoring with the Council's quarterly reporting cycle. MCG will continue to report performance to Cabinet every six months. Finance are also working with MCG to ensure that management fees and returns (profits) are paid to Medway Council, in accordance with the original Business Plan and the subsequent revisions that have taken place as services have been transferred to MCG.
10L	Councillor Shaw submitted the following question to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe: "In light of this Council's commitment at last Full Council to mark the centenary of women's suffrage, can the Portfolio Holder confirm how many statues of women, excluding those of mythical figures, there currently are in the Medway Towns?"	Thank you for your question. As you are of course aware, Medway does not have a large number of statues and there are no statues of women. However, there is a plaque on Minor Canon Row for Dame Sybil Thorndike, who lived there from 1886 – 1892.
10M	Councillor Khan submitted the following question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jarrett: "Recognising that this year marks 100 years of women's suffrage, would the Council work with the community and others to mark the achievements of Vera Conway Gordon (NUWSS Rochester Hon. Secretary) in the form of a commemorative statue?"	Thank you Councillor Khan for your question, and I do believe you make an interesting point. I am of the opinion that any decision relating to the commissioning of a new statue in Medway requires a lot of thought, as well as opportunity for due consideration of all of Medway's sons and daughters. It amazes me that there is currently no statue to honour Charles Dickens for example, and there are countless other noteworthy individuals it would be possible to argue should be commemorated.

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		I am going to commission a review on this subject, to explore the potential for a new statue, and to explore a variety of options relating to whom said statue should represent.
10N	Councillor Paterson submitted the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services, Councillor Brake: "Can the Portfolio Holder tell me how many known drug users there are in Medway, broken down by ward?"	Thank you for your question. The Council does not have direct access to patient level information, which is held by the provider of drug treatment services in Medway. It is therefore not possible to analyse this information at ward level. There were however, 625 individuals being treated by the Medway Drug Treatment Service as of June 2018. This figure relates to users of opioids and crack cocaine.
	Note: Councillor Filmer circulated a table at the meeting in support of his answer to question 10E: "In light of future Council forecasts on road conditions across Medway, can the Portfolio Holder confirm what proportion of all Medway roads will be requiring maintenance (potholed), and the financial shortfall required to repair these roads, for the years up to 2027 in an annualised table?" **This annualised table is set out in Appendix 1 to this schedule.**	

Democratic Services

17 October 2018

Road Classification Definition

A Roads – Major Roads intended to provide large-scale transport links within or between areas

B Roads – Roads intended to connect different areas, and to feed traffic between A roads and smaller roads on the Highway Network

C Roads – Smaller roads intended to connect together unclassified roads with A and B roads, and often linking housing estates or a village to the rest of the Highway Network

Unclassified Roads – Local roads intended for local traffic, vast majority of which serves housing estates and/or of local importance

Current Condition of Roads			
Road Classification	*2017/18 (%)*	*km*	
A Roads	2%	1.96km	**123.67km**
B Roads	5%	1.55km	
C Roads	4%	3.36km	
Unclassified Roads	20%	116.8km	

Future Condition of Roads based on current budget (km)											
Road Classification	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*	*2024*	*2025*	*2026*	*2027*	
A Roads	2.058	2.156	2.352	2.646	2.940	3.430	4.116	4.998	6.174	7.448	**241.761km**
B Roads	1.550	1.550	1.581	1.612	1.674	1.736	1.798	1.860	1.922	1.953	
C Roads	4.872	6.552	8.484	10.752	13.020	15.540	18.144	20.832	23.520	26.208	
Unclassified Roads	126.144	134.904	144.248	153.008	162.352	171.112	179.872	188.632	197.392	206.152	

Future Investment Need for Roads (Additional Investment to maintain current performance)											
Lifecycle Financial Gap	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*	*2024*	*2025*	*2026*	*2027*	
	£1.9m	£1.9m	£1.9m	£1.9m	£1.9m	£1.9m	£1.9m	£1.9m	£1.9m	£1.9m	**£19m**