

Appendix 2:

## Council Priority: Maximising regeneration and economic growth

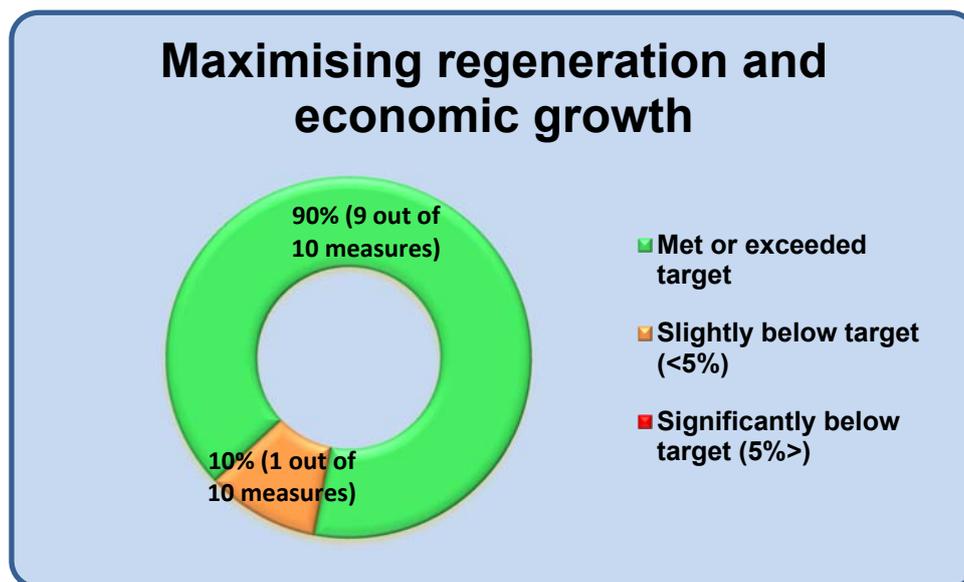
### Performance: Quarter 2 2018/19

#### 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 qtr.      Long – avg last 4 qtrs.
<b>Benchmarking</b> – compares favourably with national performance or standards	 Yes compares favourably	 No does not compare favourably      = similar performance

## Council Plan measures: summary performance

There are 12 Council Plan measures for this priority. We are reporting on 10 this quarter as data for 2 is not yet available.



#### Improved performance

- 20% (2 out of 10) improved long term (average of previous 4 quarters)
- 20% (2 out of 10) 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)		
LRCC4a		Number of jobs created and safeguarded (cumulative)		
MAE 2		% Retention rate		

Code	Status	Name	Long Term	Short Term
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		
HC3		No. of households with dependent children in B&B who have resided there for 6+ weeks at the end of the quarter	=	=
HC4		Number of private sector properties improved as a result of the Council's intervention		
NI 117(16-17)		The percentage of 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)		=

### Measures slightly below target (amber)

Code	Status	Name	Long Term	Short Term
ECD20		% of square footage let in council owned business units		

### Data not available

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

### Highlights

- 234 intensive assists have been provided to businesses by Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
- 172 jobs have been created or safeguarded.
- The business case for Growing Places Funding (GPF) has been approved.
- 949 learners attended work skills courses with achievement rates at 89% (academic year 17/18)
- £430,000 Incentive Fund allocation secured (as a result of achieving a Band 3 for the Department of Transport self-assessment)
- 77 affordable homes have been delivered for 2018/19
- 301 private sector households were assisted in having their properties improved via Council intervention

### Benchmarking/ Achieve National Standards

	Council Plan Performance Measure - Compares favourably with national performance or standards?	Yes No Same	✓ x =
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		✓

# Council Plan Outcome: A strong diversified community

Programme: Business investment

## Council Plan Measures: Performance

ECD13		% of square footage let at Innovation Centre Medway (ICM)					Aim to Maximise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q1 2018/19	96.76%	Q2 2018/19	93.77%	90.00%			

### Comments

The Innovation Centre Medway (ICM) has a total space to let of 17,859.34 sqft. 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.

ECD20		% of square footage let in council owned business units					Aim to Maximise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q1 2018/19	92.79%	Q2 2018/19	87.33%	90%			

### Comments

Council owned business units included in this measure are Hopewell Drive, Pier Road, and 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.

TBC		Medway's economy as a whole					TBC	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q1 2018/19	N/A	Q2 2018/19	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
<b>Comments</b> The methodology for this measure, based on the Cities for Growth publication by Price Waterhouse Cooper, will be reported in quarter 3.								

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

### Actions

To date 234 intensive assists have been provided to businesses. This has included 123 individuals attending start up workshops held at Innovation Centre Medway. In addition 102 one to one business appointments have been delivered. Medway hosted its own Business to Business exhibition at Slip 3 in the Dockyard on 20th September at which Councillor Chitty gave the opening speech. Regeneration Team Officers will be taking a stand at the Construction Expo at Detling showground 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.

### Action

To date 172 jobs created/protected against a target of 150. New investments in Medway this quarter include Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance relocating to Rochester Airfield bringing 30 jobs and Sicame relocating to London Commercial Gateway at Kingsnorth. Sicame are a French owned company manufacturing high voltage equipment for power transmission uses across the world. The business has taken a 10 year lease on 64,000sq ft. of new build space bringing 60 jobs from Erith. The Air Ambulance are the first Enterprise Zone tenants at Innovation Park Medway (IPM) which was officially launched on 18 September. The IPM Master Plan was out to consultation until 29 October.

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

### Action

The planning applications have been submitted for Control Tower and Hub and Helipads, in September 2018. Medway Council are undertaking the infrastructure works directly with the SELEP grant funding and therefore an Employers Agent is being appointed, following an open tender process. Documents will then be finalised for tender and appointment of a works contractor. Works are programmed to be complete by March 2020. UKPN notified of infrastructure improvement works and programme.

The draft masterplan has been finalised and was out for consultation until 29 October 2018. Following review of feedback this will be taken to Medway Council's Cabinet for adoption in December 2018,

with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council expected to approve this in January 2019. Further consideration is also being given to simplified planning mechanisms for the site, once the masterplan is in place this can be progressed further.

The business case for LGF3 will be submitted to SELEP in November for Accountability Board February 2019.

The business case for Growing Places Funding (GPF) has been approved by Accountability Board and funding will begin to be drawn down so that the access road and associated infrastructure can be delivered on the southern site (alongside ICM).

Following the submission of an Expression of Interest for £2m LGF3(b) funds for the Innovation Park Medway in August, we have been invited by KMEP to submit an Outline Business Case. This will be submitted to SELEP in late October, and is currently under development.

## Council Plan Outcome: Resident with jobs and skills

Programme: Jobs, Skill and Employability

### Council Plan Measures: Performance

NI 117(16-17)		The percentage of 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)					Aim to Minimise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q1 2018/19	3.30%	Q2 2018/19	3.30%	6.00%			=	

#### Comments

The latest published figures, to August 18 are 3.3%, 230 young people. However, between August and September significant work has taken place which has made major improvements in this position.

#### Actions

Provisional expectations are that the rate of NEET Young People's (YP) is at less than 2% and that considerable improvements in reducing the rate of YPs whose activity is unknown have been achieved. Early indication is that improvements in how school data is reported to us and the processes to upload this data in a timely manner, together with changes; such as using a digital platform, have given us better access to young people. This has led to a large reduction in the usual high numbers of young people whose activity is unknown in September. In Q1 there were approximately 1400 Unknowns, for the end of Q2/beginning of Q3 we expect to see this number reduced to about 600.

LRCC4a		Number of jobs created and safeguarded (cumulative)					Aim to Maximise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q1 2018/19	78	Q2 2018/19	172	150				

## Comments

In Q2 94 jobs have been created or safeguarded providing a cumulative figure of 172 for 2018/19 to date.

## Action

New investments in Medway this quarter include Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance relocating to Rochester Airfield bringing 30 jobs and Sicame relocating to London Commercial gateway at Kingsnorth. Sicame are a French owned company manufacturing high voltage equipment for power transmission uses across the world. The business has taken a 10 year lease on 64,000sq ft of new build space bringing 60 jobs from Erith.

MAE 2		% Retention rate					Aim to Maximise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q3 2017/18	95.48%	Q4 2017/18	95.61%	94%				

## Comment

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.

## Action

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.

MAE 3		Achievement rate (pass rate)					Aim to Maximise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q3 2017/18	98.81%	Q4 2017/18	97.09%	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 (RARPA).

### Action

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.

## Council Plan Project - Medway Adult Education (MAE) learning programme to boost local skills levels for those furthest from employment

### Comments

Overall data for academic year 17-18 shows 949 learners attended work skills courses and overall achievement rates remain good at 89% for Adult Skills Budget and 99.7% for targeted community learning courses. Of those learners who were unemployed 16.99% gained employment and 27.86% continued in education. MAE continues to work with Employ Medway and other referral partners to develop relevant programmes for this learner cohort. The English and maths department following successful pilots of short intensive English and maths courses for the unemployed have planned to continue with this delivery model for 18-19 academic year.

## 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.

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.

## Actions

The Skills Plan is well on the way to completion. Background has been completed, priorities and priority sectors have been agreed and the supporting action plan is almost complete.

A number of key partners have been consulted during Q2, including; SELEP, Mid Kent College, Kent Association of Training Organisations and Locate in Kent. The plan has been to two Officers Boards and one Members Board.

More meetings with stakeholders are taking place throughout October. The plan should be approved by the end of November.

## Council Plan Outcome: Preventing homelessness

### Programme: Preventing homelessness

#### Council Plan Measures: Performance

NI 156		Number of households living in temporary accommodation					Aim to Minimise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q1 2018/19	344	Q2 2018/19	360	400				

#### Comments

At the end of Q2 2018/19 there were 360 applicants residing in temporary accommodation provided by the Council in line with its statutory responsibilities. This is an increase from the 344 households that were accommodated at the end of Q1 2018/19. This increase has been caused by an overall high level of applications combined with the usual annual spike in temporary accommodation numbers over the summer months.

Due to the timescales involved in producing quarterly returns for homelessness statistics, we are unable to produce statistics in relation to the amount of children in temporary accommodation in line with the current reporting timetable. Therefore statistics will be provided for the previous quarter (e.g. Q2 reporting of NI156 will be reported with the Q1 figure for the amount of children in Temporary accommodation).

The amount of children in temporary accommodation as of the end of Q1 was 608. 98.4% of these children were accommodated in self-contained accommodation (house or flat) and of the remaining 1.6%, none had been in accommodation with shared facilities for more than 6 weeks.

## Benchmarking

Latest available benchmarking figures from March 2018 identify that the rate of households in temporary accommodation is currently 3.39 per 1000 households; this is slightly lower than the national rate of 3.57 and significantly lower than the rate seen in London of 16.6.

Further benchmarking has been undertaken 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 13.70 households per 1000 and Milton Keynes had a rate of 7.36 households per 1000.

HC3		No. of households with dependent children in B&B who have resided there for 6+ weeks at the end of the quarter					Aim to Minimise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q1 2018/19	0	Q2 2018/19	0	0		=	=	

## Comments

A snapshot at the end of Q2 2018/19 identifies that no families were in bed and breakfast accommodation. Additionally throughout Q2 no families were placed into bed and breakfast for more than 6 weeks. This is also the case for 2018/19 as a whole.

## Action

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 pregnant families are moved on from bed and breakfast within appropriate timescales.

HC4		Number of private sector properties improved as a result of the Council's intervention					Aim to Maximise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q1 2018/19	287	Q2 2018/19	301	100				

## Action

In Q2 2018/19, 301 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 Q2 2018/19 the Council has achieved 141 homelessness preventions and reliefs compared to 188 in Q1 2018/19. Work on preventions will help minimise the amount of new applicants having to go in to temporary accommodation. Preventions and reliefs achieved so far this year amount to 329 households in comparison to 160 for the same period in 2017/18.

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

### Action

During Q2 a further 39 affordable housing units have been delivered across Medway. 31 were delivered as affordable rented accommodation with the remainder being delivered as shared ownership. This included 3x one bedroom wheelchairs units and 2x four bedroom houses. This brings the amount of units delivered to 70 for the year to date. 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

NI 154		Net additional homes provided					Aim to Minimise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
2016/17	642	2017/18	N/A	N/A	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

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

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.

## Council Plan 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 aim to get 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 are 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.

## Council Plan 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.

The Council has created 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 non-executive board members have 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**

The planning application was submitted in August and is due to be reviewed by Planning Committee on 21 November 2018. Currently in discussions with Historic England in relation to the height of the plans. The procurement process for the contractors is about to start with a view of starting construction early 2019. The Council will be updating and improving the traffic signals at the junction of Whiffens Avenue and the Brook.

### **Chatham Waterfront**

MDCL will be looking at 10 to 12 storeys that they will progress to design to include approximately 150 apartments. A meeting was held on 8 October 2018 with Members to present the new timber model and masterplan.

### **Housing Revenue Account**

The Government recently set out the criteria for submitting bids for increasing borrowing and the Council submitted its bid by the closing date of 30 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. Subsequent to this the Chancellor in his annual budget statement on 29<sup>th</sup> October announced the formal scrapping of the housing revenue debt cap with immediate effect. This now means that as long as local authorities can demonstrate their ability to sustain borrowing for new build council housing then they are free to borrow as they wish, principally following the prudential borrowing rules. With regards to the bids that were submitted as the Council is now 'free' to borrow the bid submissions have fundamentally been scrapped. Two pieces of work related to this have been instructed the first is the annual review of the HRA business plan and the second is specifically around the capacity of the HRA to borrow and will identify and confirm the capacity and resilience to the amount of borrowing the authority can sustain. Both pieces of work will be completed as part of the HRA budget build and able to inform the direction of the development programme from early 2019.

The third phase of the Councils building new council housing consisting of six x one bedroom bungalows has been issued out to tender; the return date was 19 October. All of the bungalows will be let under a local lettings agreement to existing Council tenants who are under occupying Council homes. The larger properties made available will then be let to families either in temporary accommodation or on the Housing Register. This will reduce pressure on the general fund temporary accommodation budget and reduce the number of households on the housing register.

An exciting fourth phase of HRA new build houses on some garage sites has been agreed in principle with draft plans being produced and these will now be taken forward for more formal drawings and planning consent. The garage sites are to have houses built on them, as opposed to bungalows. Planning consent is anticipated to be received April 2019. Funding for this project will come from within existing Headroom monies and Right to Buy Receipts.

### **Project - Rochester Riverside**

Countryside completed a soft launch for their POD marketing suite on the 8 September and had over 1000 people register an interest, they have been open a number of weekends and have already received reservations. The official opening of their marketing suite is planned for the 3 November.

The site for the hotel has now been agreed with Travelodge and works beginning shortly. It is anticipated that the planning application for the school is to be submitted to the planning department in November 2018. Work is underway currently with officers to complete the Phase 2 transfer with Countryside and it is hoped that this will be completed before the end of this year. Countryside and Hyde has launched the Rochester Riverside Crowd Fund with Spacehive, this was officially launched in June 2018 and workshops have been held monthly, a number of projects are beginning to come forward.

Moving forward Countryside have advised that they will be looking to have the show homes completed by the end of the year, they are also planning a topping out ceremony for early 2019, dates still to be confirmed. The Hotel and the first homes for the site are still planned for Q2 2019.

**Project - Strood Waterfront**

Works on the flood defences are continuing well to the planned programme and completion at Civic is expected to be February 2019 and at Riverside May/June 2019.

The expressions of interest exercise advertised in Estates Gazette in June received a good response; 43 parties expressed an interest and 16 returned a completed questionnaire. It is likely marketing of the Civic site will begin early in 2019.

## Council Plan Outcome: Getting around Medway

Programme: Tackle congestion hotspots by transport and public realm improvements

### Council Plan Measures: Performance

NI 167 New		Average journey time along 5 routes across Medway (mins per mile)					Aim to Minimise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q2 2017/18	3.49	Q3 2017/18	3.86	4.00				

#### Comments

The next tranche of Trafficmaster journey time data is not expected to be released by the Department for Transport until later in 2018.

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.

## Council Plan Projects - Achieve Level 3 Award with DfT

### Comments

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 are 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 Q2 to support the self-assessment for 2018-19 (submission date January 2019) have been:

- Life-cycle Report prepared and presented to the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on levels of investment required to main key Highway Assets for Carriageways, Foot-ways, Street Lighting Columns, Structures and Drainage.
- Completed 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.
- Commenced a programme of on-line Asset Management Training for all Key Highway Staff to be completed by January 2019.
- Commenced the Evidence base for Self-Assessment submission in January 2019.

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

### Actions

During Q2 Phase Three (Strood High Street j/w Station Road and Commercial Road pedestrian island) works are partially complete, awaiting planting and uplighters. The resurfacing of Commercial Road (Phase Four) and alterations to the junction with Knight Road commenced and will be completed in Q3.

Further modelling and signal design has been undertaken following a request from Members to change the location of the proposed pedestrian signal crossing arrangement at the junction of High Street/Commercial Road. Letters and design drawings, advising of the proposed changes across the scheme, have been delivered to properties in the immediate vicinity of key improvements such as the site of new bus stops and changes to pedestrian access only.

Business and Member engagement events have been held, with feedback from the attendees being positive overall. The Mayor officiated an event, to promote the future phases of the project and the re-opening of the market and car park, which was well attended. A consultant has been appointed to design architectural lighting for St. Nicholas church and initial discussions have been set up with the

Church and designer. The project web page has continued to be updated and promoted as the project has progressed: [www.medway.gov.uk/yournewstrood](http://www.medway.gov.uk/yournewstrood).

## 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.

### Action

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. The Chatham Placemaking contractor will complete the paving works and Network Rail may take on the structural works to create new steps and wider pavement in a future round of NSIP (National Rail Improvement Programme), although this is to be confirmed. Finishing touches including lighting and street furniture are currently being finalised and works to the station are anticipated to begin before the end of the year to ensure completion by March 2019.