

Council Priority: PLACE

Medway: A place to be proud of

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING

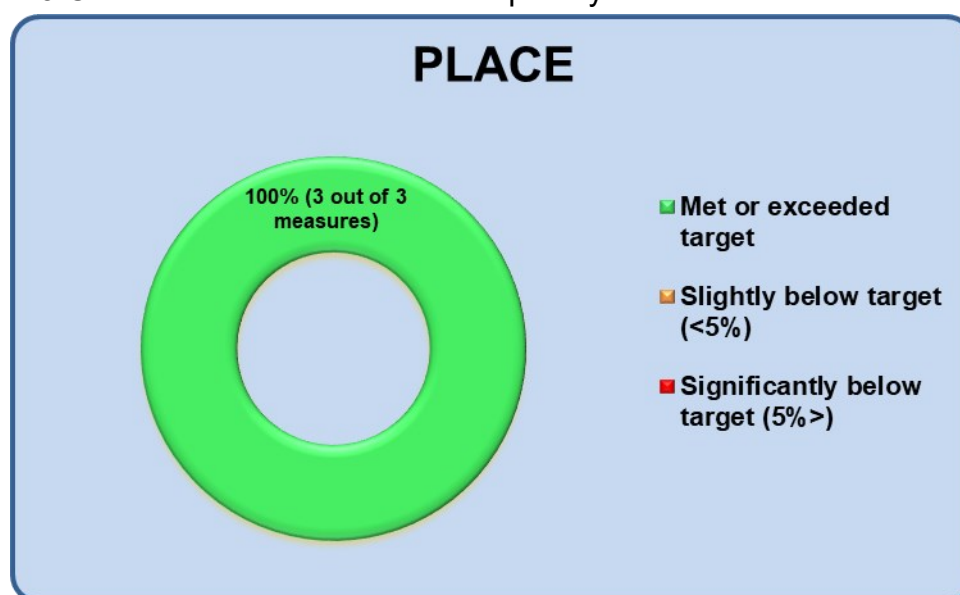
Performance: Quarter 1 2021/22

Key

Red	significantly below target (>5%)	Amber	slightly below target (<5%)	Green	met or exceeded target
IMP	Improved	DET	Worsened	STATIC	Static
Data	No target	NA	Not available	Not available	Not available
Short Trend	Since last qtr	Long Trend	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 over the short term (since last quarter)
- 0% (0 out of 3*) improved long term (average of previous 4 quarters)

*where data available

Measures in target (green)

Code	Status	Measure	Short Trend	Long Trend
GH6 NEW	Green	Satisfaction with parks and green spaces - direct users CP	IMP	DET
NI 195a	Green	Improved street and environmental cleanliness: Litter	DET	DET
W6 CP	Green	Satisfaction with refuse collection - Citizens Panel result	DET	DET

Strategic Risks

The quarter 1 21/22 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	8	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	A1	L – very high I – catastrophic
SR46	22	Medway's Economic Recovery from Covid19	Assistant Director Regeneration (Recovery Lead Officer for Medway Council)	B11	L – high I – major
SR32	29	Data and information	Chief Legal Finance Officer	C11	L – significant I – major
SR36	33	Alternative service	Chief Legal Officer,	B111	L – high I – moderate

Reference	Risk Register Page (app 3)	Risk	Owner	Current residual risk score	L – Likelihood I – Impact
		delivery models	Chief Finance Officer		
SR37	38	Cyber Security	Chief Finance Officer	CI	L – significant I – catastrophic
SR02	45	Business continuity and emergency planning	Director of Place, Chief Finance Officer, Deputy Chief Executive	DII	L – low I – major
SR49	53	Income Reduction due to Covid19	Chief Finance Officer	BII	L – high I – major

Council Plan Outcome: A clean and green environment

Council Plan Programme: Enhancing the public realm, street scene, parks and green spaces

Council Plan Measures

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

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Short Trend	Long Trend
Q1 2021/22	75%	80.4%	Green	Maximise	IMP	DET
Q4 2020/21	75%	79.1%	Green	Maximise	DET	DET

Comments

Satisfaction amongst users of parks and open spaces was 80.4% in Q1 2021/22, a slight increase on the 79.1% seen in Q4 2020/21.

More users were neutral about the service – 11.4% of respondents (up from 10.8% in Q4 2020/21) – than dissatisfied, 8.3% (down from 9.5% in Q4).

These results are based on 158 users of parks and green spaces from the 223 respondents to the Q1 2021/22 Citizens' Panel, giving a margin of error of +/-7.8%, meaning the changes are not statistically significant.

Actions

A variety of Greenspaces Development projects are planned for delivery during 2021/22:

- Section 106 play improvements at Cliffe Woods – completed in July 2021.
- Section 106 play improvements at Cliffe Woods Recreation Ground, Perry Street and Chalk Pit Open Space – completed in July 2021.
- Park Welcome Signs – updating sites which have no signs or that are out of date. This project will be completed late summer.
- Play refurbishment Programme – Seven play areas will be refurbished. They include Low Meadow (Cuxton), Hamilton Road (Gillingham), Iona Close (Lordswood), Whimerel Walk (Lordswood), Lamplighters Close (Hempstead), Crestway (Luton) and Borstal Recreation Ground (Rochester). Tender award and procurement approval is expected between September and October 2021. Construction is expected to start spring 2022.
- Town Hall Gardens (Section 106) improvements – Masterplan and financing is currently being reviewed. Improvements to the site will be completed by spring 2022.
- Cockham Community Parkland (Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF)) – planning application was presented to planning committee on 21 July 2021 and approved. Construction is anticipated to start in summer 2022 with a completion end date of spring 2024.
- Berengrave Nature Reserve (S106 improvements) – steps and access improvements were completed in March 2021. New entrance and interpretation signs will be completed in August 2021. Boardwalk route options are being discussed with the consultant and then these options will be discussed with ward councillors during August and September 2021.
- Various other improvement projects are at the early stages of development including Northcote Road Recreation Ground, Rede Common, The Vines, Cherry Trees and Great Lines Heritage Park. Further updates will follow as part of quarterly monitoring.

Green Flag applications have been submitted for eight sites: Gillingham Park; Hillyfields; Capstone Farm Country Park; Riverside Country Park; Great Lines Heritage Park; Broomhill Park; The Vines; and Ranscombe Farm.

Judging and mystery shop visits are due at the eight Green Flag Award sites during May to September 2021. The announcement is due in October 2021.

Management Plans for Capstone and Riverside Country Parks are currently being reviewed with Norse.

Summer (Covid19 compliant) events have been confirmed for the five urban parks (Gillingham, The Vines, Broomhill, Great Lines and Hillyfields).

NI 195a Improved street and environmental cleanliness: Litter

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Short Trend	Long Trend
Q1 2021/22	96.00%	96.66%	Green	Maximise	DET	DET
Q4 2020/21	96.00%	99.00%	Green	Maximise	IMP	IMP

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; footbridges, and subways.

During Q1, 96.66% 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.

Actions

Street Scene Enforcement dealt with a total of 247 deposits on the public highway, all of which were removed within one working day. Evidence was retrieved in 54 cases and were referred for further investigation. The team also attended 45 fly tips on private land.

Five Environmental Crime cases were prosecuted at Medway Magistrates Court in Q1, where fines and costs totalled £5,811. There are 12 cases with legal pending prosecutions and a further four under investigation ready for reporting to the Magistrates Court.

During the quarter, the team conducted two operations alongside Kent Police that resulted in 13 vehicles being stopped and searched.

63 Community Protection warnings have been issued. These warnings are a quick and effective way to deal with anti-social behaviour (ASB) and have been issued to addresses for 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	Short Trend	Long Trend
Q1 2021/22	85%	87%	Green	Maximise	DET	DET
Q4 2020/21	85%	90.6%	Green	Maximise	DET	DET

Comments

Satisfaction with refuse collection decreased to 87% in Q1 2021/22 (down from 90.6% in Q4 2020/21).

5.8% of respondents were neutral about the service (up from 3.4% previously) and 4.5% were dissatisfied (lower than the 5.1% seen in the previous quarter). A further 2.6% did not know or gave no response.

The results are based upon 223 respondents to the Q1 2021/22 Citizens' Panel giving an overall margin of error of +/-6.6%, meaning the changes are not statistically significant.

There was a small change to the question asked this quarter to specify that this element was the black sack collection only. A further question about the recycling element of the weekly collections has been asked.

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 awarded Medway Council £9.5m Future High Street Fund investment for Chatham town centre.

The main areas that the funds will address:

- Public realm improvements from The Brook Theatre to the Pentagon Centre, including The Paddock.
- A new Innovation Hub located within the Pentagon.

- The Brook Theatre – funds toward the redecoration, improved facilities, and useable workspace.
- St John Church – funding to bring the building back into use for the purposes of meeting spaces and rooms as well as offering community uses.

Work has been completed on understanding the detail of the project deliverables for each workstream and the council will continue to manage the various projects to ensure that they adhere to programme and budget. All funds are required to be spent by March 2024 with all outputs being met by this date.

Heritage High Streets Action Zone funding

In April 2020, the Sun Pier to Star Hill conservation area was awarded £1.6m High Street Heritage Action Zone funding from Historic England for regeneration in the area. The focus is on bringing the history and heritage of the area back to life and boosting the local economy by 2024.

The funding will be used to:

- Create a 're-use and re-vitalise buildings' grants programme.
- Develop a cultural heritage and engagement programme in collaboration with the local community.
- Create a framework to guide future development in the area.

During Q1:

- An application for a three-year Cultural Programme grant was successful, with £80,000 awarded to the Cultural Consortium in May 2021. This funding will create and deliver community-led cultural activities to showcase the area's history over the next three years led by The Old High Street Intra Cultural Consortium, which is made up of local creatives, businesses, community groups and residents. The programme will also provide more opportunities for Medway's creatives, inspire the local community to connect to the area's history and encourage partnerships between organisations.
- As part of the Cultural Heritage and Engagement programme, the project team collaborated with the Ebb & Flow Festival to provide a weekend of Covid19-safe activities for the public to discover the heritage of the area including a pop-up museum, walking tours and numerous art trails in May 2021. Feedback has been positive and future events are currently being developed for later this year.
- 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 as part of the new academic year with university students working collaboratively with the project team. A highway accessibility and safety study to help improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists has also started.

- A Conservation Consultant joined the project team in June and will be launching a Revitalise & Repair property grants scheme later this year. We are working with other council officers to identify and promote vacant building opportunities.

Programme: Replacing Medway's streetlights

Council Plan Projects

Deliver Phase 2 of the Street Lighting LED Programme for 2021-22

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 Light-Emitting Diode (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 2021) 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 system also has the scope to function as a platform for Smart City Aspirations.

During Q1 the rollout of the scheme has continued, building on the CMS installation in Q4 of 2020/21 and to date:

- 2,730 columns have been replaced at the end of Q1 (68% completion rate).
- 5,104 lanterns have been upgraded (22% completion rate).
- Design of non-standard lamps has commenced and options are being explored with providers, to bring both an appropriate, but consistent approach to these lanterns, which include those of a conservation style.
- There is an ongoing programme of publicity updates on delivery of the programme through social media, press releases and Medway Matters.

Programme: Encouraging recycling and maintain clean streets

Provide Waste Services who will work with the community to provide a high-quality public environment.

The Warden Service restructure came into effect from 1 July 2020. Wardens now have specific roles as Animal, Waste, Enforcement and Engagement Wardens.

Animal Wardens

In Q1 the three animal wardens have planned roadshows which were to commence in June but have been pushed back to July onwards due to Covid19 restrictions.

Workload for the Animal Wardens in Q1, can be broken down as follows:

- Total number of service requests = 294.
- Number of stray dogs reported = 85.
- Number of dogs placed in foster care = 2.
- Number of dogs adopted = 4.
- Number of foster applications received = 7.
- Number of dogs microchipped = 2.
- There has been a total of 14 donations to the Stray dog fund totalling £174.
- The wardens created a newsletter with two editions now live. The First Newsletter came out on 21 April 2021 and the second on 14 June 2021.

Waste Wardens

In Q1 the two waste wardens have focused on street cleansing service requests and supporting the Monitoring officers with complaint investigation and follow up monitoring. Additional tasks include:

- Proactive monitoring – a monthly schedule of targeted monitoring to identify gaps in mechanical street cleansing rounds (sweepers) recorded on Confirm.
- Street Cleansing Quality Inspection – 100 inspections per month have been completed as part of the scheduled annual NI 195 inspection programme. The NI 195 inspection ensure Medway Norse are cleansing to a good standard. 96% of an A-B grade was achieved.
- Weekly High Street Inspection continued following the reopening of the Hospitality sector in April.
- Investigate "street not clean" service requests raised by residents which they investigate and resolve with Medway Norse and the customer.
- Assisted Collection service requests are set up by waste wardens (following either telephone consultation and/or a socially distanced site visit).

Enforcement and Engagement Wardens

In Q1 the three engagement wardens have been able to start engaging with the public at roadshows and events as Covid19 restrictions lift nationally. Key deliverables include:

- Organising the Great British Spring Clean (31 litter picks, including over 300 bags of litter).

- Written to 1,600 residents regarding refuse out early, fly-tipping, contaminated recycling and community clean ups.
- Continued the Gillingham North "Safer streets" recycling behaviour change project (survey postcard and letter drops).
- Attended two Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings.
- Completed a micro recycling behaviour change intervention in Strood.
- Organised and attended three recycling roadshows.
- Waste collection and disposal – recycling 'bring site' monitoring, assisted the waste disposal team by managing the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) booking cancellations and authorising and amending van bookings.
- Emergency planning – assisted the emergency planning team with a power outage in Luton Road, Chatham (liaised with the electricity supplier, residents and local businesses).

Programme: Climate change

Council Plan Projects

Climate change emergency

A 'Climate Change Emergency Motion' was declared by Full Council on 25 April 2019. The first carbon emissions baseline assessment (2018/19) was finalised in Q1, and the Climate Change Action Plan approved by Cabinet on 8 June.

Two subgroups have been set up to take the action plan forward; these include PA9 Low Carbon Business Support and PA10 Communications. Subgroups for each of the remaining priority areas will be set up in early Q2.

Work is progressing on a simplified digital version of the action plan which will be published in Q2. Climate Change is now included on the council's homepage via the Our Services button and features prominently on the Environment pages. The climate change webpages continue to be updated with details of current projects, the newly endorsed climate change action plan and has a link to enable visitors to sign up to the climate change newsletter.

Council Plan Programme: Air Quality

Council Plan Project - To co-ordinate and monitor delivery of actions contained within the Council's Air Quality Action Plan

Drive the Air Quality Action Plan forward to effect improvement in Air Quality across Medway

Air Quality Monitoring

The team continued to maintain the air quality monitoring network to carry out calibrations, attend to call outs and change diffusion tubes. This has helped to maintain high levels of data capture across our monitoring sites.

Air Quality Communications Strategy

The Environmental Protection team previously supported a bid to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Air Quality Grant Programme made by Canterbury City Council for an air quality education project. DEFRA confirmed in Q1 that the application was successful.

The award is for a project to develop an educational digital resource to be used in primary schools across Kent, to raise awareness about air quality and hopefully to promote behaviour change amongst children and their parents. The resource will include an interactive story book and gaming elements including earning rewards and unlocking further information.

Clean Air Day

National Clean Air Day took place on 17 June 2021.

The team worked with the Communications team and collaborated with other colleagues at Kent district councils, including Kent County Council and Medway Maritime Hospital to carry out a range of awareness raising activities including:

- Using social media channels to encourage people to take part.
- Circulating internal and external communications via newsletters/stakeholder to distribution lists etc. encouraging participation.
- Promoting the all new KentAir website and encouraged signing up to the free air pollution forecast service.
- Running a competition which included a prize for a £200 cycle voucher sponsored by VolkerHighways.
- Using a series of messages on the variable message signs in Medway.

48 posts went out across five social media channels (including Climate Change Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) reaching 356,000 people.

New educational resources

Following the launch of an educational video detailing the importance of air quality, the problems of pollution and solutions for improving air quality within Medway, the team has released an accompanying student pack to provide a more detailed overview of air quality and complement the animated video.

The pack provides detailed information, interesting facts and statistics on air quality. It has several fun and informative activities for the children to participate in, building their understanding on what is in the air around us and how to improve air quality in their day-to-day lives. The pack is divided into distinct sections which can be used in the classroom at the teacher's discretion. These sections include an overview of the importance of clean air, the health problems associated with poor air quality, a history of air pollution, and how we as a community can improve the quality of air we breathe.

The new resources have been sent to all schools in Medway.

Taxi and Private Hire project

Further analysis has been carried by the Energy Savings Trust on the taxi and private hire engagement exercise which included separating out data for Medway and Gravesham areas. The final report has been shared with the Air Quality Steering Group, and officers leading on the Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Strategy to inform their future work.

Kent & Medway Air Quality Monitoring Network

Following a procurement exercise (led by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council), a contractor has been appointed to run the monitoring network for a period of three years (from April 2021) with an option for two one-year extensions.

The new contract includes the provision of a brand-new public facing website (KentAir) which will be critically important to ongoing work the team carry out on awareness raising of air pollution. The new website will contain near real time information on current air pollution levels, continuation of the free air pollution forecast service, a range of tools, reports, additional information and a refreshed and rebranded educational tool kit (Care for Air). The new website will be going live on 1 April 2022.

The website redesign is being led by a member of the Environment Protection team on behalf of all the partner authorities.

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, and to establish contacts, and introduce key groups such as the Medway Arts Forum, the Diversity Arts Network, and Medway Cultural Diversity Forum.

The council have completed the following actions:

- Provided knowledge, performance and partnership information to the bid team.

- Exploited its wide range of internal and external contacts and are using these networks to raise the profile of this bid.
- Acted as an advocate for the CoC bid and connected it wherever possible to other projects, programmes and areas of work such as Theatre 31 and Light Nights.
- The CoC is referenced regularly in submitted funding applications and all new partnership projects are encouraged to back the bid by displaying the logo on their publicity and communications.
- The summer events programme and Castle Concert's will be branded CoC and support this innovative partnership development.
- Facilitated a council wide ideas workshop to build the energy and support of all teams.
- Developed innovative packages of support for the creative community including professional rehearsal packages, business support and potential Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) schemes.
- The Head of Service for Libraries and Culture, and the Culture Development Manager regularly meet with the Bid Director and sit as observers on the Board of Trustees.

Supporting Medway Cultural Partnership to produce a new cultural strategy

Creative Medway Compact is at the core of Medway's new cultural strategy and responsible for driving the strategic ambition, the overall delivery and being a strong advocate for Medway's culture. It is made up of the Champions from the five Working Groups and key partners from interconnected sectors: education; business; voluntary; health and wellbeing; and, local authority.

The Creative Medway Compact inaugural meeting was held on 22 April 2021 and from this the series of Working Group meetings were held across June and July leading to the next Compact meeting on 15 July. Action plans are being formed by each Working Group and these will be ready by autumn 2021. A large public Open Space meeting is being planned for October 2021 that will launch the action plans.

The Culture Team finalised and submitted an Arts Council England application to support the Compact in its first year, paying for the time of non-salaried freelancers and representatives of small organisations, and providing resource to enhance public engagement with the new strategy.

Successful outdoor events programme

Due to Covid19 the normal spring and summer annual festivals and events programme has been cancelled for 2021.

Rochester Castle Concerts are being delivered by AGMP for the first time. The concerts were due to take place in July but due to the lifting of pandemic restrictions being delayed by the government the concerts have been rescheduled to take place on 16, 17 and 18 September. Plans have been approved by the Medway Outdoor Events Safety Advisory Group. Discussion is underway to confirm dates for 2022.

Funding has been agreed and plans are well on their way to support a series of partnership events celebrating our heritage and communities. These events are:

- **Draw Hope** – 22 May to 13 June, Chatham Waterfront in partnership with Estuary Festival 21.
- **Festival at the Fort** – 14 and 15 August, Fort Amherst in partnership with Mid-Kent College, Glassbox Theatre and Fort Amherst Trust.
- **Electric Medway** – 21 to 31 August, Live and online across Medway in partnership with Sparked Echo and supported by Arts Council England.
- **Medway Festival of Literature** – 21 to 28 August, Across Medway in partnership with Medway Libraries.
- **Medway Pride** – 21 August, Rochester Riverside; Doust Way, Rochester in partnership with Medway Pride Community Interest Company (CIC) and supported by Countryside and Hyde Housing.
- **Gillingham POW!** – 28 August to 31 October, Gillingham High Street in partnership with Medway artists Wendy Dawes and Mark Barnes.
- **Welcome to Cloisterham** – 30 August, Rochester Castle Gardens in partnership with Wordsmithery.
- **Festival of Chatham Reach** – 18 and 19 September, The River Medway and Sun Pier House in partnership with Sun Pier House and Tiller and Wheel.
- **Medway Pavilion – TOGETHER** – 24 September to 10 October, Chatham Riverside in partnership with Lucid Creates and co-commissioned with Culture Liverpool.
- **Medway Fun Palace** – 2 October, Chatham Town Centre in partnership with Nucleus Arts.

All relevant events are being supported by the Events team and plans being reviewed by the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) to ensure they are meeting current government Covid19 guidelines.

Medway brand recognition

The Medway Rapture Gaming and Creative Festival was held on 3 and 4 July at the Dockyard. The event was an amazing success, attracting 3,000 visitors to the festival.

This event was a 'taster' event considering the pandemic and current restrictions, with a larger full scoped event being planned for 2022.

Fragers Limited, the Gaming company, delivered a safe event and worked with several local partners and organisations across Medway to put on this amazing offer in Medway.

Cultural Consortium for Heritage Creative Quarter (Heritage Action Zone)

A new cultural consortium has been established and a Facilitator has been appointed.

The Culture team continues to support the Cultural Consortium by connecting them wherever possible with other projects and partners locally where working together might be mutually beneficial. Partnerships negotiated include Medway Open Studios,

Medway Print Festival, Ebb & Flow Festival, Medway Pride, Heritage Open Day events, and The Festival of Chatham Reach. Negotiations are underway for a partnership large-scale commission with Theatre31 on the High Streets Heritage Action Zone's (HSHAZ) footprint.

Cultural pilot bid and Cultural Programme bid (Heritage Action Zone)

Support continues for the delivery of an £80,000 Historic England funded cultural engagement programme which will be led by the High Streets Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) Cultural Consortium and delivered in partnership with other projects and organisations locally up until end of 2022.

Six micro-commissions were delivered this quarter as a result of an initial £10,000 pilot project funded by Historic England. These included a local history research project about St Bart's, a printing and archive project for Holocaust Memorial Day and LGBTQIA+ History Month, an interactive poetry trail, window installations, the launch of a radio station and an environmental project resulting in artworks made of plastics collected from the river.

Plans have been made this quarter for the Medway African and Caribbean Association to develop a short play about an imagined conversation between Charles Dickens and William Cuffay. Both of whom saw the 150th anniversary of their death in 2020, and lived in and frequented Medway. Live performances will be available to enjoy as part of Heritage Open Days in September, both in the Old High Street Intra (HSHAZ) and Chatham Historic Dockyard where a commemorative plaque has been installed for William, and his father Chatham, Cuffay. In addition, a cultural open day is being planned with the synagogue for Heritage Open Days.

Work with partners to bring forward the Docking Station project

In early 2019 the University of Kent was awarded £4.3m (total project cost £6.7m) on behalf of a consortium of public sector and cultural organisations, working together to support the delivery of the Thames Estuary Production Corridor (TEPC). They include the South East Local Enterprise Partnership, Kent and Essex County Councils, the Greater London Authority, 11 local authority areas and Opportunity South Essex, South East Creative Economy Network (SECEN), University of Kent, University of Essex, Locate in Kent and cultural organisations Metal, and Cement Fields.

The ambition is simple: to transform 60 miles of the Thames Estuary across Essex and Kent unlocking its potential as an international production hub and a collaborative, inspirational space for a new generation of creative talent.

The project is broken down into a series of features detailed below:

1. **Estuary 2021** – 22 May – 13 June 2021. This large-scale arts festival is curated in response to the spectacular Thames Estuary and the lives, landscapes and histories found there. Taking place over 23 days, the mix of large scale and intimate visual art, literature, music, and film celebrates culture, creativity, recovery and renewal. Alongside an online discussion and events programme, the physical programme will explore and respond to

powerful themes resonant to the Estuary, from the climate, to rebellion and imperial legacy.

Re-framed in light of Covid19, the festival invites visitors to take an epic walk along the stunning coastline of South Essex and North Kent encountering contemporary artworks and performance within the estuary landscape, historic sites and coastal towns.

- Draw Hope by Bob and Roberta Smith outside Chatham Community Hub.
- No Ordinary Protest by Mikhail Karikis at St Mary's Church in Higham.
- In the Mouth of the River: Water, Empire & Rebellion by Hafsah Aneela Bashir, Leo Boix, Dzifa Benson, Kayo Chingonyi, Sasha Dugdale, Mimi Khalvati, Yomi Sode at St James' Church, Cooling.
- Our Time – Rochester by Martin Coates at The Guildhall Museum, Rochester.
- Grain by Phil Coy at the Historic Dockyard.
- Escaping with Magwitch by Carol Donaldson and Stephen Turner at Riverside Country Park.
- The Water Replies by Selina Nwulu and Caroline Bird in Chatham and Rochester Libraries.

The launch was covered by BBC South East and ITV Meridian.

2. **Creative Estuary Co-commissions** – Support to develop the commissioning and producing capacity of cultural organisation across the estuary, from small scale grassroots commissions for emerging artists to large scale commissions. Round one of commissioning included Ebb & Flow Festival delivered by Intra Arts and Sun Pier House celebrating Intra and the Heritage High Street Action Zone.
3. **Estuary Place Promotion** – To develop a distinctive and consistent cultural identity for Creative Estuary. The Place Manager at Medway Council is a member of the Place Branding Steering Group ensuring that Medway's voice and needs are well represented.
4. **Creative Asset Development** – Learning from international best practice such as Artscape, Toronto and Isle de Nantes we will develop a strategic model to identify and pool local authority assets to provide space for cultural production. This includes undertaking feasibility studies for a new creative digital hub, The Docking Station, a partnership project between Medway Council, Chatham Historic Dockyard and the University of Kent.
5. **Cultural Co-location** – Demonstrate new practice in the role that arts and culture can play in planning and placemaking. Two Cultural Co-Location Pilots are planned in Ebbsfleet and Purfleet.
6. **RE: Generation 2031** – Develop a collective solution to challenges of delivering sector-led training and apprenticeships supporting a new generation of cultural leaders for the Estuary. RE: Generation 2031 are a partner in Medway's new Young Producers programme.
7. **Ideas Labs and Leaders** – Through a series of innovation labs led by the University of Kent and University of Essex we will bring together entrepreneurs, technologists, academics, students and leading professionals from sectors such as health/social care/ageing addressing contemporary estuary issues.

Child Friendly City

We have begun our journey to become a Child-Friendly City. As a starting place we are consulting young people to better understand the wants and needs, aims and goals of the project.

As a first step we launched a survey in April to ask young people about their likes, dislikes, worries, fears, and ideas on how to make Medway a child-friendly city. The survey was a huge success with over 3,500 responses from young people. We have started to see some emerging themes, and as a next step in our consultation we are now running focus groups to better understand why these are core themes.

We also participated in the Rapture Gaming Festival, and as part of our display we had post boxes designed by home school students and young people from local nurseries, schools, youth centres, libraries, and various youth groups such as Scouts, Girl Guides, Nucleus Art Clubs, and Club AUsome. These are now on display at the Pentagon Shopping Centre, Chatham.

At the event we also ran a two-part consultation with young people on safety (for Kent Police – to support a safer streets funding bid) and postcard feedback asking young people how to make Medway more Child-Friendly. We had very positive feedback about this engagement piece and received hundreds of responses from young people. A golden thread that is coming out of all the work we are doing is young people like being consulted about Child-Friendly and where they live. They also want to be involved.

The Child-Friendly vision and action plan will be launching in 2022, following working groups with young people in the autumn to determine key priorities.

We have developed Child-Friendly City pillars/workstreams that support young people to have an equal chance to participate, thrive and reach their potential. We have identified the following pillars: Climate Change; Environment and Green Spaces; Health and Wellbeing; Safety; Support and Social Services; Youth Participation; Community Spaces; Events; The United Nations (UN) Right of the Child; Education, Employment and Training opportunities. These pillars are built into the Child-Friendly Road Show presentation as a workstream pillar for supporting young people in Medway. By identifying these pillars early, we have been able to help various internal and external partners to see how they fit in as part of the delivery and responsibility to support this initiative.

Q2 – Next Steps:

- The 'Seeing is Believing' initiative launched in July with Free Drop-In Football in six parks across Medway, and running between 17 July and 4 September for ages 4-16 years old.
- Launching the City Hall initiative. Our goal with this project is to create a community of young people, and platforms for young people to have a voice and be involved in supporting the direction and delivery of the project.

- Over the autumn this is a critical planning time for Child Friendly Medway to determine the vision and action plan to launch the brand in 2022.

Successful delivery of Theatre31

A £1m Arts Council funded youth theatre and performance project is running across Medway and Sheppey until autumn 2022.

Planned delivery has continued to be affected by Covid19 but where possible has transferred to online/digital, often with surprising ease and success. This has included viewing professional theatre productions online, and also workshops, tutorials, masterclasses and youth panel meetings. This has also included Tropical Tours – a drama project delivered by Zoom to primary schools, enabling the children to learn new drama skills in their bubbles and helping them and their teachers to film footage which is then edited into a short digital play by Icon Theatre and sent back to the school. So far eight schools and more than 500 children have taken part.

This quarter has been spent planning the first live, in-person activities in over a year. This will commence with open-air Drama Taster Days and Play in a Day projects in local parks over the summer holidays. School assembly visits and theatre shows in playgrounds have also been offered this quarter. It is hoped that these outreach efforts will introduce more young people to Theatre31 and encourage them to sign up for the Theatre Bases (weekly youth theatre clubs) when they start up again in September.

Following an open-call, two digital projects were 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. Both are currently underway.

The 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 signed up for this.

Icon Theatre have made good progress in developing links with the Light Nights event, High Streets Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) Cultural Consortium, Electric Medway, and the Prison Service, building elements of Theatre31 delivery into partnership with these other projects.

We have fallen behind schedule for funding drawdowns from Arts Council England (ACE). ACE have therefore agreed to us drawing down a large lump sum of multiple instalments at once to bring us back on schedule.

After reviewing it is now not considered possible to deliver everything on the delivery plan by the original end date (end June 2022). As a result of the knock-on effect and delays due to Covid19, it is necessary to continue some elements of delivery to October 2022. This will involve three members of Theatre31 staff team working for an additional four months. There is sufficient contingency within the budget to cover the cost of this.

Despite the challenges of Covid19, the project is performing well and has surpassed some of the key performance indicators (KPIs) for the total two-year project in year one alone.

Dissemination of Medway 2035 and implementation of the Regeneration Delivery Plan

Medway 2035 continues to form a strong strategy base for funding applications and has been drawn upon in all of Medway's recently submitted Levelling-Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund submissions. Its revision – to reflect significant changes since its adoption in December 2018 (Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) award, climate change emergency declaration, City of Culture bid, Brexit, Covid19, child-friendly city commitment, and so on) – will commence in Q3.

Drive the success of the Medway Champions programme signing up new champions, encouraging use of the place branding and support for Medway PR initiatives

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.

The Medway champions scheme has used social media in order to raise their profile and attract additional members to the group. 12 new members were attracted with this campaign increasing champion numbers to 212.

The council have worked in partnership on a regional campaign to promote the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) grants and Medway for Business wider services to our business landscape. The campaign went live on 16 June.

The champions met over Zoom in May with an audience of 58. This is the largest audience since launch in November 2018.

Guest speakers were:

- Healthy Medway – Public Health.
- Medway Local Plan - Medway Council Planning team.
- Climate Change - Medway Council Climate Change team.

The Champions meeting on 15 July was the last one before restrictions lifted from 19 July. It included presentations on Child Friendly Medway and an update about Medway's bid for City Status. Around 60 people attended the Zoom meeting. The next meeting in September is likely to take a hybrid approach.

The September meeting will be a "hybrid" event at the Fire Station Brasserie for a later afternoon/early evening with canapes and drinks to celebrate the past year. The event will also be streamed online if some of our champions prefer to still not meet in public.

Partners Meetings:

- Dragon Co-working – May.

- Cene Magazine- June.
- City Fest – July.

Social media platforms are all performing with increased engagement and followers considering that the growth is totally organic. The increase ranges from 6% on Instagram to 26% on Facebook.

Attendance at virtual events to promote Medway and our Place project:

- The South East Creative Economy Network (SECEN) meeting.
- Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce networking event.
- The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) networking event.
- Rochester Riverside Community Board.

The council has employed a fundraiser for six months to help with its funding needs for Place and City of Culture.

The ambassadors have been actively involved with the City of Culture bid, were interviewed on BBC Radio Kent, and involved in the launch on the river boat as well as attended the Bidding Cities Conference in Coventry on 1 and 2 July. They are an integral part of the bid team being the Co-chair of the MarkComm group.

Recruit stakeholder support for Medway on the Map

Due to government restrictions in place as part of Covid19 and communications priority being focused still on our Covid19 response and recovery, our work to recruit stakeholder support has had to take a lower priority this quarter. However, we have been supporting our colleagues working on the City of Culture bid as this is one of the highest priorities for Medway at the time being and we promoted the launch heavily through our communications channels. We played an active part in the promotion of the Estuary Festival which attracted national coverage as well as the Rainbow Effect.

We have led the recruitment of two excellent Public Relations (PR) companies who will support us in our communications for the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) and City of Culture bid over the coming year.

We have also been keeping stakeholders up-to-date on developments in Medway through email communications and newsletters.

With more projects taking shape over the summer and into the autumn including HIF, Innovation Park Medway (IPM), City Status bid etc. we will undoubtedly be ramping up this work over the next few months.

Programme: Put Medway on the map as a smart and sustainable waterfront University City for the 21st century and an attractive place to live, work, learn and visit

Successful transition of the existing Cultural Partnership to a Cultural Compact

Creative Medway is a bold vision that speaks to Medway's broadest aspirations to put culture centre stage. This ten-year Medway-wide community partnership strategy is a shared ambition, built on extensive engagement, demonstrating how important culture is to Medway's future.

This pioneering partnership model establishes a new cultural strategy and Compact that in the short-term shapes opinions and behaviours and in the long-term positively transforms Medway.

For Medway Council this partnership embeds culture within our priorities, developing a consistent cross-council approach. It provides a collaborative framework that secures Medway's cultural and creative landscape for present and future generations.

The governance and delivery model for the strategy is called 'Creative Medway'. This independent partnership is made of three components: Compact; Working Groups; and Congress. They are all open to everyone to participate in at a level and to a degree which suits them best.

Creative Medway Compact is at the core, responsible for driving the strategic ambition, the overall delivery and being a strong advocate for Medway's culture. It is made up of the Champions from the five Working Groups and key partners from the interconnected sectors that are education, business, voluntary, health and wellbeing and local authority.

The Creative Medway Compact inaugural meeting was held on 22 April 2021 and from this the series of Working Group meetings were held this June and July leading to the next Compact meeting on 15 July. Action plans are being formed by each Working Group and these will be ready by autumn 2021. A large public Open Space meeting is being planned for October 2021 that will launch the action plans.

This quarter the Culture team has reached out to ensure each Theme Group is able to access support from us when they need this. The Culture team has attended the inaugural Compact meeting and the first of the Theme Group meetings.

The Culture team finalised and submitted an Arts Council application to support the Compact in its first year, paying for the time of non-salaried freelancers and representatives of small organisations, and providing some resources to begin public engagement with the new strategy.

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 Covid19 secure programme for 2021/22 and with learning for this new approach a costed options paper will be presented to Directorate Management Team (DMT) in September.

Programme: 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 & Internet of Things (IoT) Sensor Network.
- Living Labs.
- Smart Buildings.
- Smart Tourism: Embracing smart technology to enhance Medway's UK City of Culture Bid 2025.

Smart Growth

- Clean Growth.
- Digital Connectivity.
- Transport Innovation.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled Transport Management.
- Smart Parking & Kerbside Management.
- MaaS: Mobility as a Service.
- Digital Twin.

The emerging Smart City Strategy is in development but will be subject to internal and external stakeholder consultation. As part of the consultation process, a final draft is due to be presented to Transformation Board in September 2021.

Prosecutions and Sanctions

FPNs ISSUED	2019/20					2020/21					2021/22				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YEAR TOTAL	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YEAR TOTAL	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YEAR TO DATE
FLYTIPPING	1	5	8	5	19	3	10	4	8	25	10				10
FAILURE TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTS								3		3	32				32
SCRAP METAL															
LITTER	19	12	6	1	38	5	8	4	6	23	13				13
TRADE WASTE		4	1	1	6										
FLY POSTING															
SMOKE FREE	2				2										
BREACH OF A COMMUNITY PROTECTION NOTICE	1	2	3	1	7		3	1	2	6	1				1
UNLICENSED WASTE CARRIER		1			1			1		1					
HOUSEHOLDER DUTY OF CARE						3	4		2	9	3				3
COMMERCIAL DUTY OF CARE							3		1	4					
TOTAL	23	24	18	8	73	11	28	13	19	71	59				59

District Enforcement

DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT ISSUED FPNS	Q3 19/20	Q4 19/20	Q1 20/21	Q2 20/21	Q3 20/21	Q4 20/21	Q1 21/22
LITTER	1,386	899	157	2,236	2,054	1,624	1,532
DOG FOULING	11	9		1		1	3
DOGS ON LEAD	1	1		1			1
TOTAL	1,398	909	157	2,238	2,054	1,625	1,536

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	2019/20					2020/21					2021/22				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YEAR TOTAL	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YEAR TOTAL	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YEAR TO DATE
FLY TIPPING		2		1	3		1		1	2	2				2
DUTY OF CARE FOR WASTE	1			1	2				1	1	2				2
LITTER	1				1						1				1
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH S108 NOTICE	4	1		5	10				2	2	1				1
UNTIDY LAND		1			1						1				1
VEHICLE SALES/REPAIR															
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CPN		1	1		2										
UNREGISTERED WASTE/SCRAP	1	1	1	2	5				7	7					
SMOKE FREE			1		1										
TOTAL	7	6	3	9	25		1		11	12	7				7

REPORTED IN PENTANA			2		24					9					
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Enforcement Actions due to Covid19

Quarter	Actions	Key Legislation
Q4 2020/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issued 11 Formal prohibition notices. • Voluntarily closed 74 non-compliant premises. • Engaged and visited 5,779 commercial premises. • Issued three Internet take down notices for prohibited businesses. • Issued two fixed penalty notices. 	<p>The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Collection of Contact Details etc. and Related Requirements) Regulations 2020,</p> <p>The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions (All Tiers) (England)) Regulations 2020 &</p> <p>The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions (Steps) (England)) Regulations 2021</p>
Q1 2021/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issued zero Formal prohibition notices. • Voluntarily closed 15 non-compliant premises. • Engaged and visited 3,412 commercial premises. • Issued zero Internet take down notices for prohibited businesses. 	<p>The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions (All Tiers) (England)) Regulations 2020 &</p> <p>The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions (Steps) (England)) Regulations 2021</p>

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 end of quarter 1 of 2021/22 effectively sees the suspension the government's prescriptive regulations with traders being encouraged to adopt non-statutory guidance to ensure Covid19 safety. This in turn led to the Trading Standards team withdrawing from its rolling programme of inspections. This action is reflected nationally in the suspension of reporting weekly data to the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS). It should therefore be noted that if this obligation to supply this data continues future quarters may well see no substantive activity.