

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 OCTOBER 2019

ATTENDANCE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PLANNING, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGULATION

Report from: Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Jane Chitty

Summary

This report sets out progress made within the areas covered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation which fall within the remit of this Committee.

1. Background

1.1 The areas within the terms of reference of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee covered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation are:

- Economic Development
- Employment
- High Streets
- Local Plan
- Markets
- Planning Policy
- Regulation – Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Enforcement and Licensing (Executive Functions only)
- Social Regeneration
- South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership

Note: The Leader and Full Council have delegated the Council's building control functions to the South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee. The terms of Reference of the South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee are set out within the Council's Constitution and include executive and non-executive functions. Councillor Chitty is appointed to sit on the South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee.

1.2 Achievements for 2019 to date are detailed by service area below.

2. Economic Development

2.1 Employment

2.1.1 In this reporting period there have been 507 jobs recorded with 441 created and 86 protected. This included 406 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs created at Amazon's new fulfilment centre at Kingsnorth. Another new business moving into Medway was Chapman BDSP, an international project management consultancy relocating 30 jobs from Kings Hill to Chatham Historic Dockyard. New tenants in Council managed workspace and new business start-up grants accounted for a further 39 jobs. The annual target for jobs created and protected is 300.

2.1.2 Intensive Assists fall into 2 categories, business start-ups attending business planning workshops, and start-ups and established businesses receiving 2 hours of one to one confidential advice. During the first 2 quarters of 2019, there were 130 business planning workshops and 77 one to one appointments giving a total of 207 against a half year target of 176.

2.2 Funding

2.2.1 Medway individuals who have attended the business planning workshops and are setting up a full time business can apply to Medway Council for a start-up grant. To date this year, 7 start-ups have been supported with £500 grants and there are currently 2 applications in progress. Growth businesses with 2 years trading can apply for interest free loans and an application for a loan is currently being processed.

2.3 Apprenticeships

2.3.1 A total of 45 apprentices were directly assisted into local businesses through the Medway Apprenticeship Placement Service (MAPS) against a target of 40. Young people have been placed into business sectors, such as engineering and manufacturing, business administration and financial services, electro-technical and child care. Medway directly funded 40 of these apprenticeships at a cost of £40,000. For 2019/2020, the funding is being re-worked to provide a grant for Manufacturing & Engineering businesses and to commission a Medway Apprenticeship Advice Service.

2.4 Medway Business Awards 2018 & 2019

2.4.1 The 34th Medway Business Awards were held at Priestfield Conference Centre in November 2018. The event was attended by 200 guests including 13 business finalists. The overall winner was Total Machining Solutions with other prizes awarded to Lighthouse Safety Training, Copper Rivet Distillery, Umbrella Training and Paramount Independent Property Services. The 2019 award evening will be held on 15 November and is the 35th Anniversary of the Awards having been set up in 1984 following the closure of Chatham Naval Dockyard. In addition to Medway Council, sponsors include Furley Page, Kent Business School, Handelsbanken, Uniper, Kreston Reeves, University of Greenwich, National Grid, Mid-Kent College, Kent Messenger and Cooling Castle Bar. This year they will also be joined by Chatham Historic Dockyard.

2.5 Innovation Centre Medway (ICM)

2.5.1 Innovation Centre Medway (ICM) is currently 100% occupied against a target of 90%. Since the last report, no major changes have been made to the centre which now has 56 tenants.

2.6 Innovation Studios Medway (ISM)

2.6.1 The Innovation Studios Medway (ISM) is currently 93% occupied against a target of 90% with 14 of the 15 offices let. In addition 10 of the 18 ground floor storage units are let. There are 6 storage containers occupied by tenants who are also occupying the office spaces above them.

2.7 Town Centre Management

2.7.1 Vacancy rates have remained stable with Rainham at 2%, Gillingham just below 11%, Chatham at 10% and Rochester at 7%. Strood has risen to 12% over the last quarter. Overall the figures compare favourably to the UK average of 10.2% (source: Local Date Company, April 2019).

2.7.2 The Love Chatham initiative continues, a working party has been formed by the Chatham Forum, which is business led. The group are currently developing a website and social media channels to promote all that is positive about the city centre. The Chatham Forum has continued to strengthen its role and is working in partnership with Ideas Test to develop an events programme in the city centre over the next three years (subject to Arts Council funding).

2.7.3 A more detailed programme of interventions to address the Chatham Forum's priorities has been agreed, with S106 Developer Contributions to support the delivery of this programme over the coming years. This includes support for improving the high street and city centre environment, ASB/city Centre warden role and measures to combat crime and improve safety and perceptions.

2.7.4 The Gillingham Town Centre Forum has established a working group which has met three times since the last Forum meeting in March 2019. The working group is led by the new Forum Chair, Stephen Marsden, who is working with Forum members, businesses and residents to develop and deliver a package of environmental and streetscape improvements to the High Street. In August 2019 the Council commenced work on the redevelopment of Britton Farm Mall Shopping Precinct into office accommodation. Further consultation on the Gillingham Town Centre Masterplan will take place in September and the next Gillingham Forum will be held in October 2019.

2.7.5 Rochester and Rainham Town Centre Forums continue to develop and work with local businesses and communities to work in partnership on the regeneration and management of the town centres.

2.7.6 An Expression of Interest was submitted for Chatham Future High Streets funding in January 2019. We received news that this had been successful at the beginning of August 2019 and are now through to Stage 2. We need to prepare a robust economically appraised business case (interim case by 15 November 2019 and final case by 28 February 2020). We are currently scoping the projects

that will be considered as part of the business case. Outcome of the bid is expected Spring/Summer 2020.

- 2.7.7 An Expression of Interest was submitted for £1.6 million Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) programme in July 2019. We have just received news that this has been successful subject to us developing a Design Programme by January 2020. We await further guidance from Historic England.

2.8 Markets

- 2.8.1 Total gross rental income from all of the markets for January to June 2019 was £32,013.

- 2.8.2 A total of 75 markets were held in Strood, Gillingham and Rochester during January to June 2019.

- 2.8.3 An independent market review has been commissioned to guide the future direction of Medway's markets and the outcome of this is due early October 2019.

2.9 Employ Medway

- 2.9.1 The Employ Medway Service is currently delivering the Work & Health Programme – designed to support people with health conditions into employment. To date, 47 people have been supported into work through the programme.

3. **Planning Policy**

3.1 Local Plan

- 3.1.1 Work has continued on the preparation of the draft local plan. This has involved the collation of evidence base documents, including the Strategic Transport Assessment, Infrastructure Delivery Plan and key technical documents to support the plan – Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment. This evidence is being used to inform the growth strategy for the new plan and the selection of preferred sites for development allocations. Draft policies have been reviewed, taking account of comments raised in consultation.

3.2 Wider Planning Policy Work

- 3.2.1 The Planning Service has also continued to support groups in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods, High Halstow, Hoo St Werburgh and Chatham Arches which are preparing neighbourhood plans in Medway.

4. **Development Management**

4.1 Planning Applications - Performance for Quarter 1 2019

- 4.1.1 During the period 1 April to 30 June 2019 the authority received 393 planning applications; this is compared to 254 for the same period in 2018. For the year 2018/19 the authority received 1456 applications, this compares to 1546 in 2017/18.

- 4.1.2 Performance for major applications during the period 1 April to 30 June 2019 is 100%. This is against a target of 60%.
- 4.1.3 Performance for minor applications during this period is 93% against a target of 70%.
- 4.1.4 Performance for other applications during this period is 96% against a target of 70%.
- 4.1.5 This performance has been achieved with the appropriate use of Planning Extension Agreements (PEA) and Planning Performance Agreements (PPA).

4.2 Appeals performance

- 4.2.1 The percentage of appeals allowed during the period 1 April to 30 June is 41.66%. Appeals allowed comprise 2 delegated decisions and 1 Committee decision. There were 2 decisions in relation to enforcement appeals.

4.3 Enforcement

- 4.3.1 Breakdown of enforcement activity during the period 1 April to 30 June 2019:

Enforcement Notices served	7
Section 215 Notices derelict buildings	1

4.4 Trees

- 4.4.1 Breakdown of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) activity during the period 1 April to 30 June 2019:

Number of TPO applications determined	21
Number of TPO applications determined within a Conservation area	15

4.5 Planning Service Audit

- 4.5.1 The service successfully undertook an external assessment under ISO 9001:2015 in June 2019. The Executive Summary concluded that in line with the stated strategic direction and intended results of the quality management system, particularly with relation to the growth in the service and the provision of robust quality assured processes, the management system has demonstrated that it has been designed to support the strategic direction and deliver the intended results. This was evidenced via the project management, management commitment and customer focus systems viewed throughout the assessment. The next external assessment will take place in December 2019.
- 4.5.2 An internal audit of the Planning Service has been undertaken by the Council's Audit and Counter Fraud team. The audit result is rated on a traffic light system and the draft report indicated that the overall audit opinion is Green, this is the best possible outcome. The final report will be available next quarter.

5. South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership (STG)

- 5.1 A number of technological improvements are continuing with the facility for customers to book their site inspections 24/7 for one working day in advance, through the STG website. Thereby providing improved access and convenience in using the building control service, as well as a potential benefit to reduce the number of calls received by the administration team.
- 5.2 Enhancements are underway on the mobile app which will deliver better data entry for surveyors working agile and improvements to the current lone working procedures with an ability for surveyors to 'check-in/check-out' on site locations.
- 5.3 The Local Authority Building Control (LABC) was part of a working group which considered the competency in the construction industry and one part of this was building control providers. The Standards Committee and the Learning and Development Working Group formulated a detailed competency matrix covering seven key levels in building control from technical support through to specialist surveyor. STG have undertaken an exercise involving all staff to establish their competency within each level against this framework establishing areas requiring training/re-training and a training programme is currently being developed.
- 5.4 Membership bodies are also committed to evidencing competency, with the Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE), to which the majority of the surveyors are members, introducing a revised membership structure from 1 January 2020. Given the increasing expectations of all construction professionals to demonstrate ongoing competency, CABE have undertaken a review of all membership grades and related competencies and as a result this new grade of membership will be linked to a new competency framework.
- 5.5 At the end of May 2019 the LABC were advised by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) that some approved inspectors (AIs) were experiencing difficulty in obtaining or renewing their insurance cover. This resulted in initially four approved inspectors being unable to operate, then in June a further three were reported. In August a major council's AI was the next to experience difficulties. This is unprecedented in building control and the impact has been felt nationwide, as once work has commenced and that AI is unable to carry out their function then it has to revert to the local authority to endeavour to rectify.
- 5.6 The partnership has over 700 applications to make contact with the owners and inspect to ascertain the stage of works and advise the owners of what needs to happen next. The time involved with this type of work is substantial as, when an initial notice is submitted by an approved inspector, building control do not receive any details other than the site address and description of work.
- 5.7 The team have been working extremely hard to deal with this additional workload and queries from anxious owners as well as ensuring that those customers who chose originally to use the services of a local authority are receiving the correct level of service.
- 5.8 A discussion has taken place with the Head of Asset Management at Thanet District Council, in relation to joining the partnership.

5.9 An approach has been made by Folkestone & Hythe District Council and an initial discussion has also taken place with Maidstone Borough Council.

6. Regulation – Environmental Health/Trading Standards/Enforcement and Licensing (executive functions only)

6.1 Trading Standards Team

6.1.1 The Trading Standards team delivers against a broad range of statutory duties and functions including: product safety; food standards & feed safety; weights & measures; intellectual property; trade representations; unfair terms; unfair trading practices; animal health & welfare; price indications; explosives & petroleum and the Medway Council Act 2001.

6.1.2 Illegal tobacco sales and smuggled tobacco, using sniffer dogs: This work culminated in a successful prosecution of one business owner in January 2019, resulting in fines and a custodial sentence of six months. Officers continue to work with landlords to seek the termination of tenancies and disrupt other criminal operations through participation in multi-agency work with Kent Police, HM Revenue and Customs, UK Border Agency and other council teams to regulate the wider criminality associated with illegal tobacco.

6.1.3 The team works extensively with Public Health in delivering community engagement events on the topic of illegal tobacco and stop smoking and was successful in securing a retrospective Department of Health Grant of £5K in March 2019.

6.1.4 Under-age sales test purchasing resulted in 30 positive sales for alcohol, fireworks, e-liquids and knives and this was followed up as appropriate with the individual businesses in conjunction with relevant partners (including the police and licensing).

6.1.5 E-liquids is an area of concern in the product safety field. Officers undertook a large education programme of visits and advice to traders on the new controls on Nicotine Inhaling Products (NIPs), which introduces safety and information controls on vaping and e-cigarettes products.

6.1.6 “No cold calling” projects have seen a reduction in the numbers of vulnerable people falling victim to scams and doorstep crime via intervention through a multi-agency approach (including banks and social care professionals).

6.1.7 Food Standards: The service inspected 100% of high-risk premises and 100% of medium risk inspections as required by the Food Standards Agency. This year saw the team increase advice to local businesses on the controls on the allergen labelling of food products. Comprehensive food-sampling was also undertaken, as part of local, regional and national sampling campaigns to ensure descriptions and compositional requirements are correct.

6.1.8 Seasonal markets and craft fairs: guidance and assistance to the occasional traders. Also, a visible presence at the Rochester Christmas market and the Dickens Festival to ensure goods supplied were safe, accurately described and that all temporary traders were providing essential allergen information.

6.1.9 "Challenge 25" approach continued for the sale of *corrosive substances*.

6.1.10 Animal feed standards: 100% of high-risk premises and 100% of medium risk inspections completed by the team, as per Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Food Standards Agency requirements.

6.1.11 Animal Health: All new keepers are visited and inspected to ensure legal compliance, programmed inspections to livestock farms were conducted and reports of four illegally imported dogs were addressed.

6.1.12 Sunbed salons: work to restrict access to those over 18 years old, ensure sunbeds available in Medway are under the 0.3Kw maximum power rating, that safe eye protection is provided at the tanning premises, and that only safe and effective tanning cosmetics are exposed for sale.

6.2 Business Compliance Team

6.2.1 The Business Compliance team sits alongside the Trading Standards Enforcement Team and the Food and Safety Team. Petroleum licensing and explosives licencing is also dealt with in this team.

6.2.2 The team visited 100% of premises registered to sell fireworks this year and found a healthy level of intrinsic compliance.

6.2.3 In its capacity as the Petroleum licensing authority, the team continued to inspect all Petrol forecourts for safety and ensure that accurate records of fuel are maintained. The service also responds to out of hours requests from forecourt owners and/or Kent Fire & Rescue Service when incidents occur.

6.2.4 Complaints: triage to ensure that appropriate advice and guidance is given to customers at the earliest opportunity. Serious issues requiring specialist intervention are passed to the appropriately experienced/qualified officers.

6.2.5 The team works with the National Scams Hub to provide support and advice to the victims of scams in Medway through a series of personal visits. In 2018/19 visits were carried out to 106 residents who had been identified as potential victims of scams. This work is backed up by a series of talks to local groups to raise awareness and **truecall** devices have been supplied to the residents who are most vulnerable to scam telephone calls.

6.2.6 The Medway Fair Trader Scheme is administered by the Business Compliance Team and aims to both protect consumers and promote local businesses, whilst deterring and/or restricting rogue traders. Overall membership increased with 23 new organisations. The scheme remains well used and valued within Medway and continues to help support our "No Cold Calling" project and improving lives of vulnerable people within Medway.

6.2.7 Each year the team hosts the Consumer Challenge Quiz (CCQ), which is open to the Special Educational Needs schools in Medway. The 2018/19 event was hosted by Bradfields Academy. The CCQ teaches the children about their consumer rights and who can help them when things go wrong, as well as a number of other important messages. Sponsorship from Fair Trader Scheme members and local businesses funded the event for the fifth year running. The

overall winner of the competition was awarded the Andy McGrath Memorial Trophy and the team that scored the most on the round on Medway was awarded the Cllr Mike O'Brien Memorial Trophy.

6.3 Environmental Health Food and Safety Team

6.3.1 The Food and Safety Team delivers a broad range of statutory duties and functions including: food safety; health and safety at work; infectious disease control and port health. The team additionally works closely with Public Health on a variety of projects and is also responsible for Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA) certification at Gillingham Football Club.

6.3.2 Food Hygiene key achievements for 2018/19:

- **100%** of all due food hygiene interventions in high and medium-risk businesses (categories A, B & C)
- High-risk food businesses **reduced** to just 1.5% (27/1781 premises)
- **99.7%** of food businesses operating had been risk-rated by 31 March 2019
- Broad compliance across Medway for food businesses was **98.1%**

6.3.3 Medway is engaged in the national Better Business for All programme. 68 new businesses received advice and support to reduce red tape and get things right from the start. This helps boost local economic development.

6.3.4 The team delivered **1134** interventions to new and existing premises for food hygiene, with **483** enforcement actions

6.3.5 The team participated in national and regional food sampling programmes. Unsatisfactory results (11%) were taken up with the premises concerned.

6.3.6 Food Hygiene Rating Scheme: 98% of premises were broadly compliant (5, 4 and 3 scores combined) 84%, with only 1.9% non-compliant (0, 1 and 2 scores combined).

6.3.7 The team investigated 164 cases of infectious disease.

6.3.8 The Team also investigated:

- 246 food service requests
- 120 health and safety service requests
- 107 reports of serious work-related accidents

6.3.9 Health and Safety activity in 2018/2019 has included:

- Renewal of General Safety Certificate at Gillingham Football Club (GFC) on 5 July 2018, completion of an annual review of the GFC Operations Manual plus completion of match monitoring visits.

- Transfer of the enforcement responsibility of Chatham Ski Centre across from the HSE to Medway Council.
- Participation in the Kent LA flexible warranting scheme, which was signed off under the new Head of Service and Food and Safety Team Leader.
- Participation in the peer-review process of enforcement decisions by Inspectors co-ordinated by the Kent and Medway Health and Safety Group. Medway now hold Chair of this group.

6.4 Strategic Environmental Protection Team

The Environmental Protection team delivers a broad range of statutory duties in respect to contamination of land, local air quality management, private water supplies and distribution systems, environmental permitting, licensing and planning.

6.4.1 *Air Quality Communications Strategy:*

- During 2018/19 the Environmental Protection and Public Health team have been supporting the KM Charity Green School Awards category for Best Air Pollution Campaign. We have worked with 6 primary schools on an air quality monitoring project and will be returning to the schools in the summer of 2019 to see the children's projects.
- Oasis Academy was awarded the Best Air Pollution Campaign at the Green School Awards.

6.4.2 *Air Quality Management Areas:*

- During 2018/19 the Action Plan for Four Elms Hill Air Quality Management Area has been progressed by undertaking an engagement exercise between 1 and 28 February 2019, to gain stakeholders opinions on what measures that think would improve the air quality in the area. 338 people responded to the survey and another 223 people responded through the Citizens Panel. The draft action plan is being produced and once it has been produced a public consultation will be undertaken. This piece of work will be progressed during 2019/20.
- The Annual Status Report has been submitted to DEFRA and we are awaiting feedback.
- The team has also initiated a fleet review project of Medway's fleet and Grey fleet which has been undertaken by the Energy Savings Trust. Draft reports have been produced and Directorate Management Team (DMT) will be updated on the findings in 2019/20.
- During 2018/19, the team additionally:
- Completed 100% of Environmental Permitting inspections due.
- Provided comments on 1363 planning consultations and discharge of conditions applications.
- Commented on 88 licensing consultations.

- Provided information and advice in respect to 218 environmental enquires/searches.
- Maintained the two air quality stations within Medway. The two continuous Air Quality Monitoring Stations (AQMS) at Chatham Grammar School (urban roadside) and Rochester Stoke site (rural - on the Hoo Peninsula) form part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) national Automatic Urban Rural Network (AURN), which provides a national picture of air quality.

6.4.3 The service continues to support the Council with its regeneration programme for Medway and provided guidance to the planning department on proposed major developments within Medway, and areas that may affect the environment of Medway, including:

- Gibraltar Farm, Ham Lane, Hempstead
- Land at White House Farm, Stoke Road, Hoo St Werburgh
- Land at Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow
- Land East of Mierscourt Road, Rainham
- Land West of Town Road, Cliffe Woods, Rochester

6.4.4 The team also issued 4 consents under section 61 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 to control noise, dust and air pollution from construction sites.

6.5 Reactive Environmental Protection Team

6.5.1 The team consists of 5 full time equivalent (FTE) and deals with statutory noise and other nuisances. This involves an initial investigation following any complaint of statutory nuisance from a local resident. Statutory nuisance is mainly defined as something that seriously disturbs the comfort and enjoyment of a person's property. It relates to noise, light, air pollution and odours, sewers and drainage, pest infestations and hoarding. Temporary Event Notices (TENS) are also reviewed by the team and objections are issued where concerns of noise disturbance are raised. The team are also responsible licensing premises that fall within scope of The Animal (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018. This includes the sale of pets, hiring of horses, dog breeders and animal boarding establishments. Animal licensing also covers the keeping of dangerous wild animals and zoo establishments.

6.5.2 In this period, the team have investigated 1434 complaints and 153 TENS have been received. The vast majority of these complaints are resolved without the need for formal action.

6.5.3 The team operates an out-of-hours callout service, which is essential in establishing whether or not a statutory nuisance exists. The out-of-hours call out service is open to pre-existing customers whose case is being investigated and where there is a need to visit and witness the nuisance at the time it is happening. It is also available for people not on the list who are affected by one

off parties that affect three or more residents. Residents are also able to report audible car and intruder alarms, when being affected by the noise.

- 6.5.4 In relation to noise nuisance, 1 abatement notice has been served, as well as 33 Community Protection Warnings and 4 Community Protection Notices.
- 6.5.5 In May the team prosecuted a resident due to breaches of a notice that was served under Section 60 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974. This notice restricted the hours during which he was permitted to carry out construction work and was served after all attempts to resolve the matter informally had proved unsuccessful. The defendant pleaded guilty at Medway Magistrates' Court and was convicted. Fines and costs totalled £1,052.30.
- 6.5.6 5 notices were served relating to filthy and verminous premises. In one case, the likelihood is that work will have to be done in default of the notice. In another case the resident has been working to clear the property, in this case 2 notices have also been served on the owner of the property due to rats and drainage. 2 notices have been served regarding a bedbug infestation.
- 6.5.7 4 notices have been served regarding rat / mice infestations and 2 notices have been served relating to drainage.
- 6.5.8 To date, there are currently 51 licensed animal premises. This comprises of 18 home dog boarders, 13 kennels / catteries, 4 dog breeders, 12 selling pets, 2 horse riding establishments, 1 dangerous wild animal and 1 zoo. There are also 7 pending applications. 2 applications have been refused.
- 6.5.9 There is currently a pending prosecution regarding an unlicensed premises advertising and carrying out a business providing home boarding for dogs. In this case an application for a licence was refused due to the presence of young children in the house.

6.6 Environmental Enforcement

- 6.6.1 This section is split into two teams, which work very closely together to take action against those that blight our environment so as to create a cleaner and safer Medway.
- 6.6.2 The Environmental Enforcement Team consists of 6 full time equivalent and deals with the investigation of fly tipping and other waste related crime such as untidy private land, trade waste and illegal waste carriers.
- 6.6.3 The Street Scene Enforcement Team consists of 6 full time equivalent (FTE) and deals with on street enforcement of littering and trade waste offences as well as the removal of fly tipping and most importantly – the secure recovery of evidence.
- 6.6.4 During this period, the team has dealt with 2,321 cases, most of which were resolved without the need for formal action. However, it was necessary to prosecute in 11 cases.
- 6.6.5 All cases were heard at magistrates' court. Fines and costs totalled £11,837.

- 6.6.6 Included in this total are 5 cases where the offenders were prosecuted for failing to assist the team in their investigations.
- 6.6.7 Other sanctions included a 5 month prison sentence (suspended for 2 years) and 250 hours unpaid work.
- 6.6.8 In another case where the offender failed to appear at court, a warrant was issued for his arrest.
- 6.6.9 The team conducted 2 operations in partnership with Kent Police, targeting illegal waste streams. These operations resulted in 21 vehicles being stopped & searched.
- 6.6.10 4 vehicles were seized by the team as they were suspected of being involved in fly tipping and another was seized by the police as it was un-roadworthy.
- 6.6.11 2 of these vehicles have since been crushed, taking them permanently out of the illegal waste economy and disrupting organised crime.
- 6.6.12 The remaining 2 vehicles (a tipper and a skip lorry) are being held in storage pending their determination period, after which they may also be disposed of.
- 6.6.13 890 reported fly tips were attended, searched and cleared, all of which were removed within one working day.
- 6.6.14 A further 425 fly tips were dealt with proactively, meaning that they were removed before a complaint was received from a member of the public.
- 6.6.15 The team has entered into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the removal of fly tipping from the HRA (Housing Revenue Account) estate. To date, the team has dealt with 415 requests for service, all of which were completed within one working day. This arrangement provides an annual income of £26k.
- 6.6.16 The total amount of waste removed from the public realm since April is 80.84 tonnes.
- 6.6.17 19 notices were served on businesses requiring them to account for the disposal of their trade waste.
- 6.6.18 1 notice was served on untidy land.
- 6.6.19 5 notices were served requiring information relating to fly tipping offences.
- 6.6.20 154 Community Protection Warnings were served relating to issues such as refuse out early, storage of waste, fly posting and untidy land.
- 6.6.21 98% of these cases were resolved at the warning stage, with only 3 cases progressing to notice.
- 6.6.22 To date, 45 fixed penalty notices have been issued for littering and other waste related offences.

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Appendices

None

Background papers

None