

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 DECEMBER 2019

ATTENDANCE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR RESOURCES

Report from: Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gulvin

Summary

This report sets out progress made within the areas covered by the Portfolio Holder for Resources 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 Resources are:

- Community Safety Partnership
- CCTV.

Note: The following services fall within the Resources Portfolio, in relation to the Community Safety Partnership:

- Tobacco control, excluding smoking cessation services
- Community safety aspects of alcohol and drug misuse
- Public health aspects of promotion of community safety, violence prevention and response.

1.2 The Community Safety Partnership is made up of the following responsible authorities –

- Medway Council
- Kent Police
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)
- Kent Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company KSS CRC)
- Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

1.3 The nature of the work of the Community Safety Partnership means that several areas of work detailed in this report although are all community safety initiatives, involve a number of different council departments who are the responsibility of a number of Portfolio Holders.

1.4 Achievements for 2018/19 are detailed by services area below.

2. Community Safety Team and Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

2.1 In July 2018 Medway Council created a team of 2 Anti-Social Behaviour Officers, reporting to the Community Safety Manager and in September this year recruited a third officer who will in part be responsible for dealing with unlawful incursions.

2.2 The remit of the team is to identify on-going, long-term anti-social behaviour issues and act as a hub for Medway Council colleagues and partner agencies. The team have formed close working partnerships with Kent Police and other members of the Community Safety Partnership. They have extended a holistic approach to assist housing providers and other organisations in dealing with anti-social behaviour that affects the wider community.

2.3 The team have set up a daily meeting with Kent Police and the Medway Task Force. The Task Force act as a conduit to other agencies and stakeholders. The meeting allows a partnership approach to community safety and a speedier response to community issues in Medway.

2.4 The Community Safety Team chair the Community MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference). This meeting brings together partner agencies, stakeholders and other agencies to deal with community related issues that affect the wider community and require a multi-agency approach. In the last year the conference has dealt with numerous cases ranging from anti-social behaviour to mental health and environmental crime. The conference brings a holistic approach to problem solving and allows all involved parties to work towards successful outcomes.

2.5 Since its creation the Community Safety Team (Anti-Social Behaviour Team) have dealt with nearly 400 cases. These have ranged from simple anti-social behaviour issues, which required a quick fix, to complicated community safety issues which needed a protracted investigation and multi-agency approach led by Community Safety Officers.

2.6 The team use the tools and powers contained within the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. During 2019 they have issued 119 Community Protection Warnings, 39 Community Protection Notices and 4 Fixed Penalty Notices in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour. In addition they are working on a number of protracted enquiries that will have a positive impact on Medway's communities and may ultimately bring offenders to prosecution.

3. Community Payback

3.1 The Community Safety Team continue to supply the majority of unpaid work in Medway for completion by offenders with community sentences. These are managed by the Kent, Sussex and Surrey Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC).

- 3.2 Over the year a total of 162 jobs were nominated by a variety of elected Members, Community Wardens, PCSOs, and the Council's Public Rights of Way (PROW) team. This is lower than the previous period as KSS CRC had a number of supervisory gaps, as well as a number of other external projects.
- 3.3 The majority of activities undertaken were litter picks in open spaces, for example, the Great Lines continues to be regularly litter picked. Other projects included working with a number of churches to clear and maintain overgrown graveyards and cutting back vegetation and working on public rights of way, cutting back hedges and clearing an allotment plot for a primary school to use as well as clearing snow when needed from doctors surgeries and care homes.

4. Medway Task Force

- 4.1 The Medway Task Force was an initiative developed as part of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Violence Reduction Panel. It is an integrated and committed partnership approach where agency staff sit and work together in a shared space within Medway Council's Gun Wharf offices. There are a number of partners working together, including a Task Force lead officer, a Police Sergeant, Police Officers, Medway Council, Department of Work and Pensions, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Immigration Enforcement, Victim Support and Community Rehabilitation Company, all complemented by wider partner, commissioned services and third sector support and buy in.
- 4.2 The key aims of the Task Force will be to work towards reducing violent crime, reducing vulnerability and building community resilience. Under each of these key aims are wider objectives which will contribute to keeping Medway a safe place to live, work, learn and visit. The Task Force will not duplicate work streams but instead look to join agencies together to look at key gaps in intelligence and working practices. There will be a clear focus on the public health approach to reducing violent crime by working to address the underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or perpetrator of violence. There will also be a focus on contextual safeguarding, looking at common themes, locations or people which will enable emerging issues to be solved holistically. The Task Force will look to tackle complex issues to safeguard, mitigate risk and divert from criminality through early intervention. Work will be focussed in key geographic areas across Medway.

5. PACTs

- 5.1 There are currently 14 PACTs running in Medway, compared to 12 in 2018; often PACTs disband once their specific concerns have been addressed. However others have continued to remain active in their communities as residents' groups.
- 5.2 Community Wardens have attended a total of 14 PACT meetings at which issues of public concern were raised and many are resolved by the Warden Service at the time. The remainder of concerns are referred to other departments or partner agencies.

6. Community Engagement

- 6.1 A total of 68 community engagement events have been arranged or attended by the Community Safety Team, which were supported by wider Safer Communities' staff and partner agencies at a variety of locations in both urban and rural parts of Medway, including Community Hubs and Residents Groups/Associations, Dementia Groups, Fresher Fayres and High Street Banks. Since December 2018 we have engaged with 2636 people through these events so far.
- 6.2 General community safety advice is given along with personal safety equipment and leaflets, where appropriate.
- 6.3 Community Wardens delivered presentations to junior schools on the range of services provided by the Community Wardens. These presentations are aimed at year 6 pupils to give them a better understanding of topics such as personal safety, good citizenship, environmental responsibility and responsible dog ownership. This programme of presentations has been extended to other groups and the Environmental Engagement Officers have spoken to 33 groups including scouts, Neighbourhood Watch and the Soroptomists. So far they have engaged with 764 people.

7. Illegal Tobacco

- 7.1 The sale of illegal tobacco remains a point of concern in Medway, as for all authorities in the UK, and officers continue to challenge those caught selling counterfeit and smuggled tobacco.
- 7.2 Officers have recently made four seizures from retail premises and carried out a test purchasing exercise. The seized tobacco totalled 210,000 cigarettes. The sniffer dogs revealed quantities of illegal tobacco in electronically controlled concealed compartments in tiled walls and hidden in a false panels of a cellar staircase.
- 7.3 The seizures are subject to ongoing investigations against the retailers. Officers are also engaging with the landlords of the properties about the potential offence of money laundering, as part of this process a premises chronically selling illegal tobacco has been closed in Rochester.

- 7.4 The service had a pending criminal case against a local retailer heard in January 2019 and the defendant was convicted to a custodial sentence of 180 days.

8. Age Restricted Goods

- 8.1 The Trading Standards Team continues to advise local businesses on the assorted age restricted product controls they regulate. Training packages and bespoke advice are provided to local traders to enable them to train their staff on good practice.
- 8.2 The team also carries out test purchasing surveys with the assistance of local volunteers checking the availability of age restricted products to under age persons, recent exercises have covered fireworks, knives, tobacco and alcohol. Seven traders were warned in these exercises and are subject to re-inspection.

9. Strategic Community Safety Approach

- 9.1 A strategic approach continues to be adopted to ensure the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is closely aligned with the ambitions of Medway as a great place to live, work, learn and visit.
- 9.2 The strategic assessment reviewed our existing priorities and has confirmed that we meet our statutory obligations as a partnership, reflecting the priorities of our partner agencies in delivering a safer Medway, and supporting sustainable regeneration.
- 9.3 The annual strategic assessment will this year inform a new 4-year CSP Plan, which the CSP aims to align with the Police and Crime Commissioners Safer in Kent Plan.

10. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)

- 10.1 Legislation introduced by the Government in 2014 gave local authorities more freedom and flexibility to control ASB in places to which the public has access. The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) replaced the Designated Public Place Order (DPPO), which created 'alcohol control zones'. The change to the law came into effect on 20th October 2017. From this time the DPPOs were treated as provisions of a PSPO.
- 10.2 PSPOs are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.
- 10.3 The PSPOs in Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester and Strood remain in place. However, we will review these orders and consider amending conditions by 20 October 2020 (unless extended before this date, the orders will expire).

11. Prevent

- 11.1 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 introduced the 'Prevent Duty', which requires local authorities, and other specific bodies, to act to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. All specified bodies are required to have 'due regard' to the duty in the following areas: awareness of the risks of terrorism; leadership; working in partnership; staff capabilities and sharing information.
- 11.2 The Corporate Management Team acts as the strategic Prevent Panel, with a subgroup of the CSP discharging the tactical and operational tasks, chaired by the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance in Children and Adult Services and supported by cross-Council participation.
- 11.3 In addition, a multi-agency Prevent Board is in place, also chaired by the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance in Children and Adult Services. The duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism applies to Local Authorities and other specific named bodies: education and child care providers, further education and higher education institutions, the health sector, criminal justice commissioned penal institutions and providers, and the Police.
- 11.4 The board's role is to agree levels of risk and coordinate Prevent activity across Medway. A number of e-learning training packages are available which have been rolled out to front line staff.
- 11.5 The Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance in Children and Adult Services is also a member of Kent County Council's Prevent Panel, ensuring a regular dialogue to share best practice.

12. Channel Panel

- 12.1 Channel is an early intervention multi-agency process designed to safeguard vulnerable people from being drawn into violent extremist or terrorist behaviour. Channel works in a similar way to existing safeguarding partnerships aimed at protecting vulnerable people.
- 12.2 Medway's Channel Panel is chaired by the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance in Children and Adult Services and brings together a range of multi-agency partners to collectively assess the risk and can decide whether a support package is needed. If the group feels the person would be suitable for Channel, it looks to develop a package of support that is bespoke to the individual. The partnership approach ensures those with specific knowledge and expertise around the vulnerabilities of those at risk are able to work together to provide the best support.
- 12.3 Anyone can make a referral. Referrals come from a wide range of partners including those from education, health, Youth Offending Team, police and social services. There have been 15 referrals onto Channel this year.
- 12.4 This is an increase on the previous year. This can be attributed to a concerted effort to increase awareness of Prevent and Channel that has been carried out in the last 18 months. There has been a push amongst all

agencies to ensure that all of their new staff induction includes Channel/Prevent, as well as ensuring that refresher training is carried out.

- 12.5 In addition, in November 2018 the day long Kent and Medway Community Safety Conference held at Detling Showground was focused on “Preventing Extremism and Hate” at which the Community Safety Manager gave a presentation on Channel in Medway.

13. Serious and Organised Crime Partnership (SOCP)

- 13.1 The SOCP continues to meet with the aim of being instrumental in providing an effective local response to the issue of serious and organised crime and gang related issues in Medway. This is chaired by the Detective Chief Inspector for CID and MSET (sexual exploitation team) and is Vice-Chaired by the Community Safety Manager.
- 13.2 The multi-agency group develops and implements plans using the ‘4 P’ model of Prepare, Pursue, Prevent and Protect to target known gangs, to disrupt and dismantle the criminality, as well as to work with partner agencies to raise awareness of organised crime and its negative impact on individuals, communities and the local economy.
- 13.3 In the last year there have been five cases tackled at the SOCP. There has been significant input on two of the cases from Trading Standards and Environmental Enforcement. A sixth case has been nominated by the Community Safety Team in October.
- 13.4 The SOCP incorporates Modern Day Slavery, Human Trafficking, Missing Persons, Gangs and Human Trafficking and works closely with the MASE (Child Sexual Exploitation).
- 13.5 The SOCP also works with partner agencies to develop techniques to deter people (particularly young people) from being drawn into serious and organised criminality.

14. Community Clear Ups

- 14.1 Community Wardens organised 35 Community Clean-ups, 15 of which were done as part of the national Spring Clean campaign. Over 150 members of the public took part in these events, as well as elected Members. A total of 969 black sacks of litter were collected and removed along with 5 tipper and 4 van loads of materials.

15. Offensive or Hazardous Litter

- 15.1 Community Wardens patrol known hotspots every morning to remove offensive or hazardous litter. Since the last report, they have removed 836 items of drug related litter including needles, and 145 items of sex related litter. Intelligence is passed to Kent Police through the Community Safety Team and also to service providers such as Turning Point so that outreach work can be undertaken.

16. Blue Light Project

- 16.1 The Medway Blue Light Project is an innovative multi-agency approach, facilitated by Medway Public Health Department to inform joint interventions aimed at adult substance misusers with complex needs and with a history of poor engagement with services. The cohort is also characterised by ongoing involvement in ASB in Medway's communities.
- 16.2 The Blue Light project continues to meet monthly and has representatives from the following organisations: Medway Council Social Care; Medway Council Housing; Medway Public Health; Anti-social Behaviour Officers; Kent Police; Medway CRC; National Probation Service; AMAT; Pathways to Independence Ltd; Riverside Housing; Turning Point; Forward Trust (Prisons); Open Road; One Big Family and Caring Hands.
- 16.3 Information is shared under the Kent and Medway Information Sharing agreement.
- 16.4 There are currently 13 individuals on the list who face severe and multiple disadvantage with Substance Misuse, Homelessness or Involvement in the Criminal justice system. This number has fallen in the last 12 months in part due to the Rough Sleepers Initiative project having outreach workers identifying individuals and providing earlier solutions to complex issues. This should be considered a successful development of the project. The aim is to maintain the list to below 20 individuals to ensure that adequate time can be given to sharing relevant information, creating an action plan and monitoring progress for each person. Referrals continue to be made by a range of agencies. Where an individual faces a set of very complex issues a team is set up around the individual to overcome barriers to progress and maintain momentum between the monthly meetings.
- 16.5 Outcomes from the project have included long standing individuals on the Blue Light Project list being housed and accessing drug treatment services; others have been supported to access a range of services; and in some cases others are now serving prison sentences. Due to effective partnership working, the project is able to continue its oversight of the individuals even when they are in prison and ensure they continue to be supported on release. The Blue Light Project is linked closely to the Rough Sleeper's initiative which has provided valuable and effective outreach.

17. Homelessness and Begging

- 17.1 Medway Housing continue to work in partnership with Public Health's Blue Light project to ensure support and advice is offered to vulnerable people, who often have rough sleeping and/or begging as part of their complex range of issues. Whilst people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness continue to get support from Kingsley House, additional input is often required for rough sleepers.
- 17.2 Begging and Homelessness are seen as synonymous. This is not necessarily the case. Whilst rough sleepers may also beg, we have direct and anecdotal evidence that not every beggar in Medway is without accommodation.

17.3 Many homeless people (including those who sleep rough) have a range of support needs across drugs and alcohol, mental health issues, physical health issues – sometimes all three - which require support and assistance.

18. Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop (OSS)

18.1 Medway's One Stop Shop (OSS) held every Tuesday morning (9.30am-12pm) at the Sunlight Centre, has been very busy again recently and well attended by both clients and support services and providers all year. In the last Quarter (July, August, September 2019) the OSS had 166 attending adults, who have 253 children in their households (3 were pregnant), and who were supported by 22 agencies.

18.2 There is representation and commitment from a number of multi-agency partners, including statutory and voluntary agencies such as Medway Community Health, Solicitors, Home Start, Medway Domestic Abuse Service (Choices), SATEDA (Domestic Abuse Charity), DWP, Turning Point, Support to Court, Police, Clarion, West Kent Housing, NSPCC and Medway Council. There has also been a number of new services who have attended to observe with a view to having a more permanent presence.

18.3 Further work was undertaken to understand the seemingly high representation rates at the OSS. Evaluation findings demonstrated that the large majority of repeat visitors to the OSS were due to positive previous experiences and attendees now feeling ready to make further progress by revisiting the OSS for additional support.

18.4 The OSS Operating Procedures have been reviewed, updated and 'signed-off' by the Kent and Medway DA Tactical Group. All multi-agency partners have read and signed copies to continue to increase ownership and clarity of roles and responsibilities. There continues to be an effective triage and screening process in place at the OSS, with clear escalation and referral pathways to tailored support for individual clients.

18.5 The OSS remains an essential and integral service for some of the most vulnerable Medway residents and continues to provide opportunities for real positive change and impact to these residents and help prevent domestic abuse from happening.

19. Doorstep Fraud

19.1 The Trading Standards Team has continued to work with local banks to disrupt doorstep criminals who use building works and home improvements as vehicles for fraud. The implementation of the national Banking Protocol sees a formal referral process for banks to use to alert Trading Standards and the Police of potential doorstep crime victims.

19.2 Supported by staff from the Community Safety Team, a number of high profile engagements have been held in banks to highlight the issue.

19.3 The team has also given advice at numerous public engagement events. At these events they have encouraged householders to declare their properties 'No Cold Calling Homes' to discourage doorstep crime, this initiative has

engaged with over 72,000 local residents. The team have implemented a revised sticker design to endorse the new national cold calling scheme.

20. StepBack

- 20.1 Work has been ongoing within Medway Council's Youth Service around reducing the fear of youth crime and violence amongst young people. Following the success of the StepBack Project, the Youth Service ran the StepUp Transition Project where young people were identified as being at risk.
- 20.2 Sessions took place once a week in a local school with 23 young people identified as vulnerable during the transition from year 6 into secondary school. Over 12 weeks the youth service worked on education and their concerns and fears. StepBack cards were also used, credit card sized cards that were designed by young people themselves as a reassurance, which advised young people of what to do if they find themselves in a difficult situation.

21. Abandoned Vehicles

- 21.1 Community Wardens have removed 27 abandoned vehicles from the streets of Medway since the last report.
- 21.2 By providing intelligence to the DVLA, Community Wardens secured the clamping of 281 untaxed vehicles.

22. Kent and Medway Serious Youth Crime project

- 22.1 The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) established the Supporting Families Against Youth Crime (SFAYC) Fund to support the delivery of the government's Serious Violence Strategy. Kent County Council was successful in securing £1,362,645 in funding from the SFAYC Fund over two years, to deliver and lead a collaborative North Kent and Medway project.
- 22.2 Project strategic aims:
- Provide additional capacity to local authorities where gang and youth crime is an issue, to help them respond to their local needs;
 - Test and learn from interventions and place-based initiatives;
 - Drive improved local, multi-agency partnership working with the VCS;
 - Develop children's personal resilience to withstand peer pressure and make positive choices, particularly but not limited to the transition ages between primary and secondary school;
 - Reduce gang and youth crime by intervening early to raise awareness of the dangers of gangs, youth violence and knife crime and changing the culture around the acceptability of carrying knives.
 - Work with parents/carers and local workforce to understand the dangers and risks surrounding gang crime.
- 22.3 The programme proposed to break down into 3 tiers to cover all areas.

- Tier 1 will look at children transitioning from year 6 to 7 and schools in areas that were in deprecation Wards. Tier one will focus on training the trainer to support young people and be delivered by the schools in those areas.
- Tier 2 will look at those at risk of being involved or who are on the periphery of criminal involvement. This tier will work with schools, PRUs and specialist schools, to increase understanding.
- Tier 3 was young people who had been convicted and either were going in or coming out of custody.

22.4 KCC (as the bid lead) has been successful in the bid with the University of Bedfordshire for a 3-year project to embed a contextual approach to the work.

22.5 Contextual Safeguarding has been developed at the University of Bedfordshire over the past six years to inform policy and practice approaches to safeguarding adolescents. Initially emerging from a three-year review of operational responses to peer-on-peer abuse, Contextual Safeguarding provides a framework to advance child protection and safeguarding responses to a range of extra-familial risks that compromise the safety and welfare of young people.

22.6 In August 2019 KCC appointed the Project Coordinator. They have liaised with Medway; YOT, Youth Services, Early Help, Community Safety and the Medway Task Force.

22.7 There has already been liaison with young people at Cookham Wood with regard to what support would be beneficial to them and their families.

22.8 It has been agreed that the 2-year timeline will commence once funding of posts begins.

23. Unauthorised Encampments

23.1 The Community Safety Team took on responsibility for dealing with unauthorised traveller incursions in April of this year, and in September this year recruited a third officer who will in part be responsible for dealing with unlawful incursions.

23.2 Since April the team have dealt with 22 encampments. The process commences with an initial welfare check alongside the due process to remove unlawful encampments using the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (CJ&PO). These site visits are usually done in tandem with officers from Kent Police. The team have worked very hard in making sure we promptly use the CJ&PO Act, on day 1 serving notice under section 77 to direct campers to leave; if they fail to comply with the section 77 direction, we then use section 78 of the same act to go to court on day 2 to get an order which allows for their removal. This means that the quickest time to legally remove an unauthorised encampment using the CJ&PO act is 3 working days.

23.3 Other local authorities have introduced other legislation, however these have proved to be problematic.

- 23.4 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) – these allow local authorities to draw up local orders to address specific problems affecting the council area’s communities. Breach of PSPOs is a criminal offence and can result in issue of a £200 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) or if summoned to court a £1000 fine. One local authority introduced a PSPO which they believed would stop unlawful incursions in some areas of their borough. These have proved to be ineffective. This is due to the difficulty of prosecuting individuals who are sometimes from outside the UK. Fixed Penalty Notices were inappropriate as, if issued and unpaid, costly prosecution action would have to begin. It was found that the ‘hard core’ element of the travellers treated the PSPOs with contempt. The inability of the council to enforce the PSPOs also led to serious reputational damage and adverse press-coverage.
- 23.5 Injunctions – A number have been refused, notably the London Borough of Bromley and Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, these relate to borough wide injunctions rather than injunctions for specific pieces of land. The reason the High Court refused a borough wide injunction was due to the fact that it was found to be discriminatory as they prevented the ability of gypsies and travellers to pursue their way of life. In relation to injunctions for specific pieces of land, these would effectively be impossible to enforce due to the Council having to know the names of those persons breaching the injunction in order to be able to take them to Court for breaching the injunction. Advice from our Legal Services was that Injunctions would not have the desired effect and would not be quicker than the current process that we have in place. Refusing to grant a final five-year injunction in Bromley, the deputy High Court judge said that the ban sought was “unduly wide and disproportionate”.
- 23.6 In the last few years Medway has seen an increase in unlawful encampments both on Medway Council and private land. In addition there has been a change in the behaviour of some travellers, with a more belligerent attitude towards council staff and police. A small number have also caused high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, left fly-tipped and domestic waste and caused damage to the land and surrounding property. This increase has created additional pressure on services. Some locations have been subject to multiple incursions. In a large proportion of the incidents damage has been caused to gain entry to the site and in all but a few Medway Council have faced substantial repair and/or clean-up costs.
- 23.7 The Community Safety Team works closely with partner agencies including the police and have adopted a more pro-active and interventional approach towards incursions. It is felt that early intervention, intelligence sharing with other local authorities and robust enforcement will have a positive effect on the length of time that incursions occur and a will bring a preventative outcome in the future.
- 23.8 The team have also worked with Medway Norse to not only target harden areas, for example Beechings Green, but also in assessing other at risk sites to assess what options are available to protect these areas.

24. CCTV

- 24.1 Following the successful completion of the Community Safety CCTV (CSCCTV) renewal Project, focus has now shifted to improving the governance around the placement of individual cameras and ensuring the estate is fit for purpose in the future.
- 24.2 There are no plans to further reduce the number of CSCCTV cameras, however mechanisms need to be in place to ensure compliance with the surveillance camera code of conduct.
- 24.3 Each month a report is generated by the CCTV control room that lists activity levels of all CSCCTV cameras and circulated to the council's lead officer for CSCCTV. Part of this report will highlight zero activity cameras. If a camera reports zero activity for a period of 6 months the cameras placement will be reviewed (is it in the correct position? Is it performing a specific function that has changed? Has the environment surrounding the camera changed etc).
- 24.4 If it is found that a camera is serving no specific purpose in the opinion of the CSCCTV lead officer based on documented evidence, it will be submitted to the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Executive Group (CSP SEG) for decommissioning or re-deployment elsewhere. It is at this point the qualified professionals of the board may intervene with their own service based intelligence. If it is decided that a camera is to be removed Ward Members will be informed of this decision and the rationale behind it.
- 24.5 If a Ward Member, a Member of the Public or an Officer of the Council feels a location would benefit from a new camera due to anecdotal evidence of increased activity in an area, this may be reported to the Community Safety Team (it's important to note the distinction between the Community Safety Team and the Community Safety Partnership at this point). The Community Safety Team will then investigate whether a Camera is the correct response to the specific issue. If this is the case the team will then collect evidence and complete a privacy impact assessment and present the suggestion to the CSPSEG for consideration.
- 24.6 This process will ensure that no single Officer, Member or Government Official will decide the location or removal of any camera in Medway.
- 24.7 Four new cameras have been commissioned to improve the water safety of the riverfront funded by the Community Safety Partnership.
- 24.8 The proposed cameras that would be installed at river side points located near or on Rochester Pier, Strood waterfront, Sun Pier and Gillingham Pier. The cameras will have dual sensors, one being a thermal the other optical lens. Each camera would output 2 video feeds, 1 being the normal optical HD video and the other a thermal video output. The thermal video feed can identify heat traces in the river, particularly useful low light conditions.
- 24.9 Two new additional Rapid deployment cameras have also been purchased by the Community Safety Team to enable a quick time response to emerging issues of anti-social behaviour.

25. Environmental Enforcement

- 25.1 The Environmental Enforcement Team continue to work in partnership with Kent Police and neighbouring local authorities. They use Kent Police's custody suite to facilitate the interviewing of suspects in environmental crime investigations. Last year the team successfully prosecuted 38 cases with court awarding fines and costs totalling £55,387.
- 25.2 The team conducted operations alongside Kent Police, this resulted in 2 vehicles being seized. The first is linked to depositing asbestos in a garage area at Napier Road Gillingham. The second is linked to a fly tipping network from Gravesham. One further vehicle was stopped and searched. Both vehicles have since been crushed.

26. Communications

- 26.1 The CSP has its own Twitter account with tweets being sent on behalf of the partnership with general community safety advice as well as messaging when and where we are holding community engagement events. The account currently has 1,394 followers.

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Appendices

None

Background documents

None