










MAXIMISING REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING

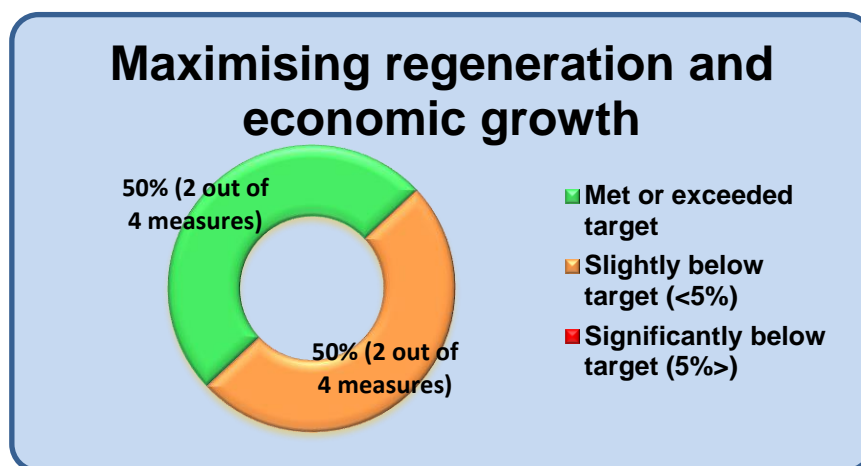
Performance: Quarter 3 2018/19

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.
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 6 measures of success which fall under the remit of this Committee, however for Q3 we are reporting on 4 as 1 measure is data only and other data is not expected until after this report is published.



Improved performance

- 80% (4 out of 5) improved long term (average of previous 4 quarters)
- 40% (2 out of 5) improved over the short term (since last quarter)

Highlights

- 358 intensive assists have been provided to businesses by Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
- 495 jobs have been created or safeguarded.
- Planning Approval was granted for the Control Tower & Hub and Helipads at Rochester Airport
- To date 167 affordable homes have been delivered for 2018/19
- HRA Core benchmarking has been concluded

Measures in target (green)

Code	Status	Name	Long Term	Short Term
MAE 2		% Retention rate		
MAE 3		Achievement rate (pass rate)		
LRCC4a		Number of jobs created and safeguarded (cumulative)		
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
ECD13		% of square footage let at Innovation Centre Medway (ICM)		
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

Data Only

Code	Status	Name	Long Term	Short Term
GVAPJM		GVA per job		

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
Q2 2018/19	93.77%	Q3 2018/19	89.27%	90.00%			

Comments

The Innovation Centre Medway 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. At the end of Q3, 89.27% of the available space was occupied. Six offices were vacant. However, three of these have tenants identified. Due to complete licence agreements in January 2019. Thus, there are three units currently being marketed. Taking this into consideration, the sq. footage occupancy rate could be considered to be 17,201 sq. ft. (93%).

In addition to the above, the Innovation Centre Medway (ICM) welcomed 11 new virtual tenants in Q3, taking the total number of virtual tenants to 137.

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.





ECD20		% of square footage let in council owned business units					Aim to Maximise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2018/19	87.33%	Q3 2018/19	89.36%	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 Q3, six workspace units are recorded as available at Innovation Centre Medway, with three having identified tenants in the process of signing licence agreements. This is one vacant unit at the Innovation Studios, with an identified tenant due to sign w/b 14 January. There are six vacant units at the other two Council owned sites, of which two have identified tenants.

Overall therefore, seven units (totalling 2,274sqft) are available for business rental, and are currently being marketed, from a total of 119. This represents just under 5.3% of the total floor space available

GVAPJ M		Gross Value Added per job					Aim to Maximise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
2015/16	£50,574	2016/17	£51,850				

Comments

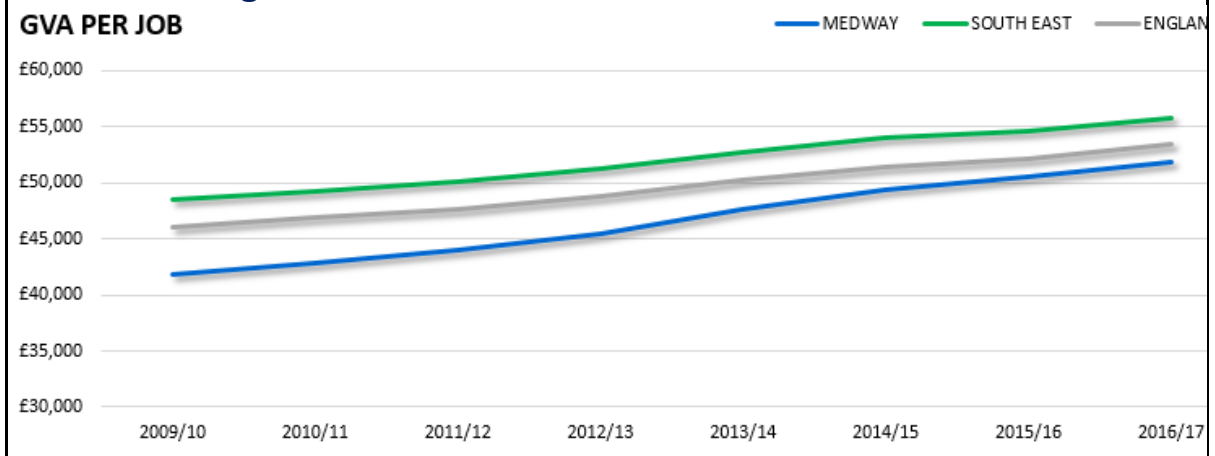
This data is published by the Office of National Statistics who smooth the data to remove volatility from the raw data and is normally released in December each year. Data is only available up to 2016/17.

This volatility may be caused by sampling errors rather than real change. Given the volatility with the raw data and because the smoothed data is weighted, year on year comparisons should not be made.

Actions

Medway GVA per job is currently 3% lower than England, a 6.3 percentage point improvement from 2009 where Medway was 9.3% lower. Medway's annual growth is higher annually than England and the South East and since 2009, Medway has seen a 24% increase in GVA per job, a higher growth rate in comparison to England at 16.1% and the South East at 15%.

Benchmarking



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

Actions

To date 358 intensive assists have been delivered to start up and established businesses. This comprises 208 individual business planning workshops and 150 one to one business appointments. Council Officers took a stand at Kent Construction Expo in October at which the Regeneration in Medway presentation given by the Deputy Chief Executive received the highest feedback appraisals.

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 495 jobs have been created/protected against a Q3 target of 225. This has mainly been due to new investments from D & G Assist opening a new facility at Medway City Estate creating 35 jobs and Amazon opening at Kingsnorth creating 200 jobs (awaiting final confirmation). Businesses moving into Innovation Centre and Innovation Studios accounted for 19 jobs in Q3

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

Action

LGF2 Rochester Airport Improvement Works - Planning Approval was granted for Control Tower & Hub and Helipads in December 2018. Medway Council are undertaking the infrastructure works directly with the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) grant funding and therefore an Employers Agent has been appointed. A tender package for a works contractor has been published on Kent Business Portal with a view of appointing a contractor in March 2019. Works are programmed to be complete by March 2020. Electrical enabling works were complete in January 2019.

LGF3 Innovation Park Medway - The draft masterplan has been finalised and consultation concluded on 29 October 2018. Following review of feedback, this will be taken to Medway Council's Cabinet for adoption in March 2019. The masterplan will also be developed further to provide a simplified planning mechanism for the site; it is proposed that this could be through a Local Development Order, subject to Cabinet approval to consult.




The business case for LGF3 was submitted to South East Local Enterprise Partnership in November for review by the Independent Technical Evaluator; the final business case will be submitted in January for consideration at Accountability Board in February 2019.

GPF Southern Site - Growing Places Funding (GPF) will begin to be drawn down so that the access road and associated infrastructure can be delivered on the southern site (alongside ICM). Design begins in January for circa six months.

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
Q2 2018/19	1.10%	Q3 2018/19	2.50%	6.00%			

Comments

The latest published figures are to November 2018. Currently 2.5% of the 16-17 year old cohort are NEET. This is 162 individuals. Due to the cyclical nature of this measure comparisons are made to the position 12 months ago rather than from quarter to quarter. In November 2017 there were 123 (1.9%) individuals classed as Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET). Nationally the November 2018 rate is 2.4% and for the South East it is 2.1%. Medway's increased level of NEET compared to November 17 is in contrast to the National trend year on year trend but in line with the rise seen in the South East, when November 2017 is compared to November 2018. Currently the activity of 478 young people is unknown. This represents 7.5% of the cohort. This is higher than the national rate of 5.9% but similar to the South East rate of 7.1%. In November 2017 there were 1571 individuals whose activity was not known. This represented 24% of the cohort. Significant and successful work has been completed by the Information Advice and Guidance team in reducing the numbers of Not Knowns. This work has meant that Medway is now ranked 116th out of 152 local authorities for the combined NEET and Not Known percentage (10.1%). In November 2017 Medway

was ranked 148th, with a combined NEET and Not Known percentage of 25.9% Medway has now moved from the 5th (bottom) quintile into the 4th quintile.

Currently there are 7 looked after children (LAC) 16&17 year olds who are NEET and less than 5 whose status is Not Known. This is comparable to November 2017. There are less than 5 young people known to the Youth Offending team (YOT) who are NEET this is better than last November when there were 7 NEET young people known to YOT. At the end of November 2018 there were 17 young people aged 16 or 17 with an Education Health and care Plan (EHCP) who were NEET. This is an increase on the 12 in November 2017.

Action

Work to reduce the level of young people whose activity is unknown continues. The information Advice and Guidance (IAG) team are actively engaged with local schools and colleges to share information. Significant work is being done to ensure the cleanliness of the database, which supports efficient work. The IAG team are working closely with the key vulnerable groups. The levels of LAC and special educational needs (SEN) NEET are comparable to the same time last year and no young people known to YOT are currently NEET

LRCC4a		Number of jobs created and safeguarded (cumulative)					Aim to Maximise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2018/19	172	Q3 2018/19	495	225			

Comments

In Q3 323 jobs have been created or safeguarded providing a cumulative figure of 495 for 2018/19 to date.

Action

New businesses moving into Medway included D&G Assist, opening a new facility on Medway City Estate, creating 35 jobs and Amazon, opening at Kingsnorth creating 200 jobs. Also Wincanton at Kingsnorth created a further 40 (bringing their total to 140) and Pacadar created another 25 jobs (bringing their total to 75). This is a total of 300 jobs created via new business investment in Medway, and secured via our Locate in Kent contract. In addition, two jobs were created in the period via Partners for Growth grants, and 21 jobs protected at our Innovation Premises.

MAE 2		% Retention rate					Aim to Maximise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q4 2017/18	95.61%	Q1 2017/18	98.21%	94%			




Comment

This performance indicator (PI) is based on academic year rather than financial year. Data as at 27 November 2018 for Q1 of Academic year (August - October 2018).

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 Medway Adult Education'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). MAE's approach to improving performance is one of continuous improvement through a range of quality measures including monthly quality review meetings scrutinising key performance indicators (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 key performance indicator 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	
Q4 2017/18	97.09%	Q1 2018/19	98.08%	96%				

Comments

This performance indicator is based on academic year rather than financial year. Data as at 27 November for Q1 of Academic year (August - October 2018).

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 & recording progress and achievement -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

The update below is in relation to the first quarter of the academic year 18/19 as courses started in September 2018. Data will be available at the end of the academic year on the number of learners which have obtained employment etc.

To date overall data at Q1 for the current academic year (18/19) shows 295 learners are attending a workskills course with an overall achievement rate of 91.34%, retention rate of 92.59% , 30% of learners being from deprived wards and 27% being identified as having a learning or physical disability.

Following a successful short intensive English and Maths pilot courses in 17/18 academic year in Q1 (academic year 18/19) the English and Maths department have run 1 intensive maths and 1 intensive English course for the unemployed learners with an achievement rate of 90%.

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 South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), 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.




Action

During Q3 the plan was substantially reshaped, with several new sections added and some removed. The plan is designed to tell a story of the current local and national skills picture, and Medway's response. The final draft of the Skills Plan was approved by Members in November. The plan will be launched at the Skills Summit in March 2019

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
Q2 2018/19	360	Q3 2018/19	353	400			

Comments

At the end of Q3 2018/19 there were 353 applicants residing in temporary accommodation provided by the Council in line with its statutory responsibilities. This is a decrease from the 360 households that were accommodated at the end of Q2 2018/19.




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 Q3 2018/19 the Council has achieved 240 homelessness prevention and reliefs compared to 201 in Q2 2018/19. Work on prevention's 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 629 households in comparison to 302 for the same period in 2017/18.

Benchmarking

Latest available benchmarking figures from September 2018 identify that the rate of households in temporary accommodation is currently 2.97 per 1000 households, this is slightly lower than the national rate of 3.51 and significantly lower than the rate seen in London of 15.49.

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 12.18 households per 1000 and Milton Keynes had a rate of 5.56 households per 1000.

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. Q4 reporting of NI156 will be reported with the Q3 figure for the amount of children in Temporary accommodation). The amount of children in temporary accommodation as of the end of Q2 was 650.




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 Q3 2018/19 identifies that no families were in bed and breakfast accommodation. Additionally throughout Q3 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 housing revenue account (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.

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	
Q2 2018/19	301	Q3 2018/19	435	175				

Action

In Q3 2018/19, 435 private sector households were assisted in having their properties improved via Council intervention, exceeding the quarterly target. The team have already exceeded the year-end target of 600 interventions. Interventions from the Private Sector Housing range from informal/formal action (179 in Q3), the removal/reduction of hazards (239 in Q3) such as excess cold, damp and mould growth and fire, and the licensing of Houses in multiple occupation (17 in Q3). 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.

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

Action

During Q3 a further 90 affordable housing units have been delivered across Medway. 38 were delivered as social rented accommodation with the remainder being delivered as shared ownership. This included the delivery of a new extra care scheme providing a range of tenures, 75 units we achieved through 106 contributions and a further 15 were land led, meaning that they were delivered in isolation to larger developments. This brings the amount of units delivered to 167 for the year to date against an annual target of 204 affordable homes. During Q2 218 people were re-housed from the council's waiting list in to social rented accommodation. A further 56 people have been helped to obtain accommodation in the private sector during Q3 bringing the total amount for the year to date to 183 households.

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

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

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 was reported to Cabinet in December. Cabinet agreed revised Local Development Scheme, which delays production of draft Local Plan until early summer. The reasons for this are due to continual Government changes to housing and population projections and the need to await outcome of the housing infrastructure fund decision.

Cabinet adopted for consultation the Green Belt Review, Gypsy and Traveller Assessment and Heritage Strategy.

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 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

The planning application has been submitted and there was a positive Member Presentation showcasing the proposed development. This will formally go to Planning Committee in April, and once approved the works will start in spring 2019. We have updated and improved the traffic signals at the junction of Whiffens Avenue and the Brook.

Chatham Waterfront

The handover of the Chatham Waterfront development site for delivery is planned for Q1 2019 and a public consultation took place in December 2018 as the planning submission is planned before the end of the year.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

In October 2018 the Chancellor announced the scrapping of the HRA headroom debt cap for Local Authority Stock retained Councils. As a result this means within reason Councils can now borrow utilising similar rules to prudential borrowing. Officers have sought assistance from Savills Consultancy to undertake analysis and produce a report of the borrowing capacity of the HRA to take forward a number of new build schemes. This report will be presented to Housing Special Projects Board on 1 February 2019. It is expected the report will show there is capacity to borrow, resulting in new homes being built and added to the Councils own HRA Housing stock. This will assist in housing households from the Housing Register or in Temporary Accommodation and therefore reduce financial pressure on the general fund.

The third phase of the HRA new build programme of 6 x 1 bedroom bungalows has been tendered and following Procurement Board approval in November the contract 80% awarded. The works are due to commence early 2019 with a completion date of autumn 2019. The properties will be allocated utilising a local lettings plan whereby priority will be given to households under occupying existing Council homes. The properties freed up by this process will then be let to households on the Housing register or in Temporary accommodation reducing pressure on the general fund budget.

Project - Rochester Riverside

The official opening of the marketing suite took place on the 3 November with the Leader Cllr Alan Jarrett cutting the ribbon.

The hotel works have begun and it is due to be completed in September 2019. The planning application for the school has been slightly delayed but is hoped to be in by the end of the year. The Phase 2 transfer took place on the 30 November 2018 almost 1 year ahead of the scheduled date.

Countryside have opened two show homes, they are also planning a topping out ceremony for 7 March 2019, dates still to be confirmed. The first homes for the site are still planned for completion in Q2 2019.

Project - Strood Waterfront




The flood risk management works are progressing extremely well; works on the Civic site are due to be complete in Q1 2019, which is 6 weeks ahead of the predicted programme, and the works on Canal Road are due to be complete in June 2019 as planned. The £3.5m grant funding awarded by SELEP in February 2018, was spent by November 2018 as profiled.

With regards marketing, as the Civic site is easily the most attractive site this will be marketed as a priority and separately from the Riverside site. The Council plan to market the Riverside site once a developer has been appointed for Civic so the market is not flooded and interest in Strood will be growing. Marketing for Civic will begin in Q1 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 journey time indicator is still be calculated using DfT issued Trafficmaster data. As of January 2019 DfT have issued data up to December 2017. Officers enquired with DfT as to when the next tranche of data will be released; DfT confirmed that data for the calendar year 2018 will be released in April 2019.

Action

The Council continues to effectively manage the Medway network using a variety of tools:

- The Traffic Operations Room by responding to numerous network incidents each day i.e. vehicle breakdowns. The Council provide traffic updates as they occur to KCC, Police and update social media to ensure traffic flow across Medway is maintained.
- Management of Streetworks - Q3 the Council managed 3,449 street work notices this is similar to previous year's performance. The first year operation of the Streetworks Permit Scheme was reviewed by external consultants. Officers reviewed their recommendations in Q3 to improve the scheme efficiency.

Traffic officers continue to work closely with colleagues in the Council who manage Local Growth Fund projects ensuring impact on traffic flows is kept to a minimum.

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 Q3 to support the self-assessment for 2018-19 (submitted 1 February 2019) have been:

- A programme of on-line Asset Management Training for all Key Highway Staff was completed in January 2019.
- The Evidence base for the Self-Assessment submission was completed in January 2019.
- Updated the governance protocols for DfT Self-Assessment including an Annual reporting cycle (each November) to Directorate Management Team.
- Engaged an external Consultant to undertake a mock audit of Medway's performance in Quarter 4 to identify a lessons learnt registrar. From next Financial Year the DfT have confirmed that they be implementing a programme of Audits for DfT Self-Assessment.

Subject to DfT confirming Medway's Self-Assessment being a Band 3 for 2019-20 Medway will secure block funding of £427K to fund Highway Improvements next financial year.

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

Actions

During Q3 work has continued on the scheme to improve journey times through Strood Town Centre, along with enhancements to the public realm at key locations. Traffic signals have been removed at the junction of Commercial Road and Knight Road, which has improved traffic flow at this location, and new pedestrian crossings have been installed. Footways and carriageways have been resurfaced and new street lighting has been installed to improve safety. Architectural lighting schemes for St Nicholas church and the railway arches were developed during this quarter, and preliminary work to upgrade the footways and carriageways on Strood High Street commenced. All works are being carefully planned to coordinate with other projects in the area and minimise disruption to road users as far as possible. The project webpage is updated on a regular basis.

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 and the Chatham Placemaking contractor will complete the paving works to the station forecourt and road. The works started in December 2018 and the final design has been agreed. The Council are awaiting to hear from Network Rail after April 2019 whether the remainder of the structural works to create new steps and wider pavement in a future round of NSIP (National Rail Improvement Programme) will be confirmed. Works to the station are anticipated to be completed by end Q1 2019/20