

Council Priority: GROWTH

Maximising regeneration and economic growth

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING

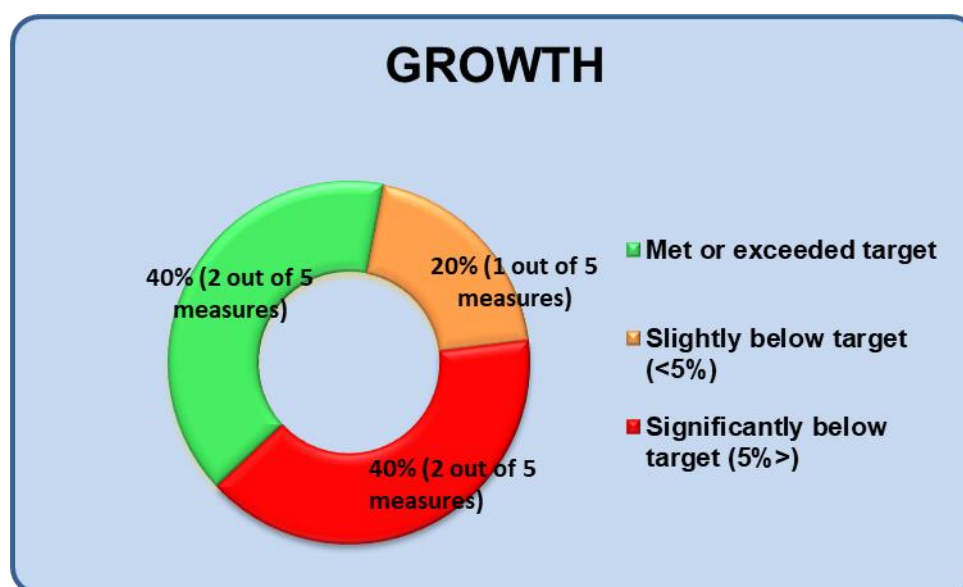
Performance: Quarter 1 2020/21

Key

Red	significantly below target (>5%)	Amber	slightly below target (<5%)	Green	met or exceeded target
Imp	Improved	Det	Worsened	Static	Static

Council Plan measures: summary performance

There are 6 Council Plan measures for this priority. We are reporting on 5 this quarter as 1 is not available.



Improved performance

- 20% (1 out of 5*) improved long term (average of previous 4 quarters)
- 0% (0 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	Green	% of square footage let at Innovation Centre Medway (ICM)	Det	Det
NI 167 NEW	Green	Average journey time along 5 routes across Medway (mins per mile) data only to December 2017 (Q3) from DfT	Det	Det
MAE 3	Green	Achievement rate (pass rate)	Det	Det
NI 156	Green	Number of households living in temporary accommodation	Det	Det
HC3	Green	No. of households with dependent children in B&B who have resided there for 6+ weeks at the end of the quarter	Static	Static
HC4	Green	Number of private sector properties improved as a result of the Council's intervention	Imp	Imp

Measures slightly below target (amber)

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

Measures significantly below target (red)

Code	Status	Name	Long Term	Short Term
NI 154	Red	Net additional homes provided	imp	Det
LRCC4a	Red	Number of jobs created and safeguarded (cumulative)	Det	Det
NI 117(16-17)	Red	The percentage of 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	Det	Det
MAE 2	Red	% Retention rate	Det	Det

Measures not available this quarter

Code	Status	Name	Long Term	Short Term
GVAPJM	N/A	GVA per job	N/A	N/A

Strategic Risks

During quarter 4 19/20 risks were maintained through the specialist cells set up in response to the Covid-19 pandemic). In quarter 1 20/21, as the Council has moved from the Response to

Recovery phase of the Emergency Planning procedures, risk monitoring has returned to the Strategic Risk Management Group (SRMG).

Working alongside the Governance Cell, the SMRG has undertaken a fundamental review of the Strategic Risk Register in light of the Covid-19 Response and Recovery.

The quarter 1 20/21 strategic risk register is attached at Appendix 3. The register shows all strategic risks together with mitigation in place to minimise impact and likelihood. The risks pertaining solely to this council priority are shown below (full details in Appendix 3).

Reference	Risk Register Page (app 3)	Risk	Owner	Current residual risk score	Definition (current score) (L-likelihood) (I-impact)
SR17	4	Delivering regeneration	Director of RCET	BII	L - high I - critical

The following risks pertain to all priorities:

Reference	Risk Register Page (app 3)	Risk	Owner	Current residual risk score	Definition (current score) (L-likelihood) (I-impact)
SRO3B	10	Finances	Chief Finance Officer	A1	L – very high I - catastrophic
SR46 NEW	13	Medway's Economic Recovery from Covid19	Assistant Director Regeneration (Recovery Lead Officer for Medway Council)	BII	L - high I - critical
SR21 REMOVE	18	Procurement savings – capacity and delivery	Chief Legal Officer	DIII	L - low I - critical
SR32	21	Data and information	Chief Legal Officer	CII	L - significant I - critical
SR36	23	Alternative service delivery models	Chief Legal Officer, Director of RCET	BIII	L - high I - Marginal

Reference	Risk Register Page (app 3)	Risk	Owner	Current residual risk score	Definition (current score) (L-likelihood) (I-impact)
SR37	26	Cyber Security	Chief Finance Officer	CI	L - Significant I - Catastrophic
SR02	31	Business continuity and emergency planning	Director of RCET	DII	L - low I - critical

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	
Q4 2019/20	99.33%	Q1 2020/21	92.85%	90.00%	Green	Det	Det	

The Innovation Centre Medway (ICM) aims to support start-up and growth businesses. Due to Covid-19 the ICM has seen three tenants leave and three tenants downsize.

The £10,000 Central Government small business grant and the three-month (April-June) rent deferral offer has stopped tenants from leaving (26 tenants took up this offer).

We are aware of other tenants wanting to downsize and three who wish to upsize which reflects the nature of the ICM which encourages business churn and the impact of Covid-19 and new ways of working.

ECD20		% of square footage let in council owned business units					Aim to Maximise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q4 2019/20	91.12%	Q1 2020/21	89.94%	90%	Amber	Det	Det	

Pier Road, Hopewell and the Innovation Studio site all continue to maintain occupancy levels similar to pre Covid-19 performance.

Noticeably the Innovation Studio site continues to be 100% occupied and Pier Road has applications in process for their two vacant offices to become 100% occupied. Hopewell still has 5 vacant units it continues to struggle to let.

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

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%)

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).

Work is continuing on the LGF2 Rochester Airport improvement scheme and the whole site is under control of Kier. Archaeology site works and ground investigations are complete with designs for foundations and drainage ongoing. Work commenced on Hangar 3 on 15 June 2020.

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). The design for the works is continuing and the concept is complete for the northern and southern sites. The concept of the Runway Park is complete. Value

engineering is underway as the initial cost plan for this phase is currently over budget and final utility costs have been delayed by approximately 3 months. A Written Scope of Works (WSI) for this site is being produced by an Archaeology Consultant to carry out a geophysical survey. Contractors have been appointed to install a boundary fence along the runway and hoarding along Laker Road, which will commence on 2 July 2020. Preliminary mitigation design for three key junctions has begun based on the IPM transport modelling results, which highlighted some impact on the network. This will be shared with Highways England for comment prior to re-consultation.

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

The Co-op and Costa continued to trade, in the current Covid-19 climate.

Council Plan Outcome: Residents with jobs and skills

Programme: Jobs, Skills 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	
Q4 2019/20	3.20%	Q1 2020/21	3.30%	2.60%	Red	Det	Det	

Data is available to May 2020

The rate of NEET 16 and 17 year olds is 3.3 %. This represents 210 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.

In May 2019 2.6 % of 16 and 17 year olds, 162 individuals, were NEET. Year on year there has been a 27% deterioration in the proportion of Young people who are NEET.

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 8.1% which represents 510 individuals. In May 2019 there were 211 children whose activity was unknown this was 3.3%. As such this statistic has worsened by just under 2.5 times.

There is currently a crisis in training provisions within Medway. Many of the training providers were funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and since the threat of Brexit has unfolded. This has led to a reduction in providers from 12 to 3 since 2018 resulting in a reduction of 140 places that would have previously been available to young people post 16.

LRCC4a		Number of jobs created and safeguarded (cumulative)					Aim to Maximise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q4 2019/20	492	Q1 2020/21	0	35	Red	Det	Det	

Comments

Due to Covid-19 there have been no new inward investments or new workspace tenancies.

Action

The Council continues to contract Locate in Kent who are currently adjusting their working practices to support those businesses who have been adversely affected by Covid-19 and encourage continued inward investment from business outside Medway.

MAE 2		% Retention rate					Aim to Maximise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q2 2019/20 academic yr	92.45%	Q3 2019/20 academic yr	72.84%	94%	Red	Det	Det	

Comment

This PI is based on academic year rather than financial year. Data shown is for Q3 of Academic year 19/20 (February 2020 – April 2020).

Retention rates have been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Many classes have had to close, and not all learners can access online sessions.

Overall, 953 learners withdrew after starting their course due to Covid-19.

Action

Medway Adult Education Centres was closed in Q1 due to Covid-19. The service has worked hard to ensure that learners have access to online and remote delivery keeping many ASB funded learners on track to achieve their qualifications. Tutors have had to be innovative and respond quickly to the challenges presented by new ways of delivering learning. In Community Learning tutors have provided online keeping in contact and engagement sessions and are planning more online and remote sessions for this learner cohort in Q4 academic year (May – July).

MAE 3		Achievement rate (pass rate)					Aim to Maximise	
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend	
Q2 2019/20 academic yr	99.8%	Q3 2019/20	99.13%	96%	Green	Det	Det	

	academic yr					
<p>Comments This PI is based on academic year rather than financial year. Data shown is for Q3 of Academic year 19/20 (February 2020 – April 2020).</p> <p>The pass rate measures how many of the learners, who complete their course, achieve a qualification or their learning aim. Performance has not been affected by Covid-19. 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).</p> <p>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.</p>						

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

The Work skills programme 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 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.

During Q1, despite lockdown and the closure of education centres, face to face delivery managers and tutors have continued to support learners with their studies and qualifications by online and remote delivery. Many learners will still gain their planned qualification and will be able to access the employment market. Covid-19 provided an opportunity to fast-track the plans to offer an online qualification programme and MAE have developed a subcontract with an online provider to further boost this offer for people looking to gain qualifications during the period of lockdown. This programme has quickly recruited learners who are keen to gain qualifications and retrain. Target income for this subcontract was reached quickly and provided opportunities to 158 learners despite the challenges of Covid-19. This online qualification programme will continue and is planned as part of MAEs 2020/21 offer.

Council Plan Project - MCG and Housing Company to improve local employment levels

Q1 20/21 MCG has seen a high level of interest from Medway Council departments for temporary staff and a further 6 positions have been filled already within Medway

In Q1 MCG have found employment for 170 staff within Medway Council, 101 in Children's Social Care, 22 in Adult Social Care and a further 47 across other Council departments from MCG's internal pool of staff. The majority of these staff are Medway residents.

The recruitment team have also been engaged to provide 3 executive search level candidates including the Permanent CEO of MCG, the new Interim Assistant Director for Culture & Communities, and the Interim Assistant Director for Adult Social Care all of which are well underway.

As Medway's Housing Company progress through the delivery phases for each of their major projects they will record local labour as well as establishing subcontractor requirements to ensure apprenticeships are provided.

For their design and build contracts, they have incorporated requirements into their contracts which stipulate that contractors appoint one apprentice per £1 million contract sum either directly or via their subcontractor supply chain.

Council Plan Project - Support Medway Skills Board to champion skills development to all ages and to support lifelong learning

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 business 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 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.

Due to Covid-19, the majority of skills programmes have been paused as they involve group training and engagement with businesses. These include:

- Supported Employment project - was due to start in April - rearranged for August.
- Scaffolding training project - was due to start in April - will start in October
- Medway Apprenticeship Advice Service - was due to start in April – started 01 September 2020.

The Enterprise Coordinator programme has continued and used this time to engage with schools, developing new careers strategies.

Work is being undertaken to liaise closely with the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and Government funding and initiatives to ensure Medway benefits.

Medway Adult Education has been integrated with Skills and Employability, with work being done to align priorities and activities. The Skills and Employability Plan will be reviewed in light of Covid-19 and be updated as more information and data is gathered.

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	
Q4 2019/20	344	Q1 2020/21	346	350	Green	Det	Det	

Comments

At the end of Q1 2020 there were a total of 346 households residing in temporary accommodation (TA) provided by the Council in line with its statutory responsibilities. This is a very slight increase from the 344 households that were accommodated at the end of Q4 2019/20. Most 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

The rate of households in temporary accommodation in Medway is currently 1.26 per 1000 households, this is slightly lower than the national rate of 1.27 (latest benchmarking figures June 2019.)

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
Q4 2019/20	0	Q1 2020/21	0	0	Green	Det	Det

A snapshot at the end of Q1 2020/21 identifies that no families were in bed and breakfast accommodation. Additionally, throughout Q1 no families were placed into bed and breakfast for more than 6 weeks.

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	
Q4 2019/20	250	Q1 2020/21	369	175	Green	Imp	Imp	

Comments

In Q1 369 private sector households were assisted in having their properties improved via Council intervention despite the restriction of Covid-19 on inspections. The Council have continued with its statutory services and targeted work with the taskforce and will continue this through Q2.

13 new Households of Multiple Occupation (HMO) licences have been issued in Q1 bringing a total of 175 licenced HMO throughout Medway. 17 category 1 hazards and 85 category 2 hazards have been identified in Q1 and these have been alleviated. This action helps improving living conditions and raise the standards in the Private sector rented accommodation.

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 HMOs 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 - Help Medway's people get a foot on the housing ladder

Last year the Council delivered over our target of 204 affordable homes (total of 333 units) and this year it is anticipated a number close to target will be delivered following discussions with developers and registered providers in terms of Covid-19 impact on new housing supply. The Council are also looking to increase the number of potential housing options.

All potential avenues are being explored to help people get on the housing ladder e.g. new key worker housing scheme, making effective use of the allocations policy and maximising update of private rented properties through our Private Rented Sector scheme.

This financial year investigations into block booking and leasing properties will take place to see if additional housing can be delivered directly by Medway Council in a cost-effective way. The Housing Services have had to divert a significant amount of resource to covering additional demands due to Covid-19, including following the 'everyone in' directive from government targeting people sleeping rough. Activity is still progressing, but this has had to be done with fewer staff members than planned.

Council Plan Project - Prevent homelessness by providing targeted support to those who need it.

Work continues to ensure that HRA tenants are supported to mitigate the negative impact of welfare reform, to minimise rent arrears, evictions and support tenant's financial well-being. In Q2, the focus will be on supporting tenants who have been financially affected by Covid-19, especially tenants who are claiming benefits for the first time and new tenants.

Council Plan Project - Review Housing Related Support (HRS) commissioning

The Council are currently undertaking a review of the current provision of Housing Related Support (HRS) and identifying any gaps, with the aim of reducing the number of those rough sleeping. Opportunities are currently being explored for joint work with children's services commissioning and aligning our tender activity with potential Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) funding, to ensure we meet the needs of Medway residents. It is anticipated the Council will go out to Tender in October/November with new contracts starting in April 2021.

Council Plan Project - Shift the focus of the rough sleeping initiative

During Q1 the Council have been supporting residents with Covid-19. All known people sleeping rough were accommodated, at the start of the lockdown there was a maximum of 20 and this rose to 40. These cases were as a result of sofa surfing and identifying a number of preventative cases.

The Council successfully worked in partnership with the King Charles Hotel to provide services and support those who needed accommodation. The Council are increasing its partnership working with the third sector to create a pool of services to improve safeguarding and reduce reliance on statutory services. The Council have had a high level of success with moving people on from this emergency accommodation with 32 rehoused since the pandemic lockdown.

The Council are looking to increase the availability of privately rented accommodation to support those who are homeless. A mailshot was sent to 1,100 landlords promoting the CallB4U Serve landlord hotline and the Private Rented Sector (PRS) scheme. The CallB4U Service provides a dedicated telephone contact line for landlords and invites them to contact us for prevention assistance where they are having issues with tenants and are considering eviction. Where the Council are contacted, the Housing Options Team will undertake enquiries with the landlord and where appropriate will contact the tenant to invite them to work with us and the landlord to seek to sustain the tenancy. This might include working with clients to complete income and expenditure assessments, advising them regarding prioritising and maximising their income to meet their rental payments, helping them resolve Housing Benefit issues, helping them access discretionary housing payments and providing financial assistance from the prevention fund to clear arrears. The benefit for the landlord is that it helps resolve tenancy issues without resort to time consuming and costly legal action, including ensuring rental income and reducing or clearing rent arrears debt. The PRS scheme invited landlords to contact us if they wished to work through the scheme to make void properties available to us to offer to homeless applicants as private rented sector offers of accommodation in discharge of our homeless duties.

We are in the process of agreeing a new rent guarantee scheme initiative, which will work alongside CallB4U Serve.

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 local landlords and housing providers, to seek to sustain those tenancies of their tenants who are at risk of eviction.

In Q1 there has been 526 approaches for homeless assistance with 191 (36%) having their homelessness successfully prevented/relieved. Approach figures for Q1 this year are down compared to Q1 last year (635). This is being achieved by maintenance of a robust staffing structure and regularly reviewing prevention/relief toolkit equipping the staff with tools required to maintain high levels of successful outcomes, along with increased procurement of property via the PRS Scheme. Also maintaining regular contact with social landlords and supported providers and offering early intervention appointments even during the Covid-19 crisis.

Council Plan Project - Working with landlords and agents to support households to sustain their accommodation and prevent homelessness

Landlords and agents are reporting to the Council that they have seen a significant increase in rent arrears during the pandemic which puts tenancies at risk. CallB4UServe provides an important service to landlords for joint working to seek to prevent loss of tenancies and loss of tenancy income. A mailshot was sent to 1100 landlords to raise awareness of support that is available. During Q1 45 landlords contacted the Council compared with 28 in Q1 2019/20.

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	SHORT TREND
642	680	647	1,000	Red	Imp	Det
<p>Comments</p> <p>This performance is reported annually. This data is published in the Council's Authority Monitoring Report and will be available on the website in December 2020.</p> <p>The main findings from the Monitoring Report (December 2019) included 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 Local Plan 2019 to 2037 sets out a vision for future development in Medway to ensure that the needs of the area are met by providing homes and supporting infrastructure.

Officers are currently working on completing the evidence base to support the publication of the draft local plan. This includes work on Strategic Transport Assessment, Viability Assessment, Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Habitat Regulations Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and Cumulative Ecological Impact Assessment. The updated Local Development Scheme will be reported to Cabinet in August.

The Housing Test Delivery Plan (HTDP) proposes measures to contribute to increasing the amount and speed of delivery of new housing and sets out measures to continue housing delivery and understanding factors influencing delivery rates. The

second HTDP will be reported to Cabinet on 4 August 2020. The HTDP will be published in mid-August.

The Council continue to promote the pre-application service and the use of the Planning Protocol with developers and landowners to improve the quality of applications and development and deliver growth through partnership working.

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

Projections of new builds indicated the Council would meet the target of 204 units again this year. We currently anticipate 120 social rented units and 80 shared ownership ranging from 1 bed flats to 4 bed houses. DMT reports are currently being drafted to ensure that commuted sums* are utilised to provide additional affordable housing in Medway.

The HRA have recently drafted a Development Strategy along with detailed delivery report which will be discussed by cabinet in August. Tenders have been returned for phase 4 developments and visits completed with architect and options appraisal are in the process of being completed. Phase 4 works are due to start in December 2020.

*Committed sums – on occasion, instead of providing affordable units within a development, the developer transfers money to the Council to assist with more of these units elsewhere.

Council Plan Outcome: Getting around Medway

Programme: Tackle congestion hotspots by transport and public realm improvements

Council Plan Measures: Performance

NI 167 New		Average journey time along 5 routes across Medway (mins per mile)					Aim to Minimise
	Value		Value	Target	Status	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q2 2018/19	2.82	Q3 2018/19	3.42	4	Green	Det	Det

Comments

In Q1 The Department for Transport (DfT) provided Trafficmaster Journey time data for the calendar year 2019. The Council are currently reviewing this data and it will be reported in Q2.

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 businesses 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.

Programme for 2020-21

Medway Council has secured £4.972 million ring-fenced capital grant from the Department for Transport (DfT) Challenge 2B Fund. This award is for essential capital infrastructure works required for the Medway Tunnel as well as funding for highway resurfacing and rebuilding of the retaining wall along Pier Road.

All works need to be completed by the end of financial year 2023- 2024 and will be delivered through the Highways Infrastructure Contract in programme phases.

In Q1, focus has been on mobilising the scheme and working with the Contractor to plan how and when the different types of work will be delivered for this project. This has included:

- Outlining estimated costs and the timeline to deliver the different parts of the programme
- Writing technical briefs about the required work, which are now with our consultants, who will use them to establish more detailed prices

Council Plan Projects - Achieve Band 3 status for Highway Asset

Management Self- Assessment via 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 is 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 Q1 are:

- Lifecycle Planning to inform Highway Investment Levels commenced and scheduled to be completed by Q2.

- Biennial review of the Resilient Network commenced and scheduled to be completed by the end of Q3.
- The Annual National Highways & Transportation Survey has been commissioned that measures public satisfaction with Highways & Transportation.
- Framework for monthly audits of the 22 Self-Assessment questions for submission (January 2021) established to ensure the evidence base for a Band 3 submission.

Council Plan Project - Project management and delivery of full LTP programme of schemes and projects for 2020/21 to budget and timescale

Medway Council receives £1.3m a year from Central Government to complete local transport project schemes. Projects for 2020/21 cover improvements to traffic management, traffic signals, road safety, cycling, accessibility, bus infrastructure, and rights of way.

Progress on the delivery of LTP projects and schemes slowed during Q1 due to sectors in the industry on slowing or shutting down in response to Covid-19. The Council were still able to meet virtually to continue regular LTP meetings to discuss the planning and management of schemes.

Scheme build was halted during Q1 due to government advice for such works to be paused. The Council anticipate works recommencing during Q2 depending on advice from central government and lockdown restrictions. Project delivery timescales and budgets will be adjusted accordingly and stakeholders will be updated.