

# Council Priority: PLACE

## Medway: A place to be proud of

### REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING

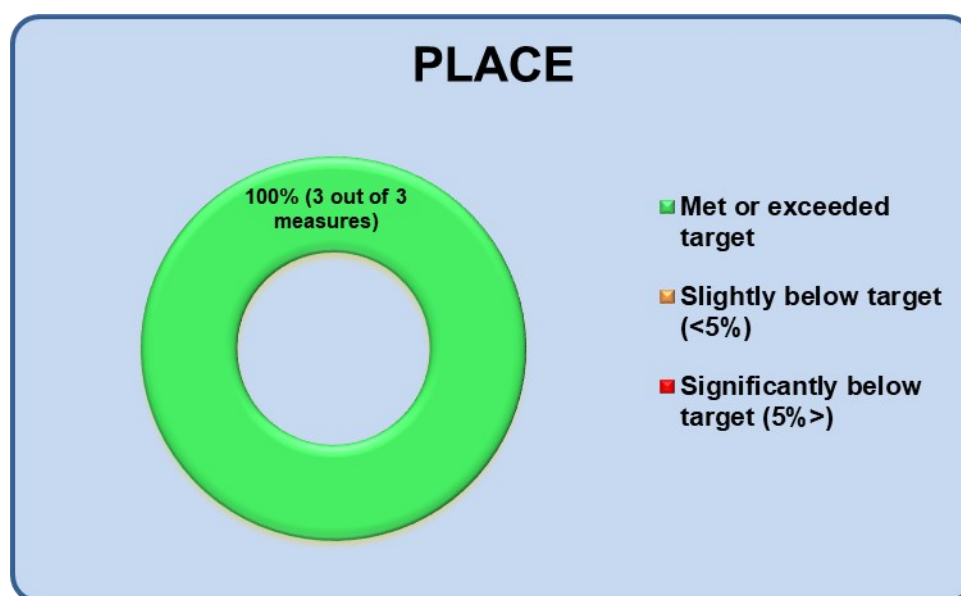
## Performance: Quarter 2 2021/22

#### 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

- 0% (0 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	DET	DET
NI 195a	Green	Improved street and environmental cleanliness: Litter	DET	DET
W6 CP	Green	Satisfaction with refuse collection - Citizens Panel result	STATIC	DET

## Strategic Risks

The quarter 2 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	10	Climate Change	Assistant Director 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
SR03B	18	Finances	Chief Finance Officer	AI	L – very high I – catastrophic
SR46	24	Medway's Economic Recovery from Covid19	Assistant Director Regeneration	BII	L – high I – major
SR32	32	Data and information	Chief Finance Officer,	CII	L – significant I – major

Reference	Risk Register Page (app 3)	Risk	Owner	Current residual risk score	L – Likelihood I – Impact
			Director of People		
SR36	37	Alternative service delivery models	Assistant Director Regeneration, Chief Finance Officer	BIII	L – high I – moderate
SR37	43	Cyber Security	Chief Finance Officer	CI	L – significant I – catastrophic
SR02	51	Business continuity and emergency planning	Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer	DII	L – low I – major
SR49	60	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
Q2 2021/22	75%	78%	<b>Green</b>	Maximise	DET	DET

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Short Trend	Long Trend
Q1 2021/22	75%	80.4%	<b>Green</b>	Maximise	IMP	DET

### Actions

There are various projects in the Greenspace Development 21-22 programme including:

- Section 106 play improvements at Cliffe Woods – completed July 2021.
- Section 106 play improvements at Perry Street & Chalk Pit Open Space – completed July 2021.
- Priority Play Capital Programme – refurbishment works at seven play areas in 2021/22 including Crestway, Iona Walk, Whimbrel Walk, Low Meadow, Hamilton Road, Lamplighter Close and Borstal Recreation Ground. Currently awaiting tender award approval in late October 2021. Works expected to be on the ground in spring 2022.
- Town Hall Gardens (Section 106) improvements – pre-application advice in progress with Planning. This will inform what improvements can take place at the site. Estimate of completion April 2022.
- Cockham Community Parkland (Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF)) – approved at planning committee in July 2021. Construction due to start summer 2022. Completion end of 2023.
- Berengrave Nature Reserve (s106 improvements) – step/access improvements completed March 2021. New entrance/interpretation signs due autumn 2021. Boardwalk route options are being reviewed and will consult ward councillors following this (October 2021).
- Park Welcome Signs – working with the Communications team on updating sites which have no signs or are out of date with new corporate branding. Design currently in progress.

### Green Flag Award:

- Judging/mystery shop visits completed at all eight sites and announcement that all 8 sites received Green Flag Awards in October 2021. Due to Covid19 restrictions sites which would have had a full judging visit this year: The Vines, Hillyfields, Gillingham Park, Riverside and Capstone were allocated to a judge, and received a review/written report of the management plan and a mystery shop visit and report following their visit (May - July 2021). Mystery Shop sites: Broomhill, Great Lines and Ranscombe Farm. Judges visited these sites in July-September 2021.
- Management Plans are being reviewed with the Norse ranger team and will be updated later this year for Capstone and Riverside Country Parks.
- Various improvements in progress as part of the action plans for all sites.
- Summer events have taken place in the five urban parks including wildlife days, bat walks etc.

Other improvement projects this financial year are at various stages including Northcote Recreation Ground (new benches and bollards), Rede Common (working with Friends group on prioritising improvements), The Vines (footpath refurbishment), Cherry Trees (consultation on improvements) and Great Lines Heritage Park (footpath refurbishment).

**NI 195a Improved street and environmental cleanliness: Litter**

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Short Trend	Long Trend
Q2 2021/22	96.00%	96.00%	<b>Green</b>	Maximise	DET	DET
Q1 2021/22	96.00%	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; footbridges, and subways.

During Q2, 96% 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 cleanse 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 221 deposits on public highways. All were removed within one working day. Evidence was retrieved in 44 cases and were referred to Environmental Enforcement Officers for further investigation. The team also attended to other reports that did not require action including 45 fly tips on private land.

During Q2, 13 Environmental Crime cases were prosecuted at Medway Magistrates Court, and fines and costs totalled £2,450. There are three cases with legal pending prosecutions.

During the quarter, the team conducted five operations alongside Kent Police that resulted in 38 vehicles being stopped and searched.

92 Community Protection warnings have been issued. These warnings are a quick and effective way to deal with Antisocial Behaviour (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 the appendix.

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

Quarter	Target	Value	Status	Aim to	Short Trend	Long Trend
Q2 2021/22	85%	87%	Green	Maximise	STATIC	DET
Q1 2021/22	85%	87%	Green	Maximise	DET	DET

### Council Plan Projects

#### Deliver Future High Streets Funds submissions

The High Streets Heritage Action Zone bid aims 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 a £9.5m Future High Street Fund investment for Chatham town centre.

The main areas the funds will address are:

- 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 continues at pace across all the projects covered by Future High Street Funding and is currently on programme. In summary:

- Public realm improvements from The Brook Theatre to the Pentagon Centre, including The Paddock: The design work is now complete and works to remove the bus ramp are underway. The public realm improvements are still being designed in conjunction with Planning officers and is progressing very positively.
- A new Innovation Hub located within the Pentagon – The detailed design has commenced following a detailed demand study that was completed last month. This study informs exactly what the specific requirements are for this unit and how these requirements influence the design is being captured by the design team. The detailed design is expected to take approximately six months before procurement of a contractor can commence.
- The Brook Theatre – funds toward the redecoration, improved facilities, and useable workspace: Other funding streams are being considered in conjunction with the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF), with a view to

delivering wider improvements across the Brook. The scope of works to be delivered by FHSF has now been refined and contractor procurement is expected to commence early next year.

- 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: Detailed design has commenced. Meetings with planning, conservation groups and heritage groups are ongoing to ensure a compliant design and planning submission.

### 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.

In September, the project team collaborated with Sun Pier House and local heritage sites for the Heritage Open Days weekends offering the public opportunities to find out more about their hidden local heritage in locations that are not normally accessible to the public. As part of the Cultural Programme and Community Engagement Programme, funding was contributed to Medway Pride and Festival of Chatham Reach, including funding for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) history walks, a community art wall and maritime history activities.

Opportunities for engagement with students and young people will start in Q3, with a focus on education and skills development.

The team have met with local property owners to discuss potential building repairs and opportunities for bringing vacant floorspace back into use. Several potential Revitalise and Repair grants are currently being scoped with capital works due to commence later this year.

## 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 includes:

- 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 including as a block programme of work there are benefits from 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 Technologies that will support the council's ambitions to be a Smart City.

During Q2 the rollout of the scheme has continued, with lantern replacement increasing in line with the programme and to date:

- 3,375 columns have been replaced (72% completion rate).
- 11,681 lanterns have been upgraded (50% completion rate).
- Lighting designs are being agreed and options for conservation and non-standard lanterns has commenced so that prices can be obtained from a variety of providers and the right lantern at the right price agreed for this workstream. This is to bring both an appropriate, but consistent approach to these lanterns.
- Ongoing programme of publicity updates on the 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**

During Q2:

- Total number of service requests for the Animal Warden Service = 219.
- Number of stray dogs reported = 92.
- Number of dogs placed in foster care = 5.
- Number of dogs adopted = 3.
- Number of foster applications received = 30.
- Dogs to rescue = 0.



- Cases requiring assistance from Police Dog Legislation Officer = 3.
- Number of dogs microchipped = 2.
- Number of notices served for non-compliance of Microchipping regulations = 4.
- Community Protection Warnings served = 0.

### **Responsible dog ownership**

The Animal Warden service has led in the planning and organisation of responsible dog ownership roadshow events through the summer, whereby the Environmental Protection, Engagement and Community Safety teams have also attended. Battersea Cats and Dogs Home and 'Friends of' groups have participated in some of the events.

During the events, the Animal Wardens have been on hand to offer advice and promote responsible dog ownership in the area. Free dog microchipping and free chip checks were undertaken to help ensure that owner details are kept up-to-date.

Education for children on how to interact safely around dogs was also provided using the Kennel Club's Safe and Sound Scheme. This is an interactive game children can play and they can answer scenario-based questions on the subject.

The following events have taken place during Q2, with additional events scheduled in Q3:

- 23rd July 2021 – Gillingham Park.
- 29th July 2021 – Broomhill Park.
- 2nd August 2021 – Capstone Country Park.
- 17th August 2021 – Riverside Country Park.
- 1st September 2021 – Great Lines Recreation Ground.
- 16th September 2021 – The Vines Recreation Ground.

The team have also attended local fun days organised by Housing Associations and Resident Associations. They were present on 11 September at Copperfields Recreation Ground and 26 September at Capstone Country Park and offered microchipping and responsible dog ownership advice.

The team are also working on the fourth edition of our newsletter and have also submitted our Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) pawprint award application. The criteria have changed this year and further evidence of the work the team are carrying out needed to be submitted.

The Medway Council Stray Dog page has nearly 11,000 followers and is regularly used to promote responsible dog ownership messages and national campaigns. It is also an excellent tool to help quickly reunite dogs with their owners. Within Q2 there have been 38 posts by the team. The team are also posting regular good news stories including unclaimed strays in their new homes. This has generated donations to the Stray Dog Fund which is used to help pay for dogs that come into the council's care.

### **Waste Wardens**

In Q2 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:

- Additional street cleansing monitoring completed for Strood North and Princes Park; 112 inspections completed in Princes Park and 167 Strood North. Issues identified logged in Confirm for Medway Norse to action outside Norse's scheduled workloads.
- 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 NI195 inspection programme. The NI 195 inspections ensure Medway Norse are cleansing to a good standard; 96% of an A/B grade was achieved.
- Increased monitoring of alleyways across Medway. Issues found, such as fly tipping, cleansings, and weeds were logged to Medway Norse to action and correct.
- 41 assisted collections were assessed and set up by Waste Wardens.
- 214 street not clean services requests were received and actioned by Waste Wardens.
- Monitoring of waste collections – 42 spillages were reported direct to Medway Norse to action and remove.
- Additional support from the Engagement Warden was provided in August and September for Street inspections and organic bin issues were raised by the crews.

### **Engagement Wardens**

The Engagement Wardens activities have increased through Q2 as we have been able to get involved more with the public and undertake roadshows and public engagement.

In Q2 the team have increased their partnership working, developing wider links with other teams to include:

- Waste collection and disposal: Wardens continue to undertake weekly 'bring site' visits, checking all areas where recycle bins are located (bottles, textiles, paper and books) to ensure that they have capacity, and the sites are clean. Any issues are reported on Confirm to Norse. The wardens also assist the Disposals team by managing the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) booking cancellations and authorising and amending van bookings.
- The Engagement Wardens have also taken turns to work with the Contracts Monitoring team to help with projects such as checking that the street cleansing was up to standard for the elections and alley inspections.
- Undertaken projects in Chattenden and Chatham to resolve issues around refuse storage and early presentation of waste.

The Engagement Wardens have been working alongside the Engagement and Recycling officers, undertaking jobs such as:

- Attended the eight 'Responsible dog ownership' events alongside the Animal Wardens promoting the Waste team and recycling services we provide.

- Undertaken the small electrical (WEEE) trial as part of Recycle Week and attended 14 locations to collect 63 items which has diverted them from landfill.
- Written to 481 residents in relation to issues such as refuse out early, fly-tipping, contaminated recycling in flats and community clean ups.
- Attended two Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings in Hoo and Chatham.
- Assisted with the delivery of food caddies.
- Promotional work, letter drops and projects such as recycling food waste, emergency communications and our climate change agenda.
- Contributing to social media content including food waste initiatives and litter picking campaigns.
- Developing and promoting their own eco-projects.
- The wardens have also attended the three Recycle Week events at the main shopping centres – Hempstead Valley, The Pentagon Centre and Dockside – and assisted the Engagement officers in speaking to residents and delivering supplies.

## Programme: Climate change

### Council Plan Projects

#### Climate change

A 'Climate Change Emergency Motion' was declared by Full Council on 25 April 2019 and the Climate Change Action Plan approved by Cabinet on 8 June 2021.

Key actions across all of the 11 priority areas include:

- Social value statement included in new tender documents over £100k.
- From 30 September, contracts for more than £5m will require evidence of carbon reduction plans.
- Local Plan policies and development frameworks, in support of the climate agenda, have continued to be drafted for inclusion in the Local Plan.
- The Planning Service are working with Neighbourhood Planning groups that are seeking to develop policies for sustainability for their local areas. The Climate Response team have responded to a consultation on the High Halstow Neighbourhood Plan.
- No significant flood events occurred in Q2 or were recorded on the Severe Weather Impact Monitoring System (SWIMS).
- The Climate Coalition awarded £1,500 to support an Electric Vehicle event held in the Rochester Castle Grounds in September 2021, to promote Great Big Green Week. The event was well attended and positively received. 34 charge points have been installed across three council owned car parks and are due to go live in early Q3.
- A total of eight Medway businesses have signed up to the Kent REVS (Realising Electric Van Scheme) which offers any Kent or Medway business the opportunity to try an electric van for two months for free.
- £232k has been allocated via the Capability Fund from the Department for Transport to support active travel initiatives, including the development of a

Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and delivery of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP).

- The Light-Emitting Diode (LED) Street lighting upgrade programme has continued: 3,375 columns have been replaced (72% completion rate) and 11,681 lanterns have been upgraded (50% completion rate).
- By the end of Q2, CityFibre have laid over 25,000m of fibre cable and ducting in four wards (Twydall, Rainham Central, Rainham South and Watling) passing over 4,200 premises.
- Of the 53 Medway households which accepted the Solar Together Kent offer, 16 have proceeded to the installation stage. The Medway conversion rate (28%) is higher than the overall Kent conversion rate of 24%.
- The final Heat Mapping and Masterplanning study report has now been issued to the council. The next step is to take it through the democratic process and for the findings and recommendations to be formally recognised.
- Medway Remakery has been launched by Medway Adult Education, running courses to share a wealth of expertise on mending, reusing, recycling and upcycling and reducing landfill waste.
- Medway Adult Education has been promoting a Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Climate Change and Environmental Awareness e-learning course.
- 21 Medway businesses have made a total of 72 environmental pledges against the Medway Healthy Workplace Awards, which include recycling, encouraging car sharing / active travel, cutting food waste, regular servicing of fleet vehicles and reducing workplace energy usage.
- Recycle Week was promoted at roadshows across Medway. A trial of 'pop up' collection points for the collection of small electrical (WEEE) items was introduced as part of our 'Bring it, Don't Bin It' campaign, to encourage residents to reuse / recycle rather than dispose of items in their waste.
- Strood-based Living River Foundation successfully delivered their Slice of Medway: Litterama project, through the council's High Streets Heritage Action Zone project. They created artworks incorporated plastics collected from the River Medway and have displayed them at a number of Medway libraries.
- Public Health have met with Keep Britain Tidy and have agreed to support and promote the Eco schools programme to schools within Medway.
- The Climate Response team hosted two interns this summer. One was successfully appointed to the role of Climate Response Engagement Officer early on in her placement. The other intern supported the delivery of three of the actions in the Climate Change Action Plan.
- A Climate Response Communications and Engagement Strategy was developed and approved in Q2. This includes a 12-month plan of actions. A simplified and digital version of the action plan have been produced. All are available on the Climate Change web pages at [www.medway.gov.uk/climatechangeplan](http://www.medway.gov.uk/climatechangeplan).
- The Climate Response Engagement Officer is developing a programme of events in support of Conference of the Parties 26 (COP26) including a Climate Engagement event in Q3.
- A total of 759 people are subscribed to the Climate Change newsletter which will now be sent out monthly. This is a 23% increase on the previous quarter.

- The 2019/20 carbon emissions assessment has been returned to the consultant for additional checks and clarification.
- First City Hall was held, and attended by 134 children, young people, parents and carers to promote Child Friendly Medway. A strong theme around open spaces, environment and climate change was identified. A Climate Change themed slot will be included at the next City Hall on 10 November, led by young people.

## **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 Environmental Protection Team (EPT) continued to maintain the air quality monitoring network with much reduced officer availability 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.

#### **Annual Status Report**

The EPT submitted the 2021 Annual Status Report to Defra on time and are currently awaiting the appraisal feedback report.

#### **Air Quality Communications Strategy**

The EPT team secured a free online Electric Vehicle training session for staff, run by the Energy Saving Trust during July.

#### **Taxi and Private Hire project**

The EPT are working with the Energy Saving Trust to deliver a free online session for taxi and private hire drivers on electric vehicles, with the opportunity to test drive a vehicle locally. We are awaiting confirmation of dates for this, which is expected to take place in Q3.

#### **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 1-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 went live on 1 April 2021 containing core functionality, including current and forecasted air quality levels, a free pollution forecast service and access to monitoring.

Following launch the refreshed and rebranded Care for Air educational toolkit has now gone live on the website.

A range of additional changes/enhancements are likely to come forward in the next quarter once they have been finalised and approved, including a brand new KentAir logo and a range of additional pages with supporting information on air quality, including the associated health impacts and sustainable transport.

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

### **Public Events**

The team supported the Rochester Electric Vehicle event on 24 September and Wild About Capstone event on 25 September.

## **Council Plan Outcome: Medway on the map**

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

#### **Council Plan Projects**

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

Although the council were disappointed not to have been shortlisted for UK City of Culture 2025 the bid process has highlighted how much Medway has to be proud of, including our extraordinarily talented creatives. The work the Bid team has done over the past 18 months has helped to establish new partnerships both within the creative industry and with residents and brought the wider community even closer together. The competition has shone a spotlight on Medway, all that we have to offer and what we are capable of when we come together.

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

Creative Medway is a bold vision that speaks to Medway's broadest aspirations to put culture centre stage. This 10-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 a creative compact. A compact is a way to realise the ambition of Medway's creative sector, 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 responsible for driving the strategic ambition, the overall delivery and for being a strong advocate for Medway's culture. It is made up of champions from five working groups and key partners from interconnected sectors: education; business; voluntary; health and wellbeing; and the local authority.

In Q2, Creative Medway Compact's second meeting (its first face-to-face meeting) was held on 14 July and followed a series of working group meetings that were held in June. At this meeting the next six months' priorities were agreed. These are governance and legal status, increasing visibility and action planning.

Medway Council's Culture team continues to support the Creative Medway Chair, the Compact, and the theme groups (Connectivity, Shared Ambition and Community Engagement) as plans are made to deliver Creative Medway.

The Culture team finalised and submitted an Arts Council England (ACE) 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 resource to begin public engagement with the new strategy. This bid was unsuccessful, but since the announcement that Medway is a priority area for ACE over the next 10 years, an alternative offer of strategic funding was made by them to support some of the developmental work in the original bid and to enable work on a subsequent bid for more delivery/engagement work once the Creative Medway Compact is established. Additional funds and resources are being actively pursued such as the dual remit of a new freelance post to support both the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Fund rollout and Creative Medway.

The Culture team attended the final Open Space meetings for the theme groups – Connectivity, Shared Ambition and Community Engagement – early in this quarter and has also attended the Cultural Compact Executive meetings.

The Culture team has recently appointed a Culture Development Assistant and a Culture Development Officer. These new team members will attend some of the Theme Group meetings to offer specific support from the Culture team, meaning that Creative Medway will receive more consistent support from the Culture team going forward.

### **Successful outdoor events programme**

Q2 saw the delivery of many events as part of the Covid19 safe alternative programme, delivered in partnership with local organisations.

#### **Festival at the Fort, 14 & 15 August, Fort Amherst**

In partnership with MidKent College, Glassbox Theatre and Fort Amherst Trust the festival had 1,000 people attend in the first in-person festival to be held in Medway since the pandemic. The festival had a range of high-quality performances and activities in the amphitheatre and in areas around the Fort in a relaxed and family friendly atmosphere with one visitor saying:

"I have lived in Medway 30 years, and this is the first time I have come up to Fort Amherst".

**Electric Medway, 21 to 31 August, Live and online across Medway**

In partnership with Sparked Echo and supported by Arts Council England and Creative Estuary, this digital festival worked with over 50 artists and cultural organisations to create over 100 events that took place live and online over its 10 days. This included: a specific young people strand across our libraries; Medway Hack – a series of live playspace events where you could learn about immersive technologies; and five ‘Conversations’ – a collection of stimulating discussions led by local and international speakers, that explored digital culture and creativity.

**Medway Festival of Literature, 21 to 28 August, Across Medway**

Led by the Library Service the festival offered events for all ages and a mixture of performance, workshop and have-a-go events all celebrating reading and an escape into the world of the imagination. All the events were much enjoyed by those that attended. Across the 14 events that took place, many of the events were booked to capacity, with 82% capacity achieved overall.

**Medway Pride, 21 August, Doust Way, Rochester**

In partnership with Medway Pride Community Interest Company (CIC) and supported by Countryside and Hyde Housing over 1,000 people attended Medway’s first Pride event. The festival included a main stage with high-quality performances including Drag Race UK star River Medway, arts and craft workshops, over 30 stalls from local services and organisations including Kent Police and Kent Fire and Rescue. The festival also had activities taking place around the main event including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender + (LGBT+) history walks, an exhibition at Intra Arts that was also part of Electric Medway and a comedy night and river trips.

The festival generated regional and local television and radio coverage.

**Gillingham POW!, 28 August to 31 October, Gillingham High Street**

Our Gillingham High Street takeover in partnership with MESS ROOM and Mark Barnes launched on 28 August. Along with other local artists they have created a public gallery that fills the high street with artworks themed on:

- Local legends and heroes.
- Everything that makes Gillingham special.

Each piece has been specially commissioned to bring this exciting new cultural offering. The artworks are available to see in and around Gillingham High Street.

**Welcome to Cloisterham, 30 August, Rochester Castle Gardens**

In partnership with Wordsmithery this was a free day-long celebration of Charles Dickens' life and work with a 21st century twist. This relaxed, bring-a-picnic event attended by 2,500 people took place in the Castle Gardens at Rochester on a rather cold and grey Bank Holiday Monday.

The programme was made up of an exciting line-up of prize-winning writers and poets who delighted audiences performing over four distinct areas of the gardens. There were lots of activities for children including puppet making, Anne Pratt’s Botanical Tattoo Studio and a Dickens themed treasure hunt. We await the final evaluation report, but one visitor commented:



"The event was exceptionally well planned and executed with a refreshing approach to a classic literature figure."

### **Rochester Castle Concerts, 17 to 19 September, Rochester Castle Gardens**

Rochester Castle Concerts were delivered by AGMP for the first time after being delayed four times because of the pandemic. Over 11,000 people attended the three concerts. There were some issues with counter-terrorism barriers and road closures around the castle with Traffic Management and Events teams having to work closely with the promoters to rectify some issues. The social media response has been very positive about customers' experiences of this new model of delivery and even though there have been many lessons learnt, the promoters are keen to build on their experience and move forward with plans for future years.

### **Festival of Chatham Reach, 18 & 19 September, The River Medway and Sun Pier House**

In partnership with Sun Pier House and Tiller and Wheel, this wonderful event had a country fayre atmosphere that focused on the heritage of River Medway and river vessels, with activities located alongside and on Sun Pier in Chatham. Over 4,000 people attended the festival with over 650 free trips with Edith May and Jet Stream Tours and over 100 people went on four fully booked river heritage walks. In the lead up to the festival, 36 young people from three schools and a Pupil Referral Unit had a bespoke sailing trip on the Edith May sailing barge.

### **Medway Pavilion – TOGETHER, 24 September to 10 October, Chatham Riverside**

In partnership with Lucid Creates and co-commissioned with Culture Liverpool, Together launched on 24 September. A spectacular new light art pavilion saw 200 people gathering to see the artwork illuminated. The public are being asked to contribute memories of Medway. These are then weaved into the piece as the written words of the stories will move around the video screens on the inner face of the three rings, intertwined with moving visuals.

All relevant events are being supported by the Events team and plans are 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.

### **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 Chatham Historic Dockyard (CHD), 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 project will include a significant extension of the original property that will ensure the creation and safeguarding of upwards of 272 jobs, assist up to 8,000 learners, provide business support for up to 40 business, and create vital new creative workspace and research and development facilities.

### **Ownership and acquisition**

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

Further consideration as to the key principles regarding the acquisition and sub-lease, the key risks borne by each partner and the future operational considerations has been discussed and it has been agreed that the council will not be part of a Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) for The Docking Station going forward.

### **Development and design**

The procurement via an architectural design completion, led by the UoK Procurement team is now complete with Feilden Clegg Bradley LLP being selected.

### **Fundraising and business planning**

In-mid June, Medway Council submitted a £14.4m bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government's (MHCLG's) Levelling Up Fund. This is part of our Chatham package (up to three multiple complimentary projects) on the strategic theme of 'Culture'. The three parts of the connected package are:

- The full refurbishment of The Brook Theatre (£6.5m).
- Fitting Rigging House (South) transformation into creative workspace hub (£2.2m).
- The creation of The Docking Station as a new cultural and creative education and incubation hub (£5.7m).

These three cultural projects reinforce and align with each other and the stated priorities of the Levelling Up Fund.

A project manager has been engaged by the UoK and she starts in October and will focus on business development, fundraising and stakeholder management. MC are

supportive of a Cultural and Creative Industries Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) application being submitted to support the business development work.

## **Child Friendly City**

In Q2 we have continued to prioritise consultation with children and young people to help form our plans for Child-Friendly Medway. Following our survey, we have started running focus groups led by the agency Tonic, who designed our survey, to unpick some of the emerging themes to better understand the needs and wants of children and young people. We have continued to run focus groups through the Public Health team in schools and youth organisations to get as many children and young people's voices represented in our plans for Child-Friendly Medway as possible. We are still working with young people to understand their needs and will be forming our aims, goals, vision, and action plan in Q3, and launching the Child-Friendly Medway initiative in January 2022.

We held our first City Hall in Q2, attended by 134 children, young people, parents, and carers. The focus of our first event was to listen to children and young people and hear their ideas on how we could make Medway more child friendly. To capture these ideas young people led two mind-mapping exercises.

### **Key themes discussed**

- Health & Wellbeing
- Facilities
- Transport
- Events
- Sports
- Activities
- Poverty
- Environment
- Safety
- Culture
- Creativity
- Media
- Education
- Housing
- Open Spaces
- Community Spaces
- Kindness

As part of our first event, we also ran a transport exercise with the Sustainable Transport team to consult children and young people on the new transport plan and capture their priorities. Medway Youth Council, Medway Youth Parliament and the Youth Service all presented on how young people could get involved in their programming and activities.

We also launched our website in September. As well as promoting the new child-friendly initiative, this also brings together existing services offering to support children and young people.

Our 'Seeing is Believing' initiative launched with Free Drop-In football in six parks across Medway for eight weeks. This project has been a great success and we have engaged hundreds of young people to promote healthy weight and giving them positive opportunities to connect in their local open spaces which ties in with both the Public Health and Climate Change initiatives. We have extended this project and it is running until 30 October.

In addition, we have also provided two free soft play Playhouse events at the Pentagon Shopping Centre engaging hundreds of children and parents. We also sponsored face painting at the Medway Mile. We use all these programmes as an opportunity to engage children, young people, parents and carers on how we can make Medway more child friendly. We have received thousands of ideas and are currently creating a database to help shape our plans and actions for Child-Friendly Medway based on the wants and needs of children and young people.

We also have a Child-Friendly Post-Box window display at the Pentagon Shopping Centre that is generating a lot of interest about the Child-Friendly Medway initiative.

### **Q3 – Next Steps:**

Focusing on prioritising our plans for Child-Friendly Medway – including pillars, key priorities and action plan and branding.

### **November City Hall:**

- We will have a climate change theme to tie in with Conference of the Parties 26 (COP26), working in partnership with the Climate Change team.
- Child Friendly Medway Activity – that will prioritise our plans for Child-Friendly Medway – including pillars, key priorities and action plan. This will be used to formulate our Child Friendly Medway action plan for the January launch.
- Young people asked for free opportunities, specifically a comedy event – to start the event we will have a special performance from The Noise Next Door.
- City status consultation activity.

### **Seeing is believing**

We will be running a wide array of programming that has been influenced by young people's requests for programming. We will also be doing some targeted work to narrow the gap for young people from areas of higher deprivation.

### **Universal:**

- Free Drop-In Football – Running until 30 October in six parks across Medway.
- In October we are sponsoring three school prizes as part of the Climate Change teams October Walk to School Challenge for COP26. Each winning school will receive a special presentation by Kent Wildlife Trust.
- Title Sponsor for the Mini Youth Games for the 2021/22 school year.
- Sponsoring the Swimming Charter for Schools for the 2021/22 school year.
- Post-box Creative Workshops with Nucleus Arts.
- Free Cinema Event at MidKent College and activities featuring three films.
- What Matters to them - MidKent College student event with 300 students and Medway Councillors in November.

**Targeted:**

- October Half-term – Fit & Fed at Luton Primary School and Kingfisher, Chatham.
- October Half-term – Swimming Crash Courses/Learn to Swim for 120 children and young people on free school meals.

**Successful delivery of Theatre31**

A £1m Youth Performance Partnership Fund (YPPF) Arts Council funded youth theatre and performance project is running across Medway and Sheppey until December 2022. The bid was submitted by Medway Council on behalf of Medway and Sheppey Local Cultural Education Partnerships (LCEPs). The project will be managed and delivered by Icon Theatre, supported by Young Artist Collective, Steering Group and Project Board.

Planned delivery has resumed in-person post-lockdown but where appropriate has retained some online/digital participation opportunities, as it has been found to reduce barriers to attendance such as finance, transport, fitting in around homework and other clubs.

This quarter saw the first live, in-person activities in over a year, including 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 were also offered before the schools broke up. These outreach offers were designed to be delivered in a Covid19-safe way, outdoors in fresh air and in large spaces where social distancing was possible. They were well attended and have resulted in more young people being introduced to Theatre31 and new membership for the Theatre Bases (weekly youth theatre clubs) that started up at the beginning of September.

Icon Theatre have made good progress in developing links with the Light Nights event (young people from Theatre31 will perform during this event), High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) Cultural Consortium (discussions are underway about a large-scale co-commission event on the Intra footprint in summer 2022), the Prison Library Service (poetry/play writing/spoken word performance with young offenders) and D-Live (developing Deaf-accessible workshop and performance opportunities).

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 £500k 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, followed by an evaluation period to December 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 many of the key performance indicators (KPIs) for the total two-year project in Year 1 alone. Of the required 2,000 participants, they have worked with over 6,000. Of the three required Youth Theatre Bases, they have now established five.

Icon is using their experience and evidence from their work on Theatre31 to strengthen their application for the next round of ACE's NPO (National Portfolio Organisation) bids. Should they be successful in their bid for NPO status, there are several strands of Theatre31 work they will commit to continuing as a legacy of the project.

### **Dissemination of Medway 2035 and implementation of the Regeneration Delivery Plan**

Medway 2035 continues to form a strong strategy base for funding applications. The revision of this strategy is now underway. An Invitation to Tender (ITT) has been issued to appoint consultants to refresh and re-issue the Medway 2035 Strategy. Preparation is underway to assess tenders and manage interviews. An appointment and induction meeting are planned for the selected consultant 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**

The Medway Champions has pushed its scheme again on social media to raise their profile and attract additional members to the group – nine new members were attracted with this activity increasing champion numbers to 221.

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 for six weeks and saw a total of 5,504 web page views and 722 people click on the form.

The champions met for the first-time face-to-face since the pandemic outbreak in September at the Commissioner's House, Chatham Dockyard, with over 45 people attending.

Guest speakers were:

- Richard Morsley – Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chatham Dockyard.
- Paul Wells – Medway Non-Visible Disability (NVD) Initiative.

The next Champions meeting will be face-to-face again at the Fire Station Brasserie that recently re-opened.

Partners Meetings that have occurred:

- Kent Business School – August.
- University of Kent – August.
- Fresh Food production / Horticulture Consortium – September.
- Locate in Kent – September.

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

Platform	June 2021	October 2021	Percentage Change
Instagram	1,084	1,153	6%
Facebook	484	578	19%
LinkedIn	102	119	17%
Twitter	888	984	11%

### **Recruit stakeholder support for Medway on the Map**

As the government restrictions have been lifted, our communications priorities have been focused on supporting our services in their recovery and focusing on reshaping our Medway on the Map priorities. This work will resume as part of our Medway on the Map action planning and as we build stakeholder support for the city status bid.

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

### **Active PR programme in local, national and self-owned channel to get the message across about Medway, our vision and achievements and our regeneration programme**

The Press Office has continued to provide a professional, proactive and reactive media service throughout Q2.

The Press Office has responded to 128 media enquiries between 1 July and 24 September from local, trade and national press. During this quarter we have responded to 11 enquiries regarding whether Medway would be taking in any families from Afghanistan and answered several follow-up questions from the Medway Messenger following press releases announcing updates to our regeneration programme such as Innovation Park Medway.

The office has also facilitated 23 media interviews since 1 July. This includes a variety of radio and TV interviews on several topics including Medway's summer festival programme, Medway Pride and Olympic champion Adam Peaty visiting Strood Sports Centre.

Medway's Director of Public Health continues to regularly feature on BBC Radio Kent to update listeners on the local, county-wide and national coronavirus picture, although these interviews have now been scaled back to monthly.

Between 1 July and 24 September, the Press Office has issued 66 press releases.

In the same period in:

- 2020, the Press Office issued 92 press releases (providing updates on services during the pandemic).
- 2019, the Press Office issued 47 press releases.

The list below shows the variety of press releases issued over the last quarter:

- Rochester Christmas events press release
- Medway Mile
- Medway's Summer of Sport
- Summer events programme
- Medway Lottery
- Works starting on Medway City Estate
- Road safety tips as children go back to school
- Infrastructure works begin at Innovation Park Medway
- GCSE and A-Level comments

## **Programme: Medway a Smart City**

The Smart City strategy has now been drafted to dovetail with the Council key objectives to cover the following themes:

- Smart Place
- Smart People
- Smart Growth

Due to the Transformation Board agenda focusing on projects to address the 2022/23 budget gap, the Smart City strategy item has been deferred to the November 2021 Transformation Board.



# 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	<b>19</b>	3	10	4	8	<b>25</b>	10	8			<b>18</b>
FAILURE TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTS								3		<b>3</b>	32				<b>32</b>
SCRAP METAL												1			<b>1</b>
LITTER	19	12	6	1	<b>38</b>	5	8	4	6	<b>23</b>	13				<b>13</b>
TRADE WASTE		4	1	1	<b>6</b>							5			<b>5</b>
FLY POSTING															
SMOKE FREE	2				<b>2</b>										
BREACH OF A COMMUNITY PROTECTION NOTICE	1	2	3	1	<b>7</b>		3	1	2	<b>6</b>	1				<b>1</b>
UNLICENSED WASTE CARRIER		1			<b>1</b>			1		<b>1</b>					
HOUSEHOLDER DUTY OF CARE						3	4		2	<b>9</b>	3				<b>3</b>
COMMERCIAL DUTY OF CARE							3		1	<b>4</b>					
<b>TOTAL</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>	<b>59</b>	<b>14</b>			<b>73</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>	<b>Q1 21/22</b>	<b>Q2 21/22</b>
LITTER	1,386	899	157	2,236	2,054	1,624	1,532	1,597
DOG FOULING	11	9		1		1	3	
DOGS ON LEAD	1	1		1			1	
<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>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>1,597</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	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	8			10
DUTY OF CARE FOR WASTE	1			1	2				1	1	2	5			7
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							1			1
UNREGISTERED WASTE/SCRAP	1	1	1	2	5				7	7		1			1
SMOKE FREE			1		1										
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>			<b>22</b>

<b>REPORTED IN PENTANA</b>			<b>2</b>		<b>24</b>					<b>9</b>					
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