

# Council Priority: PLACE

## Medway: A place to be proud of

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING

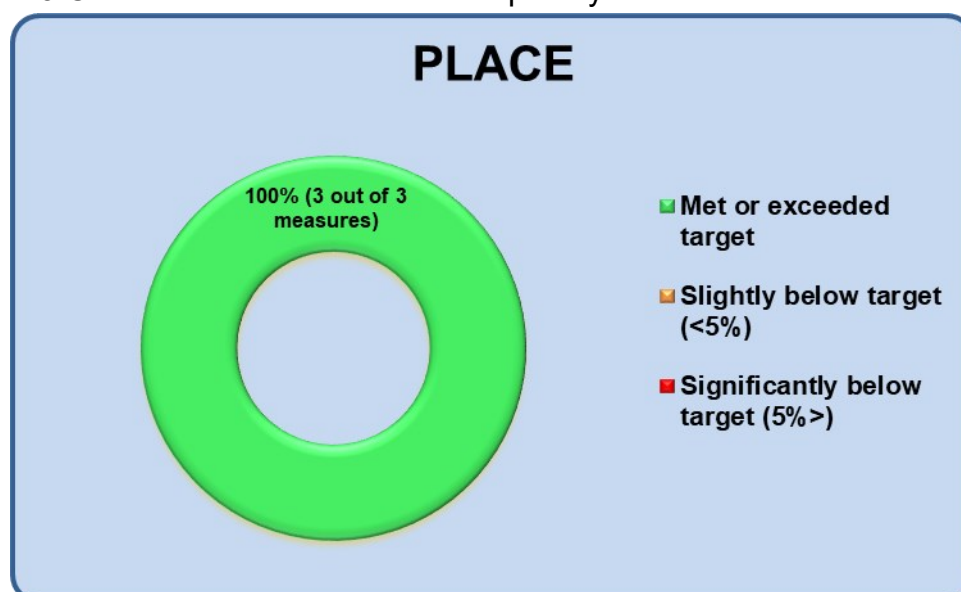
### Performance: Quarter 4 2020/21

Key

<b>Red</b>	significantly below target (>5%)	<b>Amber</b>	slightly below target (<5%)	<b>Green</b>	met or exceeded target
<b>IMP</b>	Improved	<b>DET</b>	Worsened	<b>Static</b>	Static
<b>Data</b>	No target	<b>NA</b>	Not available	Not available	Not available
<b>Short Trend</b>	Since last qtr	<b>Long Trend</b>	Avg over last 4 qtrs	Avg over last 4 qtrs	Avg over last 4 qtrs

### Council Plan measures: summary performance

There are 3 Council Plan measures for this priority.



#### Improved performance

- 33% (1 out of 3\*) improved long term (average of previous 4 quarters)
- 33% (1 out of 3\*) improved over the short term (since last quarter)

\*where data available

**Measures in target (green)**

Code	Status	Measure	Long Trend	Short Trend
NI195a	<b>Green</b>	Improved street and environmental cleanliness:	IMP	IMP
GH6 CP	<b>Green</b>	Satisfaction with parks and green spaces - direct users CP	DET	DET
W6 CP	<b>Green</b>	Satisfaction with refuse collection - Citizens Panel result	DET	DET

## Strategic Risks

The quarter 4 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	L-likelihood I-impact
SR47	11	Climate Change	AD Frontline Services	All	L – very high I - major

The following risks pertain to all priorities:

Reference	Risk Register Page (app 3)	Risk	Owner	Current residual risk score	L-likelihood I-impact
SRO3B	17	Finances	Chief Finance Officer	AI	L – very high I - catastrophic
SR46	22	Medway's Economic Recovery from Covid19	AD Regeneration (Recovery Lead Officer for Medway Council	BII	L - high I - major

Reference	Risk Register Page (app 3)	Risk	Owner	Current residual risk score	L-likelihood I-impact
SR32	27	Data and information	Chief Legal Officer	CII	L - significant I - major
SR36	30	Alternative service delivery models	Chief Legal Officer, Chief Finance Officer	BIII	L - high I - moderate
SR37	34	Cyber Security	Chief Finance Officer	CI	L - significant I - catastrophic
SR02	30	Business continuity and emergency planning	Director of Place, Chief Finance Officer	DII	L - low I - major
SR49	49	Income Reduction due to Covid19	Chief Finance Officer	BII	L - high I - major

## Council Plan Outcome: A clean and green environment

### Programme: Public Realm and Street Scene

#### Council Plan Measures

#### **GH6 NEW** Satisfaction with parks and green spaces - direct users CP

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q4 2020/21	75%	79.1%	<b>Green</b>	Maximise	DET	DET
Q3 2020/21	75%	87.6%	<b>Green</b>	Maximise	IMP	IMP

#### Comments

Satisfaction amongst users of parks and open spaces was 79.1% in Q4 2020/21, a decrease on the 87.6% seen in Q3 2020/21.

More users were neutral about the service 10.8% of respondents (up from 8.5% in Q3 2020/21) than dissatisfied, 9.5% (up from 3.9% in Q3).

These results are based on the 148 users of parks and open spaces from the 235 respondents to the Q4 2020/21 Citizens' Panel, giving a margin of error of +/-8.1%, meaning the change in satisfaction is statistically significant.

## Action

A variety of Greenspaces Development projects were delivered during 2020/21:

- Horsted Valley – The design of interpretation panels is complete and anticipated to be installed in Spring 2021. The grassland management consultation is on hold due to Covid-19. Footpath and access improvements completed Autumn 2020.
- Strood North S106 play improvements at Hancock Close, Cliffe Road, Church Green and Broomhill Park play works completed in November 2020.
- Rainham S106 play improvements were completed in July 2021 at Rainham Recreation Ground, Ryetop and Bayswater Drive.
- Vinalls Park improvements – Completed in October 2020.
- Priority Play/Refurbishment programme - Priority Play (3 sites awarded capital funding at Full Council for FY2020-1) - Darnley Road completed on site in November 2020. The other two sites (Maidstone Road Sports Ground and Heritage Drive) were completed on site on 31 March 2021.
- New Hoo Country Park/Reserve (HIF - Cockham Community Parkland) - Planning application submitted in December 2020.
- Completion of Command of the Heights - Riverside 1/Barrier Ditch opened to the public on 17 July.

All 8 sites were successfully awarded Green Flags for 2020, including the new addition Ranscombe Farm Reserve (in partnership with PlantLife). The Council has updated management plans and submitted 2021 applications for all 8 sites in February 2021. A successful on-line consultation was held for Riverside Country Park (with 750 responses) and two successful Riverside Forums have since been held virtually.

## NI 195a NEW Improved street and environmental cleanliness: Litter

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q4 2020/21	96.0%	99.00%	<b>Green</b>	Maximise	IMP	IMP
Q3 2020/21	96.0%	96.66%	<b>Green</b>	Maximise	DET	DET

## Comments

Medway is split into 22 wards which are inspected yearly with a total of 1,200 sites being inspected. (100 sites x 12 months = 1,200 sites per year) Sites are different land classes: Main Retail and Commercial, Local Shopping areas, Residential streets, Main Roads, Waste Bins (litter, canine and combined) Rural Roads, Alleyways, Footbridge and subways.

During Q4, 99% of streets surveyed were free from litter at the time of the inspections. This is due to a robust contract monitoring programme and a high standard of cleansing being achieved by Medway Norse.

A visual inspection of 50 metres is reviewed for the amount of litter present and graded. This is a transect. A - B grades are acceptable for litter and C – D are unacceptable. The number of sites that are at an acceptable standard at the time of inspection grade A- B are then reported as an overall percentage of good standard

sites. For example, 97 sites at grade A-B / 100 x 100 = 97% of areas inspected were at an acceptable standard for litter.

### Action

Street Scene Enforcement dealt with a total of 545 deposits on the public highway, all of which were removed within one working day. Evidence was retrieved in 42 cases and were referred for further investigation. The team also attended 55 fly tips on private land.

Nine Environmental Crime cases were prosecuted at Medway Magistrates Court in Q4; fines and costs totalled £11,029. There are 20 cases with legal pending prosecutions and a further 29 under investigation ready for report to Magistrates Court.

During the quarter, the team conducted 2 operations alongside Kent Police that resulted in five vehicles being stopped and searched. This resulted in the seizure of one vehicle.

127 Community Protection warnings have been issued. These warnings are a quick and effective way to deal with ASB and have been issued to address offences ranging from refuse and waste issues to car repairs and burning of waste.

A full breakdown of Fixed Penalty Notice quarterly data is shown at the end of this appendix.

### W6 CP Satisfaction with refuse collection - Citizens Panel result

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Long Trend	Short Trend
Q4 2020/21	85%	90.6%	Green	Maximise	DET	DET
Q3 2020/21	85%	92%	Green	Maximise	IMP	IMP

### Comments

Satisfaction with refuse collection decreased slightly to 90.6% in Q4 2020/21 (down from 92% in Q3 2020/21).

3.4% of respondents were neutral about the service (down from 5.6% previously) and 5.1% were dissatisfied (higher than the 1.9% seen in the previous quarter). A further 0.9% did not know or gave no response.

The results are based upon 235 respondents to the Q4 2020/21 Citizens' Panel giving an overall margin of error of +/-6.4%, meaning the changes are not statistically significant.

### Council Plan Projects

#### Deliver Future High Streets Funds submissions

The High Streets Heritage Action Zone bid has four main aims:

- To re-use and revitalise heritage buildings.

- To create and deliver a heritage engagement programme.
- To identify and deliver accessibility and safety solutions to the highway.
- To create a development framework to protect the area's character whilst promoting growth.

On 26 December 2020 the government announced we had been awarded £9.5m Future High Street Fund investment in Chatham town centre, against a bid value of £13.8m. Officers revised the project proposals to fit the amended budget and submit details of the change to MHCLG by the 26 February 2021 deadline. The Council have received the formal funding agreement offer letter.

The bid was centred on two key themes:

- Delivering productive uses;
- Enabling and reshaping town centre living.

The Council were advised on 1 April 2020 that the Heritage High Streets Action Zone bid for £1.6m had been approved.

Four initiatives will be developed and delivered:

- The creation of a development framework to guide future development in the area in a way which protects the heritage and character of the area whilst enabling sensitive sustainable growth and regeneration - The creation of a development framework for the High Street Heritage Action Zone area is currently in its enabling and scoping phase in partnership with Historic England, HTA Design LLP and the University of Kent's School of Architecture and Planning. The next phase of developing the vision will start in September 2021 in conjunction with the new academic year.
- A re-use and re-vitalise buildings programme to offer business support, grants and help promote vacant building opportunities – The business support and promotion package is currently being scoped ahead of going out to tender in Q1, with the aim of launching by mid-2021/22. We will also imminently be tendering for a Conservation Consultant to run the Revitalise & Repair property grants scheme, with the first grant already awarded as a pilot to a window repair at 351 High Street, transforming the look of the side elevation and better securing the property.
- The creation and delivery of a cultural heritage and engagement programme to help tell the area's untold story - This is being developed. The Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) project officers have begun to engage with a number of stakeholders who live, work and visit the HAZ area. The programme is working with educational bodies such as Mid Kent College and the University of Kent to develop a cultural skills programme, envisaged for the second year of the project (2021/22).

Alongside this, Medway Council are working with GJG consultants to form a Cultural Consortia, who have successfully won a further bid for £10k for a pilot Cultural Programme, funded by Arts Council England. The pilot funding will be used to develop a bid of up to £120k for a Main Cultural Programme, a programme of events to run alongside the lifetime of the Heritage Action Zone.

- Several "open space" community engagement events have been facilitated by GJG consultants to enable a virtual discussion for anyone interested in the area to input how they wish to be involved in the programme going forward. A highway accessibility and safety study to help improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists - This workstream will now be included within the development framework project as outlined above.

## Programme: Public Realm and Street Scene

### Council Plan Projects

#### Deliver Phase 1 of the Street Lighting LED Programme for 2020-21

Medway's Street Lighting Network is extensive and is composed of 26,500 columns that are made up of concrete columns, steel columns and aluminium columns. The concrete and steel columns make up over 75% of the Network and all are at, or close to, the end of their design life requiring a phased programme of replacement.

As part of Budget Setting in 2020-21, capital funding was secured through Prudential Borrowing to award a contract to undertake a Street Lighting LED Programme. The scope of the LED Programme is:

- Converting all Street Lights to LED (23,000 Street Lights).
- Replacing a further 4,600 columns that are beyond design life.
- Installing a Central Management System (CMS) for fault and energy management of the Street Lighting Network.

The benefits of the Street Lighting LED Programme are:

- Reduces energy consumption levels and energy costs for Street Lighting. Energy costs have significantly increased at contract renewal points over the last two financial years and are projected to further increase this year at the contract renewal period (October 21) by 10%.
- Replacing columns that are beyond design life reduces the risk of structural failure and through awarding as a block programme of work competitive financial rates due to economies of scale.
- CMS along with being a fault and energy management systems also has the scope to function as a platform for SMART Technologies that will support the Council's Ambitions to be a Smart City.

The mobilisation of the contract has continued throughout Q4 and has moved into the delivery phase, this includes:

- All base stations for the CMS have been installed.
- Column replacement programme has commenced - 166 installed to date.
- Lantern replacement programme has commenced - 586 installed to date.
- CMS Asset Register commenced.
- Web page created and published providing information to customers about the scheme.



## Programme: Climate change

### Council Plan Projects

#### Climate change emergency

A 'Climate Change Emergency Motion' was declared by Full Council on 25 April 2019.

#### Air Quality

- The Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy was formally adopted by Cabinet in early Q4. The Strategy has informed the development of the emerging Climate Change Action Plan which has been drafted, with significant input from service areas across the council. The carbon baseline report has been further refined and finalised following consideration of additional data collected in Q3. A standalone report assessing the 2019/20 data is due to be finalised in early Q1 2021/22. The baseline report sets out a recommended pathway to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and the measures and high-level costs required to achieve this. The Action Plan and baseline report have been progressed through internal governance procedures and are intended to be presented at the Climate Change Member Advisory Board in early Q1 2021/22. Due to the change to the May 2021 Cabinet date, it is now intended that the action plan will be presented to Cabinet in June allowing time for feedback from the Member Advisory Board to be incorporated into the action plan prior to Cabinet. Subject to approval, the next stage will be to carry out a more detailed costing exercise for the actions in the action plan.
- The significance of the climate emergency has been recognised by incorporating climate change as a core council value within the Council Strategy.

#### Biodiversity and Greenspaces

- The Greenspace Development Team led on a successful bid to the Forestry Commission for the Urban Tree Challenge Fund. This grant provided funding to plant 13,842 small trees (1 – 2 years old) across 10 sites in Medway. The planting took place in Q4 and involved volunteers working alongside council and Medway Norse officers.
- The new web-form for residents and businesses to support tree planting across Medway, by donating any amount of their choice, is now live. The Medway Tree Fund has been promoted via social media and in the Medway Recycles resident leaflet. At close of Q4 a total of £290 had been received in donations to the Medway Tree Fund. This will continue to be promoted during 2021/22.
- A Tree Strategy for Medway continued to refine in Q4 and it is intended that a first draft be ready by Q1 of 2021/22. A considerable amount of officer scoping and input has been required to ensure that the strategy also includes an action plan against which progress can be monitored. The Strategy uses the findings of the successful tree canopy coverage study in Q2, led by the Greenspaces Development team and undertaken by volunteers from Medway's Urban Greenspaces Forum, which identified a baseline coverage of 16.7% of land area in Medway.



- In Q4 an additional ten sites across Chatham, Strood and Rochester were added to the wildflower verge programme to create a more diverse habitat and reduce CO2 by reducing grass verge maintenance. There are now a total of 35 sites across Medway. There are plans to survey the naturalised verges during 2021 to assess any flower mix and consider if adding more native meadow flower seed in this area is a suitable approach.

### **Energy**

- During Q4, SSE were successfully appointed as the new contractor for the Re:fit energy efficiency programme. SSE completed a High-Level Audit of the 12 buildings in Phase One using digital representations to understand their current energy usage and demands. This resulted in an assessment of the measures necessary to reduce carbon savings and increase energy savings across the Phase One portfolio, including the projected costs. Proposed upgrades include Solar PV, LED lighting, window film, ventilation, heating and hot water system upgrades and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The assessment further quantified that the estimated carbon savings from these improvements will be in excess of 20% of the baseline carbon footprint of these buildings. The High-Level Audit was presented to Property Board at the end of Q4 and following a further presentation to the Financial Director in early Q1 2021/22 the recommendations will be presented to Cabinet.
- Registration for the Solar Together scheme closed on 5 October. The number of registrations across Kent and the 14 participating districts (for both Solar PV and batteries) totalled 4,049 of which 383 were from Medway, 29 of these were for battery storage. The auction took place and personal recommendations were sent out during October. The recommendation included information about the winning installer and the registrant's complete package, costs and savings. Registrants had until 11 December to accept the offer. From the 354 registered for Solar PV, 53 have accepted. This represents 8% of the total number (649) of households that accepted the Solar PV offer across Kent. Of the 29 that registered only for battery storage, 2 have accepted. The winning installer will contact each resident to carry out surveys and installs. All installations are planned to be completed by the end of May 2021.

### **Planning and Development**

- Avieco Ltd has been awarded the role of Project Manager on behalf of the Council for the Heat District Network study. They have assisted with the appointment of a specialist consultant to undertake the study, the scope of which will focus primarily on Hoo Peninsula and also consider potential network opportunities in Strood, Rochester and sites with high heat output. Aecom were formally appointed as the specialist consultant to take the Heat District Network study forward. In Q4, they started to carry out a preliminary study to identify heat sources within Strood and Gillingham. The study commenced in Q4 and is on track against the delivery programme which is intended to take 4 months to complete.
- In Q3, separate funding was awarded for a study focusing on the feasibility of a River Source Heat Pump. The study will be project managed by Local Partnerships and the new Re:fit partner will carry out the feasibility study. Officers have carried out stakeholder engagement in preparation. The separate River Source Heat Pump feasibility study went out to tender during Q4, with submissions due for

return in early Q1 2021/22. The study is anticipated to be completed by Autumn 2021.

## **Transport**

### **EV Charging**

- It is anticipated that the charge points identified for installation under the Re:fit (Phase 1) energy efficiency programme will be installed by the end of 2021, subject to Cabinet approval. This is due to the re-appointment of the Re:fit contractor, full design requirements and funding approvals.
- Responses to the EV Charge point survey have continued to be received and analysed. The responses, including suggested locations for charging points, and separate evidence of predicted EV uptake scenarios are being used to inform a new 5-year Medway EV Strategy. An internal Medway EV Officer Working group has also been established to comment on the first draft of the strategy. The study went out to procurement during Q4, with a consultant recently having been appointed to develop this further over a 12-week contract. Medway's EV Officer Working group continues to meet on alternate months, with EV workstream updates reported to Climate Change Advisory Board throughout the year.
- Officers continue to engage with KCC as part of the Kent and Medway EV District Network Project, involving a consistent network of EV charging points being implemented within council- owned car parks (including 30+ locations in Medway) and funded as part of a concessionary arrangement. An MOU was signed by the Deputy Chief Executive during Q4, with Procurement Board and Legal approval alongside to advance the project. Applications will be scored during the next quarter, with Medway being represented on the countywide panel.
- Officers have also engaged with Connected Kerb as part of a separate EV project, involving 34 charging points being installed within three council-owned car parks in Medway: Rochester MSCP, Station Road, Rainham and Commercial Road, Strood. A bid was submitted during Q4 to the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) to potentially fund 75% of the capital costs, with the remaining 25% to be secured through the Local Transport Plan. The OZEV funding bid outcome is expected during the next quarter.

### **Electrification of council fleet**

- 6 chargers have been installed at Broadside House to support a trial of 6 electric vehicles for use by Children's Social Services. The scheme was delivered in 8 weeks and will be monitored for a duration of 12 months.
- Officers are developing a phased approach to replacing small council petrol and diesel vehicles with electric alternatives. A working group has been set up to explore options for the installation of EV charging points. The transition to an electric fleet has been delayed until suitable locations for charge points have been identified.

### **Active Travel**

The Council were awarded £927k by the DfT as part of the Active Travel Fund Tranche 2. Early design and investigation work has been undertaken for improvements to Medway's cycle network as part of the Active Travel Fund:

- A228 Four Elms Hill; resurfacing and widening of the existing shared cycle/pedestrian footway, and junction accessibility/visibility improvements at Beacon Hill Lane.
- New cycle route from Darland to Capstone, linking with onward journeys to central Chatham.
- New shared scenic route from Cuxton to Medway Valley Park, bypassing the A228 Sundridge Hill.

A separate scheme on Hollywood Lane, Wainscott is also being considered, with possible improvements to the existing off-carriageway shared cycle/pedestrian route. All projects will be progressed further during the next quarter, including updated project briefs, design work and stakeholder consultation.

Bikeability training resumed from 8 March 2021 when schools reopened after Lockdown 2, with courses fully booked for the remainder of the academic year.

The Walking Bus initiative remains on hold due to pandemic safe distancing restrictions; however, the Walk on Wednesday 'WOW' initiative continues to operate within Medway schools, in partnership with the KM Charity Team.

The Big Pedal (18 – 30 April 2021) is currently being promoted by Medway Council with all Medway schools contacted with information of the event, free e-resources to help promote the competition and registration details. Medway Council continues to promote other walking and cycling initiatives, including social media updates and working with schools and partners including the KM Charity Team and Sustrans. The Zig Zag Banner campaign, used to discourage dangerous parking during school peak times, is still in demand since schools reopened in early March.

#### Staff Travel

- Options for encouraging staff to choose more sustainable modes of travel have been set out in an options paper and will be finalised once it is clear what the Council's position is in relation to home working/agile working. In Q4 20/21 and Q1 21/22 a home working/agile working staff survey was undertaken and results from the survey will be incorporated into the options paper.

#### Waste

- During Q4, the "Blue and White – sort it right!" campaign for residents was launched to promote separating paper and cardboard at the kerbside. The benefit of correctly separating the materials is that it goes directly to the paper mill and requires far less processing than if it's mixed with other recyclable material. New livery promoting the campaign was produced for the waste collection vehicles and promotional material included in with residents' annual Council tax bill.

## Council Plan Outcome: Medway on the map

### Programme: Medway: a great place to live, work, learn and visit

#### Council Plan Projects

##### Cultural programme

The development of the cultural strategy and the Compact will include engagement with the cultural sector and residents across the Medway and set the framework by which we can work together to grow and thrive. The Compact will directly oversee the development of Medway's new cultural strategy. An appropriate widely owned Compact business plan and cultural strategy will articulate Medway's cultural attributes, competence and ambition, and in doing so, elevate stakeholder confidence to champion a bid to become the UK City of Culture in 2025.

##### Support the development of Medway's UK City of Culture 2025 bid

The Council are committed to the vision of Medway City of Culture (CoC) 2025. There are regular meetings with the Bid Director to share local knowledge, information, establish contacts, introduced to key groups such as Medway Arts Forum, Diversity Arts Network, Medway Cultural Diversity Forum. Activity in Q4 included:

- The Theatres Team supported the creative industries during the current pandemic, and both theatres became compliant to allow professional rehearsals if required. Following on from the storytelling films our technical team did for the libraries they were asked if they will work on a similar format supporting MACA to bring online stories into the community, this has become part of their funding bid.
- Library Management meeting with the Bid Director to explore how, and in what, areas the service could support the bid that has led to members of the team meeting being part of the working groups.
- Culture Development Team continued to support the Bid Director, sharing local knowledge, information, establishing useful contacts, and introducing key individuals and groups. Regular monthly meetings are in place to ensure opportunities to provide further support are not missed.
- Culture Team continued to advocate for the City of Culture bid and connecting it wherever possible to other projects, programmes and areas of work. It is referenced regularly in recently submitted funding applications and all new partnership projects are encouraged to back the bid by displaying the logo on their publicity and comms.
- Culture Team facilitated discussions between the Icon Theatre and the Bid Team in order to merge their two separate youth panels.
- The Head of Culture and Libraries continued to support the Bid Director with regular meetings providing advice, support and resources where appropriate and providing a string connection between the bid the new cultural strategy and Creative Medway.

### **Supporting Medway Cultural Partnership to produce a new cultural strategy**

Medway's new cultural strategy was approved by Cabinet on 12 January 2021 agreeing the vision that:

'By 2030 Medway will be internationally recognised for its creativity and culture, exemplifying the positive impacts on everyone's lives. Diverse, collaborative and engaged, we will celebrate the strength and creativity of all our residents.'

Creative Medway, the governance and delivery model is fully formed with the recruitment of a Chair and Compact members in March 2021.

Culture Team continues to support GJG Consultancy, the newly formed Working Groups and Creative Medway Chair, as plans are made to engage with partners and develop actions plans. This has included weekly 121's with the new Chair, preparing governance documents and an Arts Council England funding application to support the work of Creative Medway, development of an Open Space event for June, ensuring close working with the City of Culture bid and negotiating support from the Council's Digital Team to the development of a Creative Medway website.

### **Carry out a review of Medway 2035 in light of the Covid-19 pandemic**

The Economy and Infrastructure Recovery Cell continues to meet and help shape the context for the review of Medway 2035.

An independent review of the potential impact of Covid-19 on the IPM (and in particular the Gateway Building) has been completed and will also provide context for the review.

A support officer was appointed in March via the Kickstart scheme to help progress the review of Medway 2035, although has been, at present, largely diverted to work on the Levelling-Up and Community Renewal Funds.

### **To seek funding opportunities to develop innovative public service solutions**

In January 2021 the government announced that we had been awarded £9.5m Future High Streets Fund investment for Chatham town centre.

We continue to await an announcement in Q4 for the following bids:

- 5G Create Competition – The EOI development process for the 5G Create Competition funded by the Department of Digital, Culture and Media and Sport (DCMS) has created a strong local partnership, and a bid will be submitted to an appropriate future funding round. The fund is to trial a 5G Smart Tourism project in Medway to utilise new technological innovations in order to support the tourism sector and enhance the visitor experience through 5G. Up to £30 million is available nationally, this EOI is in development but it is expected the funding request will be around £3million.
- Whose Hoo - An EOI for the Whose Hoo project has been developed ready for the National Lottery Heritage fund to announce their next round of open calls. The application is expected to have a funding ask of £2m that will be used to celebrate, preserve, promote and raise awareness of the unique special heritage in Hoo.
- The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) have prioritised our bid for £778k further investment at Innovation Park Medway, with a formal decision due to be made in July.

- The future funding landscape was set out in the March budget, with significant new funding responsibilities and opportunities for Medway through the newly announced Levelling Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund which offer competitive bidding opportunities to support local priorities for investment. The latter requires local authorities to take on the role of 'Accountable Body', inviting and assessing bids from local project promoters, and monitoring and quality assuring those that are successful. Bids are under development for both funds, which share a deadline of 18 June 2021.

### **Successful delivery of Theatre31**

Theatre31 is a £1m, Arts Council funded, youth theatre and performance project running across Medway and Sheppey until 2022. Icon Theatre have been appointed as the Programme Managers.

Delivery has continued to be affected by Covid-19 but where possible has transferred to online/digital, often with surprising ease and success. This has included viewing professional theatre productions online including workshops, tutorials, masterclasses, and youth panel meetings.

A special celebration premier night was achieved in Q4 where the results of digital projects for young people were shared, including the Hip Hopera trailer.

Following an open-call, two digital projects have been commissioned – Sparked Echo are delivering Medway Megaliths – an episodic theatre Zoom project. And Paper Balloon are delivering a music video project with primary schools creating original sea shanties.

The Youth Panels have been relaunched as the more exciting sounding Young Artists Collective, and Theatre31 has joined forces with the City of Culture Bid Team to merge their young people's consultation groups. 21 new young people have so far signed up for this.

The Icon Theatre is considering a programme of open-air activities over the summer, enabling young people to participate in theatre activities, but at a safe distance and in fresh air.

The Culture Team is connecting Theatre 31 to other projects, programmes and areas of work locally wherever possible and appropriate.

The Icon Theatre have expressed an interest in connecting the Theatre31 Project with the Light Nights, HSHAZ Cultural Consortium Engagement Programme, Electric Medway and working in partnership with Medway Libraries on their Prison Library Service.

### **Delivery of South East Creative Cultural and Digital Business Support Programme**

During Q4 South East Creative Cultural and Digital Business Support Programme restart and a new communication and engagement drive across Medway has led to



19 creative SMEs being supported through the small grants programme that has included organisations such as Nucleus Arts and SparkedEcho.

### **Medway brand recognition (post event)**

The Medway Place Branding originated from the work undertaken with Thinking Place in 2017, where we created a narrative and brand toolkit for our partners and key stakeholders to use when promoting Medway's offer to their networks. A Place Board was established chaired by Simon Cook, Principal at MidKent College and supported by Medway's Place Manager, Virginie Giles.

### **Medway Champions**

Our Medway Champions are our ambassadors from across all areas and sectors in Medway; they help to promote Medway as a great place to live, work, learn and visit by sharing our Medway Story (the Place Branding narrative) with new and existing contacts.

Our Champion Tuesday campaign on social media is still going well since launch in November. We have promoted the campaign again amongst our champions and are receiving enough videos to carry for a little while. We are reaching an average monthly Twitter impression of 12,000. We maintain our champion's number at 200 with new champions joining and others leaving.

Medway's UK 2025 City of Culture bid together with the Medway Champions, Medway Place Board and local arts organisation Art Is For All, launched a "Love Medway" creative competition to coincide with Valentine's day in February. The contest saw school-age children across Medway express pride in their local neighbourhood by designing a 'Love Medway' template. Entries were submitted on social media and via Medway's schools and libraries. They featured impressive interpretations of local culture, with illustrations of dancing Waghorn statues, languages spoken throughout the area, historic landmarks and dogs met during walks through Medway's parks.

Each will see their designs on billboards and banners across the local area, showing support for Medway's bid to be UK City of Culture 2025. The winning designs will also be available to purchase on products via Art Is For All.

We promoted the coverage from ITV's Saturday Night Takeaway show across our social media channels.

We are working with our colleagues across the Council on a regional campaign to promote the ARG grants and Medway For Business wider services to our business landscape.

Meetings – We ran the last two Champions meeting on Zoom (January and March) with an overwhelming audience of 55 and 66 respectively attending to hear talks from key guest speakers. Our March meeting was our most attended one so far with amazing talks from Public Health, James Devine from Medway NHS trust and Mat Burbeck from Kent Police.

The next Champions meeting is on 20 May with Medway Council's planning team and Climate change team as guest speakers. We are planning our May event to be a "hybrid" event where 4 to 6 champions will be in the same room broadcasting to the rest of the champions on Zoom with the view of going back to a normal meeting in July.

Other meetings have been held with Francis Knight, KM Group, UCA and Demelza charity.



## Digital

Our social media platforms are all performing with increased engagement and followers amount considering that the growth is totally organic.

- Twitter: @wearemedway: 819 (increase 121 from January).
- Instagram: @wearemedway: 1,036 (increase 118 from January).
- Facebook: @wearemedwaychampions: 750 followers/likes (increase 53 from January).

## Medway relationship development

In Q4 we commenced discussions with The Thinking School Academy Trust and Arriva Buses about using our place branding on their sites and assets.

We have appointed four new young people to join our Place Board, with an additional two places being recruited to over the next quarter.

We are supporting the City of Culture Bid, with the Place Manager being co-chair of the Marketing and Communications working group, and the Chair of the Place Board being on the City of Culture Trustee Board.

## Work with partners to bring forward the Docking Station project

The Docking Station is a partnership project led by the University of Kent (UoK) with key partners Medway Council (MC) and Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust (CHDT).

The Docking Station will transform the Police Section House located on the Interface Land at the CHDT, into an environmentally sustainable, innovative and dynamic 'University of the Future'. It will unite industry, creatives, students, academics and young people in state-of-the art digital facilities, co-working space and innovative research and development space. It will offer digital skills development, knowledge exchange, and drive innovation, fuelling the growth of the Medway creative economy.

The Police Section House is owned by Homes England (HE) and detailed Heads of Terms have been agreed for the acquisition. CHDT will facilitate this by purchasing the long-term peppercorn lease of the building and enter into a 'back-to-back' lease arrangement with UoK. This will allow four years to realise the project before potentially returning to the ownership of HE if the project is unsuccessful.

The purchase and the back-to-back lease agreement were both due to be signed on 31 March 2020 but had been put on hold. All parties are keen to progress this and to sign in Spring 2021, with further detailed work to develop lease arrangements between CHDT and UoK is taking place w/b 11 January 2021.

Supporting surveys and reports have been commissioned from the £50K One Public Estate (OPE) funding secured by MC, and from the £100K Creative Estuary (CE) project being delivered by UoK.

Countryside have recently provided a red-line plan defining the of Interface land around the Police Section House available for development. The red-line area is not as originally envisaged, with Countryside using more land to the rear of the House to maintain the viability of their own development. This new red line compromises the original thinking but there are still viable options available and discussions with Countryside continue.

The first stage of our Docking Station feasibility study is complete, and an architectural competition will be launched in Spring 2021 to develop the concept to RIBA Stage 3. It is expected that enhanced visuals for the project will be available in Summer 2021. Any delays in finalising the red-line with Countryside will delay the launch of the architectural design competition.

Considering the delay to the project, completion is now anticipated for December 2024 in line with Medway UK City of Culture 2025 bid.

A significant change of project leads from the UoK, CHDT and MC has meant a further pause in activity. However, the Board agreed their ongoing commitment to the project, focusing discussions on the ambition of the project, purpose of the board, acquisition and development timetable and challenges and fundraising. The Board has also agreed to formalise its structure with terms of reference. Working groups would be set up as and when required to develop and deliver the project's technical and operational requirements.

The Architectural design competition launched in January had over 300 enquiries and 33 companies submitted bids. The selection process will be completed in April 2021 and designs will be developed to support the fundraising programme that will begin in Summer 2021.

### **Successful and safe delivery of the Council's outdoor events and festivals**

Due to Covid-19 the annual festivals and events programme were cancelled for 2020/21.

Some funding was diverted to support the development of Electric Medway, a new digital arts festival, that took place in early September showcasing the work of 50 creatives over ten days with a specific Young Creatives strand supporting 3 paid jobs, 10 commissions and mentoring opportunities for new emerging creatives.

### **Successful transition of the existing Cultural Partnership to Cultural Compact**

The delivery model for Medway's Cultural Strategy reflects both the UK Cultural Cities Enquiry Cultural Compact model and the consultative process which developed the strategy. The model called 'Creative Medway' is open to everyone to participate in at a level, and to a degree, which suits them best.

Creative Medway is an independent partnership made of three components: Compact, Working Groups and Congress.

Creative Medway has now formed, replacing the Medway Cultural Partnership. It comprises of the Creative Medway Cultural Compact that brings together six professionals representing the breadth of the creative sector alongside six representatives of strategic partners across education, health and wellbeing, businesses, voluntary organisations and the local authority. Five working groups that reflect the five themes of the strategy. The Compact brings together six professionals representing the breadth of the creative sector alongside six representatives of

strategic partners across education, health and wellbeing, businesses, voluntary organisations and the local authority.

Individuals to three identified roles in each working group have been elected and a Chair and Compact members have been recruited.

Creative Medway Compact is at the core of the delivery mechanism. The group is responsible to drive the strategic ambition and the overall performance delivery of the strategy; it will be a strong advocate for Medway's culture, at a local, regional and national level.

### **Review events and festivals offer to support the cultural strategy**

Due to the pandemic and the cancellation of the 2020/21 events programme it was felt a full review was not appropriate at this time.

The team have developed an alternative Covid-19 secure programme for 2021/22 and the decisions to implement this programme will take place Q1 2021/22.

### **Identify programme of restoration and preservation for Dickens Chalet**

An updated conditions survey has now taken place to assess the state and condition of Dickens' writing chalet located in Eastgate House Gardens, Rochester. This conditions report is currently being assessed to determine immediate small repairs and medium-term larger repairs/restoration. Medway Council will then contact timber conservation specialists to obtain quotes for these works in late spring/early summer.

## **Medway a Smart City**

An outline Smart City strategy has been developed to lay the foundations for Medway to become a leading Smart City. The Strategy is built upon the following strands:

### **Smart People**

- Data: Build trust and transparency
- Public Service Innovation
- Open Data
- Digital Inclusion and Skills
- Co-working
- Smart Healthcare

### **Smart Place**

- Connected Streetlights
- Intelligent City Platform & IoT Sensor Network
- Living Labs
- Smart Buildings
- Smart Tourism: Embracing smart tech to enhance Medway's UK City of Culture Bid 2025

### **Smart Growth**

- Clean Growth
- Digital Connectivity
- Transport Innovation
- AI-enabled Transport Management

- Smart Parking & Kerbside Management
- MaaS: Mobility as a Service
- Digital Twin

The initial draft Smart City strategy is now in the process of being completed, with key stakeholders to be consulted internally for comments by May 2021. Following this, the final document will be further refined, formatted and presented at Transformation Board towards the end of July 2021.

The strategy links with the Council's strategic priorities and objectives and is themed under the following headings: *Smart People*, *Smart Place* and *Smart Growth*. The narrative will also cross reference with Medway's emerging Digital Strategy, UK City of Culture Bid, Cultural Strategy, Climate Change Action Plan, emerging Local Plan and Medway 2035.

Alongside strategy development, a number of Smart City projects or bids have also been delivered or commenced in Q4:

Delivered (or Operational) – Q4

- **Digital Infrastructure** CityFibre Full Fibre Network Deployment (expected completion Q1 2024).
- **Smart Streets** Footfall Counting Solution for Chatham Intra – HSHAZ Programme.
- **Smart Roads** RouteReports – Smart Road Surface Monitoring Pilot.
- **Smart Parking** RINGO Cashless Touch Screen Project, Medway Park Sports Centre.
- **Smart Mobility** Electric Vehicle Charging Points EVCP “Quick Win” Project – successful OZEV Bid of £85k awarded to the Council towards EV deployment in three Council car parks.

Projects Commenced Q4 (or bids submitted)

- **Smart Parking** ANPR system to be installed at Rochester MSCP and St John's Car Park – to be tendered Q1 21/22.
- **PropTech** Local Plan Pathfinder EOI bid submitted – VU.CITY 'Digital Twin' Platform – Q1 2021/22 (await response).
- **Smart Mobility** Medway ULEV Strategy (in partnership with Transport & Parking) - to be completed by Q2 2021/22.
- **Smart Mobility** Kent & Medway Electric Vehicle Charging Point (EVCP) Network – Tender to be reviewed in Q1 2021/22.
- **IoT Network** Smart Gritting/Road Temperature Pilot.

## Prosecutions and Sanctions

FPNs ISSUED	2018/19					2019/20					2020/21				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YEAR TOTAL	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YEAR TOTAL	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YEAR TO DATE
FLYTIPPING	15	7	5	4	<b>31</b>	1	5	8	5	<b>19</b>	3	10	4	8	<b>25</b>
FAILURE TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTS	3	2	2		<b>7</b>								3		<b>3</b>
SCRAP METAL	1				<b>1</b>										<b>0</b>
LITTER	42	14	5	8	<b>69</b>	19	12	6	1	<b>38</b>	5	8	4	6	<b>23</b>
TRADE WASTE	12		3	2	<b>17</b>		4	1	1	<b>6</b>					<b>0</b>
FLY POSTING			1		<b>1</b>										<b>0</b>
SMOKE FREE						2				<b>2</b>					<b>0</b>
BREACH OF A COMMUNITY PROTECTION NOTICE				1	<b>1</b>	1	2	3	1	<b>7</b>		3	1	2	<b>6</b>
UNLICENSED WASTE CARRIER							1			<b>1</b>			1		<b>1</b>
HOUSEHOLDER DUTY OF CARE											3	4		2	<b>9</b>
COMMERCIAL DUTY OF CARE												3		1	<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>71</b>

**District Enforcement**

<b>DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT ISSUED FPNS</b>	<b>Q3 19/20</b>	<b>Q4 19/20</b>	<b>Q1 20/21</b>	<b>Q2 20/21</b>	<b>Q3 20/21</b>	<b>Q4 20/21</b>
LITTER	1,386	899	157	2,236	2,054	1,624
DOG FOULING	11	9		1		1
DOGS ON LEAD	1	1		1		0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,398</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>2,238</b>	<b>2,054</b>	<b>1,625</b>

## Breakdown of Prosecutions

Due to the timeliness of reporting, there can be an increase or decrease in the number of prosecutions previously reported in Pentana

PROSECUTIONS	2018/19					2019/20					2020/21				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YEAR TOTAL	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YEAR TOTAL	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YEAR TO DATE
FLY TIPPING	7	1		2	<b>10</b>		2		1	<b>3</b>	0	1	0	1	<b>2</b>
DUTY OF CARE FOR WASTE			2	4	<b>6</b>	1			1	<b>2</b>	0	0	0	1	<b>1</b>
LITTER		1	2	1	<b>4</b>	1				<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH S108 NOTICE	2	3	1		<b>6</b>	4	1		5	<b>10</b>	0	0	0	2	<b>2</b>
UNTIDY LAND	5		1		<b>6</b>		1			<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
VEHICLE SALES/REPAIR		1			<b>1</b>						0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CPN		1		1	<b>2</b>		1	1		<b>2</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
UNREGISTERED WASTE/SCRAP		1	2	1	<b>4</b>	1	1	1	2	<b>5</b>	0	0	0	7	<b>7</b>
SMOKE FREE								1		<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>REPORTED IN PENTANA</b>	<b>13</b>			<b>7</b>	<b>36</b>			<b>2</b>		<b>24</b>					<b>9</b>



**Enforcement Actions due to Covid-19:**

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Key Legislation</b>
<b>1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issued 14 formal prohibition notices</li> <li>• Voluntarily closed 110 non-compliant premises</li> <li>• Engaged and visited 4201 commercial premises</li> <li>• Issued 9 Internet take down notices for prohibited businesses</li> </ul>	The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020
<b>2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issued 4 formal prohibition notices</li> <li>• Voluntarily closed 49 non-compliant premises</li> <li>• Engaged and visited 2410 commercial premises</li> <li>• Issued 2 Internet take down notices for prohibited businesses</li> </ul>	The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 & The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Collection of Contact Details etc. and Related Requirements) Regulations 2020
<b>3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issued 0 formal prohibition notices</li> <li>• Voluntarily closed 89 non-compliant premises</li> <li>• Engaged and visited 2238 commercial premises</li> <li>• Issued 3 Internet take down notices for prohibited businesses</li> </ul>	The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Collection of Contact Details etc. and Related Requirements) Regulations 2020
<b>4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issued 11 formal prohibition notices</li> <li>• Voluntarily closed 74 non-compliant premises</li> <li>• Engaged and visited 5779 commercial premises</li> <li>• Issued 3 Internet take down notices for prohibited businesses</li> <li>• Issue two fixed penalty notices</li> </ul>	The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Collection of Contact Details etc. and Related Requirements) Regulations 2020, The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions (All Tiers) (England) Regulations 2020 & The Health Protection (Coronavirus,

		Restrictions (Steps) (England) Regulations 202i
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The Trading Standards team have been responsible for the various iterations of the Coronavirus restrictions legislation. This legislation has dynamically changed over the period of the pandemic to reflect the Government's strategy. This makes quarter-on-quarter comparison of this data very difficult.

This legislation is a key mechanism in the Government's virus control strategy.

A dichotomy in enforcement roles was immediately established with Kent Police, with the Trading Standards team taking the lead in the application of the Regulations to the 'businesses' and Kent Police addressing individuals.

The team takes a 'proactive regulatory' approach to the enforcement of the regulations. This sees the team educating traders on their legal obligations, with businesses electing to voluntarily cease any prohibited activities. Importantly, much of the work the team did was advising businesses on how they could lawfully and safely trade during the prohibition period. On two occasions the team were compelled to issue a fixed penalty notice to businesses.