

Council Priority: GROWTH










Maximising regeneration and economic growth

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING

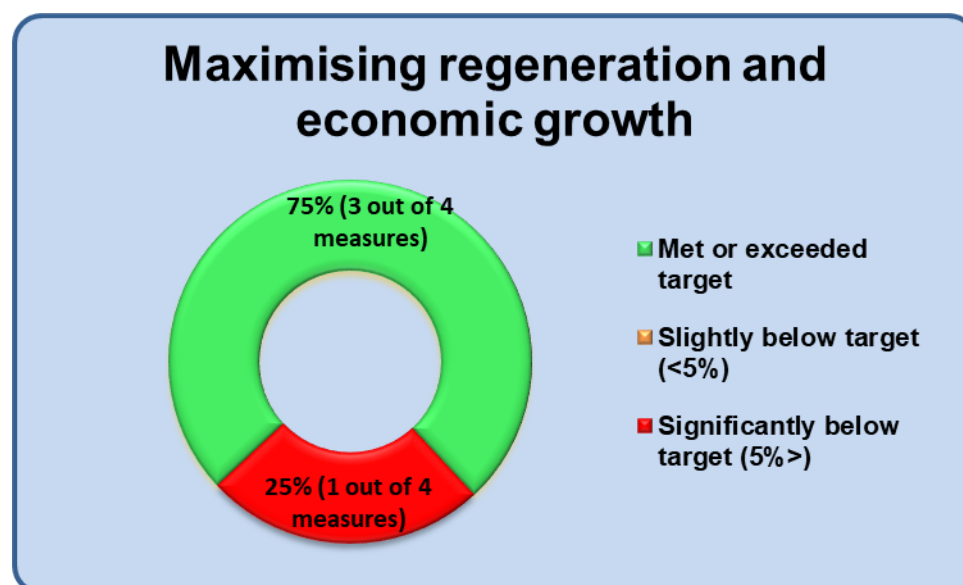
Performance: Quarter 4 2019/20

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 Council Plan measures that fall under the remit of this committee. We are reporting on 4 this quarter as 1 is data only and 1 is not available this quarter.






Improved performance

- 100% (5 out of 5*) improved long term (average of previous 4 quarters)
- 60% (3 out of 5) improved over the short term (since last quarter)

*where data available

Measures in target (green)

Code	Status	Name	Long Term	Short Term
ECD13		% of square footage let at Innovation Centre Medway (ICM)		

Code	Status	Name	Long Term	Short Term
ECD20		% of square footage let in council owned business units		
LRCC4a		Number of jobs created and safeguarded (cumulative)		
MAE 3		Achievement rate (pass rate)		
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 Trend	Short Trend
MAE 2		% Retention rate		

Measures significantly below target (red)

Code	Status	Name	Long Term	Short Term
NI 154		Net additional homes provided		

Data only

Code	Status	Name	Long Term	Short Term
GVAPJM		GVA per job		

Data not available

Code	Status	Name	Long Term	Short Term
NI 167 NEW	N/A	Average journey time along 5 routes across Medway (mins per mile).	N/A	N/A

Benchmarking/ Achieve National Standards

	Council Plan Performance Measure - Compares favourably with national performance or standards?	Yes ✓ No * Same =
MAE2 & MAE3	Attainment rate & Achievement rate MAE rated good by Ofsted	✓
NI 156	Number of households living in temporary accommodation rate of households in temporary accommodation	✓

Strategic Risks



During quarter 4 2019/20, in response to COVID19, the Council implemented its Emergency Plan procedure and risks have been managed through this. The Council has established a network of specialist 'Cells' which lead on functional elements of the Council's recovery including those tasked with co-ordinating the recovery for vulnerable adults through Adult Social Care, Schools and Education and Housing, and those responsible with ensuring the Council's core functions continue to operate 'business as usual' wherever possible including Finance, HR and Customer Contact.

Each 'Cell' lead is responsible for maintaining a risk register detailing the impacts of recovery from COVID19 on their area of responsibility, following the Council's Risk Management Strategy.

Council Plan Outcome: A strong diversified Economy





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		Value	Target	Status
Q3 19/20	97.31 %	Q4 19/20	99.33%	90%				19/20	99.33 %	90%	

Comments

The last 12 months have been very successful in terms of occupancy levels reaching 100% full occupancy on several occasions. This has seen quite a few tenants join and leave but critically has flexed office size to fit tenant expansion or contraction plans enabling tenants to remain in the Innovation Centre Medway.

ECD20		% of square footage let in council owned business units						Aim to Maximise			
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q3 19/20	90.67 %	Q4 19/20	91.12%	90%				19/20	91.12 %	90%	

Comments

The last reporting year shows an overall positive trend although this masks one property which continues to struggle.


Next year's fortunes are inextricably linked to COVID19. There has been much dialogue with tenants and generally the 3 month licence offer has managed to retain tenants for now. It is fair to say that if we do not see a positive situation for business

in the next 3 months there will be a risk of tenants cutting operating costs through termination of their licences.

On particular properties, both the Innovation Studio Medway (ISM) and Centre sites have performed strongly year on year; ISM rising from 90.84% occupancy to 100%, whilst Innovation Centre Medway (ICM) has risen from 95.99% to 99.33% occupancy.

Pier Road also continues to deliver a consistent high level of performance with occupancy fairly static moving from 95.10% to 93.13%.

Hopewell continues to show a negative downward trend. Over this reporting period occupancy levels have dropped again from 81.05% to 73.91%. This % was in excess of 90% only 2 years ago and shows a concerning trajectory. There is a particular issue with letting properties at the rear of the site.

GVAPJ M	GVA per job		Aim to Maximise
	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
£50,254	£51,358	£52,333	LONG TREND (5yr) 

Comments

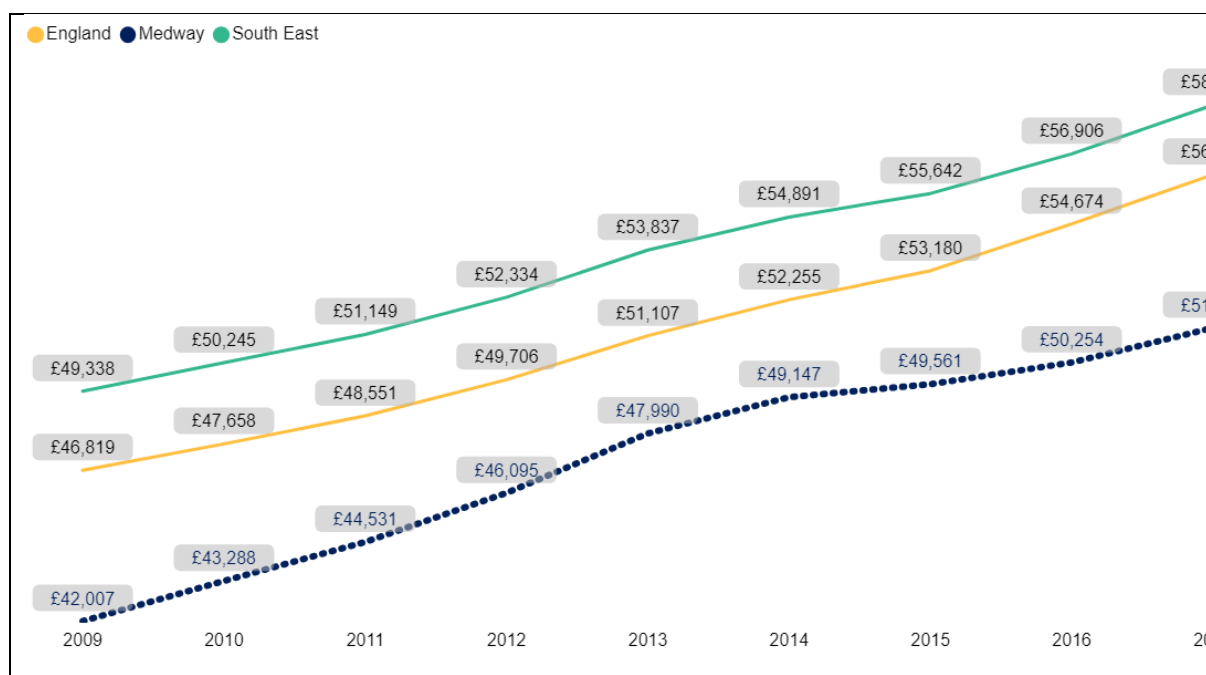
This data is published by the Office of National Statistics and is released in December each year. Data is available up to 2018/19.

Given the volatility with the raw data and because the smoothed data is weighted, year on year comparisons should not be made. GVA per filled job is better considered over a longer period. Trends over a longer period are less likely to be the result of the volatility around any single year estimate and are more likely to be showing a change in the economic performance of Medway.

Actions

Medway GVA per job is currently 8.7% lower than England, a 1.6 percentage point improvement from 2009 where Medway was 10.3% lower. From 2014 to 2018, Medway's GVA per job has increased by 6.5%, which is below England (9.6%) and the South East (8.5%), however from 2009 Medway has increased by 24.6%, ahead of England (22.4%) and the South East (20.6%)

Benchmarking



Council Plan Project - Development of Innovation Park Medway

Innovation Park Medway is a significant redevelopment opportunity and has a vital role to play in Medway's economic future. A masterplan has been adopted (subject to Highways England response) to set the context for the development of up to 101,000sqm of high quality, innovative B1 and B2 commercial development in the high value technology, engineering, manufacturing and knowledge intensive industries. Medway Council and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council have each drafted a Local Development Order (LDO), which will offer a fast-tracked planning approvals process within 28 days, if adopted. Supported by a Design Code, Environmental Statement and self-certification form, the LDO simplifies the planning requirements for future occupants.

Part of the North Kent Enterprise Zone, Enterprise Zone status runs until March 2022 and offers incentives such as business rates discounts to occupants. Medway Council has secured significant funding via the Government's Local Growth Fund (LGF) and Growing Places Fund (GPF).

Surveys and preconstruction work is continuing on the LGF2 Rochester Airport Improvements scheme, currently with no impact on programme as a result of the COVID19 outbreak. The archaeological investigation works are now complete. A ground breaking event to mark the start of the works on site planned for the end of April has been postponed due to COVID19.

Officers continue to work with Highways England regarding impacts of the Innovation Park Medway on the strategic network and potential mitigation requirements. This is required prior to adoption of the Local Development Order (LDO). Discussion is ongoing with Natural England regarding their LDO consultation comments. Further public consultation on the LDO will go ahead as planned. This will be held online and the documents will be made as accessible as possible as required in line with COVID19 instructions; previously paper copies were available in the Community Hubs in Chatham and Rochester and also in the Innovation Centre Medway.

Design for the LGF3 funded infrastructure works is continuing with the consultant design team being able progress this working from home. A 2-week delay has been incurred on the completion of some surveys due to COVID19, and there have been some delayed responses from utility companies. The impact of these on the programme is being reviewed but hoped to be relatively minor.

The tender process to appoint a design team to deliver the six-storey landmark building on the northern site of the IPM is complete. There was a good deal of interest and the standard of submissions was exceptionally high. An inception meeting is planned after which any impact of the COVID19 restrictions will be known; design should be able to proceed remotely although visits to the site to inform this process will be delayed until access is allowed once again.

Project - Dissemination and implementation of Medway 2035

Medway 2035 has been used throughout the year to inform and underpin funding bids, e.g. the Future High Streets Fund bid for Chatham town centre, and the Heritage High Streets Action Zone bid for Chatham creative quarter.

It has also formed the backbone of Medway's contribution to regional strategy development and has supported the formulation of the Kent and Medway Enterprise and Productivity Strategy, and SELEP's Local Industrial Strategy. Medway Council has been a steering group member for both of these important documents.

In this last quarter in particular, Medway 2035 has informed the business case development for the Docking Station at the Interface Land, and also the Gateway Building at the Innovation Park Medway.




Project - Support the delivery of 1,200sqm of commercial development at Rochester Riverside

The Rochester Plaza opened as planned in October 2019 where a number of milestones were celebrated. The Co-op opening was brought forward to December 2019/January 2020 and Costa Coffee in Q1 2020.

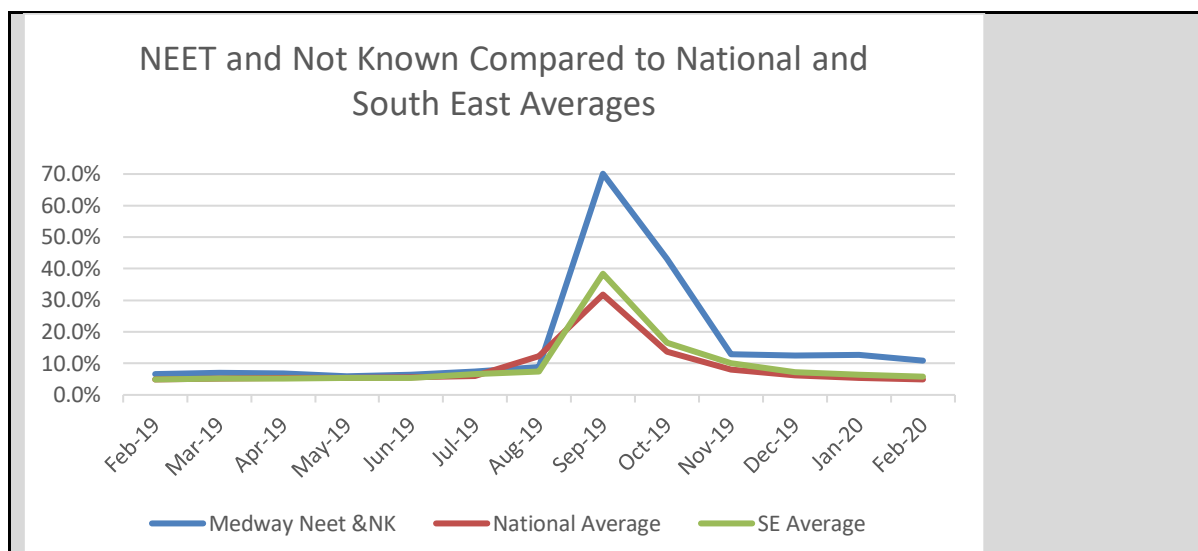
Council Plan Outcome: Resident with jobs and skills

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	
Q3	2.8%	Q4	3.2%	5.2%				

2019/20		2019/20					
<p>Comments</p> <p>Data is available to February 2020</p> <p>The rate of NEET 16 and 17 year olds is 3.2%. This represents 199 young people. Due to the cyclical nature of this measure comparisons are made to the position 12 months ago rather than from quarter to quarter.</p> <p>In February 2019, 2.8% of 16 and 17 year olds, 179 individuals, were NEET. Year on year there has been a 14% deterioration in the number of Young people who are NEET.</p> <p>The rate of NEET must be looked at in conjunction with the number of 16 and 17 year olds whose activity is not known. Currently this is 7.7% which represents 482 individuals. In February 2019 there were 239 children whose activity was unknown this was 3.8%. As such there has been 100% worsening of this statistic.</p> <p>Medway's not known figure is significantly higher than the National and South East averages and the figure recorded in the same time period of the preceding year. A number of factors have influenced this including the impact of the recruitment moratorium leading to understaffing during the destination gathering period, the decision not to send "chasing letters" to clients, so as to save money and difficulties with the quality and timeliness of data shared from schools/colleges.</p> <p>Most importantly, in Medway there is currently a crisis in training provisions. Many of the training providers were funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and since the threat of Brexit have folded. This has led to a reduction in providers from 12 to 2 resulting in a reduction of 140 places that would have previously been available to young people post 16. Nacro and Mid Kent College are now the only options available to young people not continuing at school or going into employment. This has had and will continue to have an impact on the NEET figures moving forward in this academic year.</p> <p>The Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) team have been working to reduce the level of not knowns. The February outturn is a 21% reduction on the January result.</p> <p>Benchmarking</p> <p>Nationally, in February, 2.7 % of 16 and 17 year olds are NEET. In the South East this is 2.5%</p> <p>Nationally the unknown activity rate is 2.5% and 3.9% in the South East. The graph below combines NEET and Not Known figures and shows that although Medway has higher rates than national or our comparators, we follow broadly the same shape. However, the reduced tracking activity, caused by the moratorium, caused the annual spike seen in September to be greater and last longer than elsewhere.</p>							



Actions

The work that has driven an improved performance in reducing 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. However, the continued lack of resource within the IAG team and the dramatic collapse of the numbers of training provisions will likely lead to higher numbers of NEET and not knowns in the coming months.

LRCC4a		Number of jobs created and safeguarded (cumulative)						Aim to Maximise			
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q3 19/20	420	Q4 19/20	492	300				19/20	492	300	

Comments

In Q4, 12 jobs were created and protected, comprising of three new business start-ups supported with grants and nine from new tenants in Council managed workspaces.





Total cumulative figure for 2019/20 of 492 breaks down as 432 jobs created and 60 protected.

Action

MHCLG confirmed in late March that our joint bid to government (with Kent County Council and East Sussex County Council) for just under £2.5m of European Structural and Investment funds (ESIF), to support and extend the inward investment services contract, has been successful. This is effective immediately. Recorded successes over the lifetime of the original ESIF project are sixteen Medway businesses supported, with the creation and retention of 532 jobs. Four businesses were successful in securing funding thanks to Locate in Kent's support. (This does not include any non-SME outcomes over this period, which are delivered outside of ESIF funding).

With our backing, KCC are seeking permission to defer the re-procuring of the inward investment services contract until 1 April 2021 (from 1 August 2020). This acknowledges that the pool of potential tenderers is likely to be reduced at this difficult time; that the incumbent provider is best focussed on delivery rather than new business for the short-term, and that the rapidly changing business landscape may suggest a change in desired outputs.

Locate in Kent are currently supporting KCC and Medway Council with the realignment of KMBF loan funding, developing a five-day turnaround online assessment process. They are also introducing (post Easter) a series of workshops and surgeries to support businesses with growth plans to continue to deliver over coming months.

MAE 2		% Retention rate							Aim to Maximise			
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status	
Q1 19/20	95.19 %	Q2 19/20	92.45%	94%				19/20	92.45 %	94%		

Comment

This PI is based on academic year rather than financial year.





Data as at 14 February 2020 for Q2 of Academic year 19/20 (November 2019 - January 2020).

Retention measures the number of learners who start a course with Medway Adult Education (MAE) and, are either continuing with their learning or have completed. Retention is slightly below the target at 92.45% overall, however this remains a very good rate. This is due to the Adult Skills Budget retention rate currently being below target at 83.68%. However, following moderation of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) achievements for early leavers this will rise. The target of 94% is challenging and demonstrates that MAE has high expectations and aspirations for our learners. 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).

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, self-assessment reviews and quality improvement plans at Service and Programme level. These measures ensure the Service's overall good KPI rates are maintained as evidenced by high retention and learner satisfaction rates.

MAE 3	Achievement rate (pass rate)	Aim to Maximise
-------	------------------------------	-----------------

	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend		Value	Target	Status
Q1 19/20	99.78 %	Q2 19/20	99.8%	96%				19/20	99.8 %	96%	

Comments

This PI is based on academic year rather than financial year.

Data as at 14 February 2020 for Q2 of Academic year 19/20 (November 2019 - February 2020). Data extracted from EBS.

The pass rate measures how many of the learners, who complete their course, achieve a qualification or their learning aim. It shows that Medway Adult Education learners continue to achieve very high pass rates and demonstrates the excellent processes in place to support learners achieve their qualifications, or to achieve their learning outcomes in non-accredited provision (RARPA). Overall, the current pass rate is exceptional at 99.80%, however a number of long course have not yet completed and the end of year exams will not take place until June/July 20 when the current exceptionally high rate will be expected to decline slightly overall.

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 excellent 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

The Workskills programme area which targets employability skills and provides qualifications for learners who are unemployed, in receipt of benefits or who are wanting to improve their current employment prospects or progress in work has a refreshed offer. This remains a challenging area of work due to the introduction of Universal Credit, Employ Medway closing and the lower number of referrals from Job Centre Plus (JCP) locally. The introduction of shorter introduction course has proved successful and the offer also includes entry level courses to provide a better stepping stone progression route for learners who are unskilled or have no or very low levels of qualification.

Thorough initial assessment of unemployed learners is undertaken to review their learning needs. This assessment has resulted in an increase of learners being referred to English and maths courses. In 18/19 academic year overall achievement rates for English and maths were above the national benchmarks (MAE 89.8%

National 86.4%). This has helped these learners progress well and where appropriate take qualifications. This approach will continue in 19/20.

Council Plan Project - Establish and support Medway Skills Board and all age skills development programme

Providing people with the skills they need to be able to make a positive contribution to all levels of Medway's economic future is critical to delivering economic growth. Medway will need a pool of skilled and employable staff to ensure the long-term growth of high economic value contributors, such as the businesses likely to locate at the Innovation Park Medway. As Medway Council encourages existing businesses to grow and new businesses to move to Medway, it is vital that there is a suitable workforce ready to meet business need.

In order to do this effectively, two Medway Skills Boards have been established. An Officers Skills and Employability Board first met in August 2017 to begin defining emerging skills priorities, which were then discussed at the first Members Skills and Employability Board in November 2017. Since then the Members Board has become the Medway Skills Partnership Board and has been established as a Cabinet Advisory Group. The group has overseen the development of the Skills and Employability Plan for Medway and will oversee the action plan delivery. The Skills Development Programme continues to progress well. The Enterprise Coordinator work is ahead of schedule, with all but one school signed up and interest from 12 Enterprise Advisers (businesses) who will be checked for suitability and matched with a relevant school.

The Skills Development Programme has had a successful year, with projects developing nicely and some exciting new initiatives about to commence.

The Enterprise Coordinator project has been tremendously successful with 100% of eligible education establishments signed up (18 schools, 1 college) and 22 Enterprise Advisers (business people) signed up. The Enterprise Adviser Network has already become a valued resource for schools, with one school saying about Mel (The Enterprise Coordinator):

'I really hope that Mel will continue to be the face of the CEC. She has done an absolutely amazing job for me and my school alone! I know that if I get an email from her that it will be useful. I feel confident that I can ask her a question and she will seek to answer it. The resources she provides are great. I've felt enthused about careers again since she has been doing her role.'

The first Skills & Employability Summit held on 30 October 2019 was a very successful event, with over 130 people attending. Feedback was very positive, with a range of high-quality speakers and engaging workshops. Feedback will also be used to make future events even more successful.

The National Skills Academy for Rail have been appointed as the Medway Apprenticeship Advice Service and delivery will commence in April. This will provide support to Medway businesses looking to take on an apprentice.

The Skills Stakeholder board membership has been set, with Chris Hare of MidKent College agreeing to Chair. More than 10 businesses have agreed to join alongside DWP, voluntary sector, SELEP. Education is represented across Primary, Secondary, Special, Technical, Further, Higher, Adult and Independent Training Providers. The first meeting was due to take place on 26th March, however, has been postponed until July due to Covid19 concerns.

£100,000 has been secured to run a Supported Employment pilot, helping people with learning disabilities into work. This has been developed in partnership with Public Health and Adult Social Care. The pilot will run for one year commencing in April.

£20,000 has been secured to run a scaffolding training pilot from the Construction Industry Training Board. This will run from April 2020. 3 Scaffolding firms have been secured to offer guaranteed interviews and job pathways for those who successfully complete the programme.

A new 'Health Care employment group' has been set up, bringing together key partners in the Health Care industry to look at skills and employment challenges and how they can be addressed in Medway. A jointly owned action plan has been developed.

A Primary School project has been launched to help bring better careers information to children in a fun way. There has been a focus on providing useful resources to schools, however activities have also been arranged, including Royal Mail visits and three pantomime actors in full costume talking to an assembly about careers in acting.

Significant focus has been put into resolving issues surrounding young people aged 16 & 17 who are Not in Education, Employment or Training. There are issues surrounding budget, Council processes and provision. After raising concerns at Skills Board, extra Council wide focus has been provided, with a paper sent to the Chief Executive and due to be tabled at DMT & CMT. This will seek to take a one Council approach to supporting NEETs. Work with Mid Kent College to produce more NEET provision is underway.

Unfortunately, the Work & Health Programme is not financially viable in its current format and so the decision has been made to hand the contract back to the Shaw Trust and close the Employ Medway Advice Centre. The Work & Health Programme will continue to be delivered in Medway by the Shaw Trust. The final transfer of contract happened on 1 March 2020.

Council Plan Project - Create job opportunities for Medway residents including Rochester Airport Technology Park, Lower Thames Crossing and across Medway

April 2021 (from August 2020), to reflect that the pool of potential tenderers may be greatly diminished by current circumstance; that the incumbent provider should remain focussed on service delivery rather than business development given the

current crisis, and that the required outputs may change in response to the rapidly evolving business landscape. The overall contract value will be £1.53m over three years, of which Medway Council will contribute £210,000.

We have recently been advised by MHCLG that our application to match this with ESIF funds has been successful. This project commences with immediate effect.

We have continued conversations with Lower Thames Crossing stakeholders about skills and jobs requirements and provision.

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		Value	Target	Status
Q3 19/20	324	Q4 19/20	344	400				19/20	344	400	

Comments





At the end of Q4 2020 there were a total of 344 households residing in temporary accommodation (TA) provided by the Council in line with its statutory responsibilities. This is a slight increase from the 324 households that were accommodated at the end of Q3 2019/20. The majority of households in TA will have children. Therefore, there is a correlation between the overall number of households in TA and the number of children in TA. The accommodation provided to families will usually be in the form of a self-contained property located in Medway.

Benchmarking

Latest available benchmarking figures from March 2019 identify the rate of households in temporary accommodation in Medway is currently 1.16 per 1000 households, this is slightly lower than the national rate of 1.27.

Further benchmarking has been undertaken to identify how Medway compares with other similar sized unitary authorities. In June 2019, the numbers in temporary accommodation in Brighton was at a rate of 5.45 households per 1,000 and Milton Keynes had a rate of 2.64 households per 1,000. Locally, Dartford had a rate of 2.11 in the same time period.

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		Value	Target	Status
Q3 19/20	0	Q4 19/20	0	0				19/20	0	0	

Comments

A snapshot at the end of Q4 2019/20 identifies that no families were in bed and breakfast accommodation. Additionally, throughout Q4 no families were placed into bed and breakfast for more than 6 weeks.

Action

Work is continuously underway to ensure that the use of bed and breakfast is kept to a minimum. This has been done by seeking more suitable temporary accommodation for households and using HRA properties as temporary accommodation. The Service has also reviewed its procedures to ensure that all cases with children or 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		Value	Target	Status
Q3 19/20	110	Q4 19/20	250	175				19/20	600	600	

Comments

In Q4 2019/2020, 250 private sector households were assisted in having their properties improved via Council intervention bringing the yearly total to 600. The continued work in targeted inspection and joint working with the Taskforce has continued to allow us to move forward with a more robust enforcement / prosecution stance for the most serious of cases, this work has continued throughout the quarter with warrants of entry being served on unlicensed Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs).

Action

The Council continues to undertake its range of actions to improve accommodation in the private sector ranging from informal advice to enforcing legislation via the service of statutory notices. Throughout the quarter the most prominent hazards have been excess cold followed by damp and mould, fire and falls on stairs. Annual monitoring of this indicator has been altered to reflect enforcement only, excluding the informal advice and assistance offered by the team to improve properties. This, coupled with the approach of the team to tackle more complex enforcement and pursue prosecution, has led to this indicator being off target. The Council licensed 59 Households of Multiple Occupation's (HMO's) this year with an income of £50651.65, we currently have 165 licensed HMO's throughout Medway. The targeting of unlicensed HMO's will continue throughout 2020.

Council Plan Project - Utilise the RSI funding to reduce the number of those Rough Sleeping

In 2019/20 we have secured Rough Sleeping funding of £486,000 for our in-house provision, including rough sleeping coordinator, female specific support, mental health support and outreach. In addition, we commission units of supported accommodation with additional hours of support and a Housing First service. We also received £160,000 for a somewhere safe to stay provision under the Rapid Rehousing Pathway and a further £185,000 for a Housing Navigator service which started in August (and so will run on for 4 months into 2020/21) which equates to £123,334 in year.

We have housed over 120 rough sleepers. Partnership work is strong and we have been engaging with an external Adviser from the Ministry as part of our efforts to build agreed goals, add resilience and drive skill and expertise levels up. This has been warmly received by the majority of charities and we are working to make sure we have 100% engagement. We have been awarded Cold Weather Funding and have applied for £25,000 to pay for additional temporary accommodation used between November and March. Our funding schedule for 2020/21 has been accepted and we have been awarded £867,000. As a result of the COVID19 outbreak we have mobilised to house every person sleeping rough in Medway. Working closely with voluntary and statutory partners, we have block booked a local hotel and utilised additional temporary accommodation. We have housed over 40 people as an immediate response, including making an offer of accommodation to all known people who sleep rough, and have received praise from the MHCLG for the speed and effectiveness of our approach.

Council Plan Project - Ensure that the council maximises the opportunity to reduce homelessness through prevention and relief

The Council continues to ensure that the opportunities for the prevention and relief of homelessness are maximised within the district. This includes through joint prevention working arrangements with MHS Homes, a social landlord within the district, to seek to sustain those tenancies of their tenants who are at risk of eviction. Under this arrangement, for the year to end of November, officers have undertaken 103 joint prevention appointments with MHS Staff, of which 81 (or 79%) were successful with possession action being stopped and accommodation sustained.

The Council has proactively sought to expand this prevention initiative to other social landlords operating in the area. Thus, officers met with L&Q finance and tenancy sustainment managers on 19 November 2019 and agreed joint prevention working arrangements to be operational from that date. In addition, officers met with MOAT on 18 September 2019 and agreed provisional arrangements for joint prevention working. However, the arrangements with MOAT are currently suspended pending them obtaining advice to satisfy themselves that they are GDPR compliant. Officers are continuing to work with MOAT with a view to getting these arrangements operational at the earliest opportunity.




Alongside the above, Officers continue to work via the Council's Property Redress Scheme (PRS) scheme to assist homeless applicants secure private rented accommodation to prevent or relieve their homelessness. For the year to date the Council has successfully assisted 254 households who were homeless/threatened

with homelessness to secure alternative accommodation in the private rented sector, with in Q3 to the end of November there being 54 such preventions/reliefs secured via this route. With funding provided via MHCLG, the Council has been working with Help2Rent to offer a transitional insurance product to private sector landlords to enhance our offer to them to secure accommodation and which is currently being rolled out.

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 Maximise
	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	TARGET	STATUS	LONG TREND
642	680	647	1,000			
<p>Comments This data has been published in the Council's Authority Monitoring Report and is available on the website. This figure is reported annually.</p> <p>The main findings from the Monitoring Report include the completion of 647 dwellings in 2018/19, which is a slight decrease on 2017/18. However, site inspections and discussions with developers has revealed a significant increase in the number of dwellings under construction and therefore it is highly likely that the number of completions will reflect this next year.</p>						

Council Plan Project - Preparation of the new Medway Local Plan

The Planning Policy update report was presented to Cabinet on 17 December 2019. The Cabinet approved a revised Local Development Scheme, which includes an updated programme for the preparation of the Medway Local Plan. The publication of a draft Local Plan awaits the completion of the Strategic Transport Assessment and key evidence base documents for the plan.

Council Plan Project - Continue to work on the HIF bid - awaiting decision summer 2019

The Housing Infrastructure Funds is a Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government funding stream to forward fund essential infrastructure. After submitting a successful Business Case in March 2019, the Council learnt in November 2019 that the bid was to be awarded the £170m requested. This funding is essential to build the infrastructure required to support the delivery of 10,600 new homes on the peninsula in a sustainable manner. The road improvements will improve traffic flows

and address congestion along the A228, and specifically at Four Elms roundabout and Hill. A new road is being designed which will facilitate the movement of traffic from Peninsula Way to the Wainscott Bypass. Rail will see a new station at Sharnal Street with peak trains initially serving commuters to London as well as off peak journeys to the Strood, Rochester and Chatham. The environmental enhancements will create a network of large open spaces of high wildlife value. These sites will also provide a space for people to walk, cycle, recreate and play sport – all within a landscape opening up new views across the Peninsula and Medway estuary.

Liaison with landowners including the Ministry of Defence (MoD), the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and Homes England continues to move on significantly with all parties contributing to development plans.

Following the award of the HIF funds, the Council is working closely with Homes England to address 33 HIF conditions and to complete the Grant Determination Agreement (GDA). Homes England advise that the completing the GDA will take until June 2020. Legal support has been procured and work on a Non Disclosure Agreement and Collaboration Agreement are progressing at pace. Land referencing is underway to determine land ownership and permissions/consents required. A leaflet on HIF has been produced and will be sent to every home on the Hoo Peninsula. Consultation on the Planning for Growth on the Hoo Peninsula has been extended into May 2020. The latter two actions have been delayed due to Covid 19 restrictions, as have numerous meetings with parish councils.

Council Plan Project - Increase the supply of accommodation available to Medway residents

A number of work streams and projects are underway to ensure that the supply of accommodation in Medway continues to increase. This year an additional 333 affordable housing units have been completed. This represents an investment of £38,295,000.

Work continues to further plans for development with the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA). This year phase 3 works have been completed and we have had successful planning applications for phase 4.

The Council aims to use its accommodation as efficiently as possible. By minimising the time that properties are empty or void ensures that housing stock is re-let as quickly as possible. For Medway Council stock void turnaround time remains low at an average of 12 days for the year.

Project - Encourage the delivery of homes to meet our targets – Rochester Riverside

Rochester Riverside had its first homes occupied in June 2019, the hotel is now open and trading well. The Rochester Plaza opened in October 2019, the Co-op and Costa openings were brought forward. Unfortunately, the site has closed due to COVID19 and this will impact on the overall delivery schedule.





Project - Encourage the delivery of homes to meet our targets – Strood Waterfront

The procurement process being undertaken to appoint a development partner for the former Civic Centre site is underway. The Invitation to Participate in Dialogue stage of the process began with 5 bidders, and following review of initial submissions this has now been reduced to 3. It was the intention to continue with the next stage of the dialogue in April but has been postponed until May due to the COVID19 outbreak. This may need to be reviewed again depending on how the situation develops

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		Value	Target	Status
Q2 18/19	2.82	Q3 18/19	3.42	4				18/19	3.42	4	

Comments

The Department for Transport (DfT) provided Trafficmaster Data to December 2018 in April 2019. Journey times were thus calculated for the 2018 calendar year. Journey times for 2018 showed improved performance overall, with all four quarters achieving a mins-per-mile time (8am to 9am Monday to Friday morning peak) below the 4 mins-per-mile target. The time was as low as 2.82 mins-per-mile in Q2 of 18/19, the lowest achieved since 2015, a very positive outcome given the increase in car use across this period.

DfT are not expected to release the next tranche of Trafficmaster Data until late 2019/early 2020, at which point journey times for the calendar year 2019 will be calculated and NI167 updated accordingly.

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

The 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. 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.

Key work-streams delivered during Quarter 4 to support the self-assessment for 2019-20 (submission date February 2020) have been:

- Review of the 22 Self-Assessment questions for submission, by Project Working Group, to test the evidence base for Self-assessment.
- A review of the work-streams required, for 2020/21 was undertaken and a working plan devised

Subject to DfT confirming Medway's Self-Assessment being a Band 3 for 2020-21 Medway will secure block funding of £430,000 to fund Highway Improvements next financial year

Council Plan Project - Ongoing management and delivery of the LGF project to improve journey times and the public realm in Strood

During Q4 work has continued on the final stages. Works across the Town Centre are now nearing completion, with a small number of electrical connections and installation of uplighters to bench seating outstanding. Works to the original compound area (opposite McDonalds) completed during the quarter. The final paved area on the enlarged island next to Starbucks is currently being resin-surfaced, although the poor weather has delayed progress slightly.

The draft legal agreement for the installation of architectural lighting remains with the Church for their sign off. The Diocese recommended approval of the lighting design with some conditions. Pick Everard have been appointed to undertake the required church bat survey and these are currently being programmed. The requirement for

bat surveys will delay planning approval; therefore, implementation of the lighting will be undertaken in the new financial year.

Council Plan Project - Support the development of Chatham Railway Station

The improvement works at Chatham train station managed in partnership between Medway Council, Network Rail and Southeastern were completed in Q3.