

Medway Council
Meeting of Regeneration, Culture and Environment
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 13 October 2022

6.30pm to 10.10pm

Record of the meeting

Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next meeting of this committee

Present: Councillors: Etheridge (Chairman), Fearn (Vice-Chairman), Clarke, Cooper, Curry, Edwards, Hubbard, Lammas, Andy Stamp, Tranter, Mrs Elizabeth Turpin, Rupert Turpin and Williams

Substitutes: Councillors:
Cooper (Substitute for Browne)
Mrs Elizabeth Turpin (Substitute for Carr)

In Attendance: Councillor Jane Chitty, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation
Councillor Phil Filmer, Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services
Richard Hicks, Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive
Sunny Ee, Assistant Director Regeneration
Ruth Du-Lieu, Assistant Director, Front Line Services
Dee O'Rourke, Assistant Director, Culture & Community
Ian Gilmore, Head of Regulatory and Environmental Services
Dave Harris, Head of Planning
Andrew Mann, Partnership Director, Medway Norse
Lesley Jones, Corporate Performance Officer
Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officer

302 Chairman's Announcements

The Committee held a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Mick Pendergast, who had recently passed away.

The Chairman announced that visitors from Thurrock Council had been expected to attend the Committee meeting in order to see how Overview and Scrutiny Committees were run at Medway. However, they were now unable to attend as they had to attend another meeting.

303 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Carr and from Councillor Browne.

304 Record of Meeting

The record of the meeting held on 11 August 2022 was agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

305 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none.

306 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Significant Interests and Whipping

Disclosable pecuniary interests

Councillor Andy Stamp declared an interest in agenda item no.9 (Petitions) as one of the petitions referenced in the report related to the precise area where he lives. Councillor Stamp remained in the room during consideration of the report as the petition was not discussed.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

There were none.

Other interests

Councillor Cooper declared an interest in agenda item no.8 (Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Risk Summary Quarter 1 2022/23) as the Medway African and Caribbean Association was referenced in the report and Councillor Cooper is a Trustee. Councillor Cooper remained in the room during consideration of the report.

Councillor Andy Stamp declared an interest in agenda item no.7 (Annual Review of Waste Contracts, Contract Year October 2021 - September 2022) as he works for the Environment agency, which was responsible for regulating sites covered by the waste contract. Councillor Stamp remained in the room during consideration of the report.

307 Attendance by the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services

Discussion:

Members received an overview of progress on the areas of work within the terms of reference of this Committee and covered by the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services as set out below:

- Highways and Street Lighting
- Parking
- Public Transport

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- Traffic Management
- Transport Strategy
- Travel Safety
- Waste collection/Recycling/Waste Disposal and Street Cleaning

The Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer responded to Members questions and comments as follows:

Potholes – In response to concern that repairs to potholes were often temporary and whether this was cost effective, the Portfolio Holder said that general carriageway repairs were undertaken as well as emergency repairs. It was acknowledged that emergency pothole repairs did not last as long and the aim was to increase the number of more permanent repairs made using pothole funding.

Deferral of Luton Road Scheme – In view of this being a road safety issue, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that this work would be undertaken when possible.

Bus improvement – It was questioned when improvements to bus services and reductions to bus related pollution would be realised. Concern was raised around changing bus routes and timetables and general service reliability. The Portfolio Holder said that bus companies had been significantly impacted by Covid-19 and that passenger numbers of some routes were still below pre-Covid levels. Ongoing conversations were taking place with companies. The Council currently provided around £800,000 of subsidies to bus companies and there was limited funding available. Bus companies could be encouraged to publicise changes to services in Medway Matters.

Traffic issues at new superstore – A Member highlighted traffic and parking issues at a new superstore that had opened in their ward. The Portfolio Holder was aware of the concerns and advised that these issues were being investigated.

Highways repair following utility works – A Member highlighted some concerns about the quality of repairs following utility works where new surfaces met old as well as likely deterioration during the winter. It was questioned what was being done by highways inspectors to ensure the quality of reinstatement after works and to ensure that the provision of utilities was not affected. Concern was also raised that action was only taken once complaints had been made. The Portfolio Holder agreed that these issues needed to be addressed and said that Medway Matters could be used to publicise works and potential disruption.

Installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points – It was questioned what the plans were for the installation of on-street charging points during the current year. The Portfolio Holder anticipated that a pilot could start early in 2023 and said that Gillingham could be a possible location for this. The usage

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of EV charging points already installed in car parks had to be monitored to ensure that it did not result in a shortage of parking spaces for residents.

Waste collection services and scanning of bus passes – A Member gave his thanks for the excellent waste collection service in Medway. He said that a number of residents in Borstal had reported that their bus passes were not being scanned, which was important for usage to be monitored. The Portfolio Holder requested that the Member submit evidence for this issue to be investigated.

Lack of co-ordination between utility works – Concern was expressed about a lack of co-ordination between works undertaken between different utility providers and that works sometimes took an excessive time to be completed. The Portfolio Holder said the way in which highways and street works operated was changing to bring them under a single service. It was important that utility providers were challenged where works were not completed on time. There needed to be more time spent on the planning and co-ordination of works.

Town centre parking – Noting that a Parking Strategy Group had previously been established to look at the issue of parking in town centres, it was asked if a strategic review could be undertaken of parking in town centres. The Portfolio Holder said that this would be taken forward.

Travel and cycle safety – Noting that road casualties had reduced, a Member asked how Medway's figures compared to other areas. She also highlighted the need to teach cycle safety to young people and parking issues outside schools. The Portfolio Holder said Medway's casualty figures were relatively good but that any number of casualties was too many. He considered that the Bikeability cycle training scheme was important and that engagement with schools was important for improving safety.

Abandoned supermarket trolleys, Household Waste and Recycling Centre booking – A Member asked what involvement supermarkets had in supporting volunteers who cleared supermarket trolleys from Jane's Creek. She also asked whether it was possible for the Household Waste and Recycling Centre booking system to offer same day slots when booked after 11am, subject to there being capacity. The Portfolio Holder said that supermarkets were involved in removing their trolleys. The booking system for the Household Waste and Recycling Centres was working well and the current system provided capacity. Feedback received suggested that residents were happy to book in advance to avoid congestion. Providing a service for commercial vehicles was under consideration and there needed to be confidence that there was sufficient capacity.

In relation to Jane's Creek, another Committee Member said that Morrisons Supermarket were due to be undertaking a clearance and that a clearance was also due to take place in Canal Road.

Christmas Collection Arrangements – The Portfolio Holder was asked whether the Christmas waste and recycling collection arrangements for 2021

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would be repeated in 2022 and what the impact there had been on flytipping. In response, he said that he did not consider crew availability would be problematic but that waste facilities closed during the Christmas period and, therefore, there would be nowhere to take collections to. Medway offered weekly collections and therefore there were few problems caused by collection schedules.

Unplanned traffic issue – A Member, mentioning a closure of Cliffe Road and the congestion it was causing, asked what Council resources were available to deal with unexpected traffic problems. The Portfolio Holder said that there was capacity to send crews out but that consideration had to be given as to how to deal with emergency issues.

Advice for new Portfolio Holder – A Member asked what advice the Portfolio Holder would give to the next holder of his Cabinet Portfolio. He said that he would advise them to keep calm, look at their budgets and do the best they could with the budget available.

Access to Canal Road – It was asked whether any consideration was being given to opening Canal Road to traffic on a permanent basis, following it having been opened during construction of the Medway City Estate relief road. The Portfolio Holder said there had not been any complaints received in relation to the new slip road. Utility works were currently being undertaken in Canal Road and there was an ongoing conversation about access.

Four Elms Hill and speed camera locations – The Portfolio Holder said that the Council was not provided with data by the Police in relation to the number of offences recorded. It was asked if this data could be obtained and provided to the Committee. In response to a question about the location of mobile speed cameras, the Portfolio Holder said that the Council did have an input and could ask the Safety Camera Partnership to monitor a particular location.

ANPR System introduction – A Member expressed thanks for the engagement undertaken and how concerns had been listened to in relation to the introduction of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system at Rochester Station car park. The Member also asked for an update on the scheme. The Portfolio Holder said that work was being undertaken to consider parking volumes ahead of rolling out the system.

Bus Services – It was suggested that the public should be incentivised to use buses and questioned how bus services could be improved. The Portfolio Holder said the aim was to encourage bus use and that the Council needed to make the case for bus provision to be better taken into account by Government.

Cuxton Waste and Recycling Centre – It was questioned whether there were plans to close this site as the volume of waste it handled from Kent reduced, which currently stood at 41%. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that there were no closure plans and that the possible provision of a service for commercial vehicles could help to ensure future viability.

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Waste sent abroad – It was questioned whether the increase in waste being sent abroad was a concern and whether there was a plan to address this. The Portfolio Holder said that a breakdown of where waste was sent had been included in the report for the Annual Review of Waste Contracts, which was included in the meeting agenda. Veolia were responsible for residual waste. There were ways in which recycling figures could be increased although the Government had changed how recycling rates were calculated which had affected the figures slightly.

Christmas parking and roadwork contact details – It was requested that details of Christmas parking policy be published and advertised in Medway Matters as soon as possible. It was also requested that contact details be provided at roadwork sites so that any problems be reported by road users. The Portfolio Holder advised that details of Christmas parking arrangements would be published imminently. In relation to roadworks, an emergency contact number would be provided.

Household Waste and Recycling Centre travel figures – It was requested that the Committee be provided a briefing note to set out where users of the Household Waste and Recycling Centres travelled from.

Decision:

The Committee thanked the Portfolio Holder for attending the meeting and answering questions and:

- a) Noted that the relevant Committee Member would supply the Portfolio Holder with details of residents' bus passes that had not been scanned when using bus services.
- b) Requested that work be undertaken to take a strategic review of parking in town centres.
- c) Requested that information in relation to Bikeability Cycle training be shared with parents.
- d) Requested that data in relation to speeding offences recorded by mobile cameras at Four Elms Hill be provided to the Committee.
- e) Requested that the Committee's thanks be passed to the Parking team for the engagement undertaken in relation to parking at Rochester Train Station.
- f) Requested that the Committee's thanks be passed to the Household Waste and Recycling crews for the service provided in Medway.
- g) Requested that bus companies be encouraged to publicise changes to bus services in Medway Matters.

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- h) requested that details of Christmas parking arrangements in public car parks in Medway be published and advertised in Medway Matters as soon as possible.
- i) Requested that contact details be provided at roadwork sites to facilitate the reporting of any problems.
- j) Requested that the Committee be provided a briefing note to set out where users of the Household Waste and Recycling Centres travelled from.

308 Attendance by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation

Discussion:

Members received an overview of progress made on the areas within the scope of Councillor Chitty, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, which fell within the remit of this Committee as set out below:

- Economic Development
- Employment
- High Streets
- Planning Policy - Local Plan
- Markets
- Planning - Development Management, including Planning Enforcement and applications for works to protected trees
- Regulation – Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Enforcement and Licensing (Executive Functions only)
- Social Regeneration
- South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership

The Portfolio Holder responded to Members' questions and comments as follows:

Medway Apprenticeships Service – A Member asked whether the Service had facilitated any apprenticeships for people with special needs or for care leavers. It was also asked what progress had been made in relation to the proposed Taxi Private Hire and Feasibility Study and what engagement had taken place. The Portfolio Holder said that apprenticeships were offered to all groups and that uptake and any improvements needed were monitored on an ongoing basis. In relation to taxis, meetings were being held with providers to discuss the challenges. This engagement was ongoing. A briefing note was requested to set out the number of young people with special needs and care leavers who had been offered apprenticeships.

Four Elms Hill Pollution Mitigation – In response to a Member's question that asked what measures were in place to mitigate against pollution and what measures were planned, the Portfolio Holder said that the speed of vehicles

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was a factor and that this could be monitored. The volume of heavy traffic and the flow of this traffic were also important considerations. Monitoring needed to be continuous to demonstrate the success of mitigations. It was requested that a one page summary setting out mitigations at Four Elms Hill be provided to the Committee.

Confidence in the Local Plan – The Portfolio Holder was asked what confidence there was in the leadership of the Council being able to produce a Local Plan. She said that the Council had to follow Government requirements and that the Government had made changes to the requirements. The knowledge that the Council had in relation to the Local Plan was considered to be exceptional and far in advance of many other local authorities, many of whom had experienced significant problems in relation to their draft Plans. The cost of the Local Plan was substantial and there was a need to ensure it was correct. There had been announcements that the number of required houses had been increased. The Portfolio Holder said that it was extremely difficult to prepare the Plan in view of the changing requirements, but she was confident in the work that Medway was doing as a local authority.

Neighbourhood Plans – A Member said there had been very good work undertaken in relation to the development of Neighbourhood Plans. The Portfolio Holder agreed that good work had been undertaken by all parties. It was requested that thanks be given to the relevant officers in relation to Neighbourhood Plans and the Heritage Action Plan.

Chatham Docks – It was questioned what steps the Portfolio Holder and the Council had taken to explore compulsory purchase options of Chatham Docks. It was also stated that representative of the association of Chatham Docks commercial operators had written to the Council twice but not received a response. It was suggested that the Council should enter into more serious dialogue to explore options. The Portfolio Holder said that the matter had been considered but that the cost would be prohibitively expensive. The matter was currently a commercial decision for Peel Holdings and the operators of the Docks and was outside the control of the Council. She said that if she was provided the letters referred to then she would be able to provide an authoritative response and that to date no clear proposals had been put forward.

Local Plan evidence – It was asked why the evidence required in support of the Local Plan had not been presented to the Council in October 2021 and whether the Government had been responsible for further delays in January 2022 and the decision to revert to Regulation 18. It was also asked when data gathering would be completed and a detailed report containing the evidence would be available. The Portfolio Holder was asked to confirm that the Plan would not seek to change the designation of Docks to residential or mixed use land.

The Portfolio Holder said that the presentation of evidence in support of the Local Plan had been due to Members having wanted to review some of the elements of it. Issues raised needed to be fully considered ahead of

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presentation of the Plan. Regulation 18 related to sites and it would be difficult to take this forward without the consultation process having been completed. The request for further evidence had made it impossible to move the process forward. It was not possible to confirm when the report would be available. The Portfolio Holder said she would be grateful for evidence provided and details of any commercial offer being made for the purchase of the Docks. In relation to the designation of the Docks, any challenges in relation to this designation would be part of a planning application and would be considered by the planning authority. It was considered likely that due to the complexity, the matter would be determined in the courts.

Local Plan Designation – A Member said that if the Council chose the designation of Chatham Docks to remain as employment land, this would be included in the Local Plan and would be considered by the Local Plan Inspector. It was requested that the Committee be provided with written updates to set out the process for gathering Local Plan evidence and the timetable for this.

Local Plan progress – A Member considered it to be unacceptable that 10,000 homes that were required under the Council's housing targets had not been included in the Local Plan. It was requested that the documents more clearly showed ward level impacts, that Members be fully involved in the development of the Plan and that the evidence base be provided.

The Portfolio Holder said that several Member presentations had been provided and that there had been opportunity to challenge and ask for information. There was a clear process laid out by the Government. The evidence would be produced to facilitate the development of the draft Local Plan. She said that she would be happy to have a further meeting to discuss the issues.

Hoo Development Framework – Significant decisions had been taken by the Cabinet and Full Council in relation to the Hoo Development Framework that a Member said had not be actioned. This included the feasibility of sport and leisure facilities and surveys in relation to the future use of Deangate Ridge. The Portfolio Holder said there was a clear commitment to enhance leisure facilities on Hoo and requested that the Member provide the question in writing.

National Apprenticeship Week – In response to a question that asked whether the Council could consider hosting an Apprenticeship Fair as part of National Apprenticeship week in February 2023, the Portfolio Holder said that the Council would be promoting this initiative. Businesses and apprentices would be invited. Medway, as an authority, had committed to take on apprentices.

Viability of markets – A Committee Member expressed concern about the slow recovery of some markets from the impact of the pandemic and asked whether there was a strategy to address this. The Portfolio Holder said there was strong commitment to the Farmer's Market in Rochester and that Gillingham Market was doing well. Strood Market had become non-viable as only two stalls had remained and the costs to the Council had been substantial.

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There was a strategy in place but there was not a single document available that covered Medway. It was requested that the relevant documents be provided to the Committee as well as income data for the markets for the previous five years.

Innovation Park Medway – The Portfolio Holder was asked to provide an assessment of how the development of Innovation Park Medway (IPM) was going, how many businesses had signed up to locate there and how many of these were research and development businesses. The Portfolio Holder responded that the development of IPM was fundamental to the growth of employment in Medway. Details of ongoing negotiations were confidential and could be disclosed once contracts had been signed. Contracts had not yet been signed but a number of businesses had made firm commitments that they wished to be part of the development. In relation to risks, potential occupiers would be considered based upon how they met requirements of creating jobs, the type of jobs created and their flexibility to widen the opportunities available. It was requested that, subject to the signing of contracts, further information be provided to the Committee in relation to occupancy rates.

Affordability of Section 106 Contributions – Concern was raised that some developers were indicating that they were unable to afford S106 contributions and it was questioned whether the £8million figure set out in the report was optimistic and whether work could be undertaken to address the issues. The Portfolio Holder said that S106 criteria were clearly defined. The funding was not available to spend until completion of the relevant development and had to be spent in relation to this development. The Planning Committee was responsible for identifying S106 uses and any issues would need to be considered by that Committee.

Advice for new Portfolio Holder – A Member asked what advice the Portfolio Holder would give to the next holder of her Cabinet Portfolio. She said that there was a need to be knowledgeable, to read the relevant guidance and planning policy and to work hard.

Planning enforcement staffing resources – It was asked what was being done to ensure that sufficient staff resources were available to deal with planning enforcement. Concern was also raised that there were delays in national level inspectors visiting Medway. The Portfolio Holder said she would encourage Members to commit to finding the funding to ensure the staffing resources were available and agreed that there were a number of national level challenges.

Air Quality Management Areas – Concern was expressed in relation to the Action Plan for the Four Elms Hill Air Quality Management Area, particularly that air quality would not be improved quickly enough and that a number of issues highlighted by the Committee had not been addressed. The Portfolio Holder said that net zero pollution was expected to be achieved over a period of time. She said that readings were taken in several areas, including Four Elms Hill and that obligations had to be fulfilled.

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Local Plan Questions – In the context that since 2014, £1.25million had been spent on consultants to assist in developing a draft Local Plan, A Member set out a number of questions in relation to the Local Plan. It was requested that answers be provided to the Committee in advance of the Full Council meeting on 10 November.

- Who were the consultants and what was their expertise?
- In what year were they hired and what was put out to tender and what areas of the Local Plan were they directed to?
- From their services, how was the draft Local Plan enhanced, ensuring compliance with Government regulations?
- In which years had the Government made changes to the Local Plan process and what the effects were on specific parts of the Local Plan process?
- Considering the amount of time that had passed since 2014, the number of man hours by both Council staff and consultants, why was the draft Local Plan not robust enough to withstand minor changes in its production?

Decision:

The Committee thanked the Portfolio Holder for attending the meeting and answering questions and:

- a) Requested that responses to the questions raised in relation to the Local Plan process and expenditure on consultants be provided to the Committee.
- b) Requested that a briefing note be provided setting out the number of young people with special needs and care leavers who had been offered apprenticeships.
- c) Requested that a one page summary setting out mitigations at Four Elms Hill be provided to the Committee.
- d) Requested that the Committee's thanks be passed to the relevant officers for their work in relation to Neighbourhood Plans and the Heritage Action Plan.
- e) Requested that briefing notes be provided to set out the process for gathering Local Plan evidence and the timetable for this.
- f) Requested that any documents relating to the Council's Markets strategies and income data for the last four years, for markets in Medway, be provided to the Committee.
- g) Requested that, subject to the signing of contracts, further information be provided to the Committee in relation to occupancy rates at Innovation Park Medway.

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- h) Requested that the response to the questions provided to the Portfolio Holder in relation to the Hoo Development Framework, specifically the feasibility of sport and leisure facilities and surveys in relation to the future use of Deangate Ridge, be provided to the Committee.

309 Annual Review of Waste Contracts, Contract Year October 2021 - September 2022

Discussion:

The Committee received a report setting out a summary of performance on the following Medway waste contracts for the contract year October 2021 to September 2022:

- Veolia Environmental Services – providing waste disposal services for residual and recycling waste.
- Medway Norse – providing waste collection, street cleaning services and management of Medway’s Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)

The following was discussed:

- **Nitrous oxide cannisters and verge cleansing** – It was questioned whether figures were available for the collection of discarded nitrous oxide cannisters, whether data could be provided and whether litter removal from areas beyond verges was part of the Norse contract. The Council’s Head of Regulatory and Environmental Services said that nitrous oxide use was an emerging issue and that consideration could be given to collecting figures. Litter picks of verges were undertaken when they were mowed. The Partnership Director of Medway Norse added that litter beyond the verge was currently not part of the contract and that consideration needed to be given as to how to tackle this.
- **Recycling rates, HMOs, kerbside collections and commercial waste** – Noting that Medway’s recycling rate was 40% compared to a national average of 51%, it was questioned why Medway’s rate was falling. It was also asked what was being done to support those living in flats and Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) to recycle more, whether there was sufficient capacity to deal with increased volume of kerbside collection waste and whether information could be provided in relation to commercial waste.

The Head of Regulatory and Environmental Services said that work was needed to encourage people to recycle and that changes to the materials that could be recycled had led to a small reduction in recycling. Public engagement, particularly with schools was important to increasing rates of recycling. Other communications channels, such as Medway Matters were also important. Work was being commissioned to look at

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how people in flats and HMOs managed waste. This could be circulated to the Committee when available. The Partnership Director added that the increase in home delivery during the Covid-19 pandemic had resulted in there being additional packaging for kerbside collection and that under the new waste disposal contract, tetra pak could now be recycled, there was therefore a need for this to be highlighted to residents. In relation to commercial waste, the provision of blue bags to High Streets and markets had made it easier to differentiate between household and commercial waste and therefore to take enforcement action against those found to not be paying for the proper disposal of commercial waste. A Member requested that further information be provided in relation to commercial waste.

- **Tetra Pak Recycling and Hillyfield Park bins** – In response to a Member question, it was confirmed that the promotion of Tetra Pak recycling by supermarkets would be picked up with the Engagement Team and that the two bins that were due to have been provided in Hillyfield Community Park would be looked into.
- **Increased collection tonnage and increasing litter** – Reflecting that tonnage of waste collected had increased from 283 in 2012 to 739 in the most recent year, it was asked why the increase had been so significant. It was also asked, in view of increased levels of littering, what was being done to publicise the higher fines that could be imposed and to catch those who litter. The Partnership Director said that there had been a significant increase in bulky hardcore tips during the previous year and that this would have skewed the figures. Increases in the collection of fly tipping could also have contributed to some of the rise. The Head of Regulatory and Environmental Services stated that litter enforcement in Medway was undertaken by District Enforcement. There were between three and six officers covering Medway with 200 to 250 fixed penalty notices having been issued. The payment rate of fines was over 70%. To date, there had been little publicity of this work. Increased communications capacity was expected imminently.
- **Rubbish sacks left in the street** – In response to concern that some residents put rubbish and recycling sacks out days in advance of collection and a request that particular consideration be given to areas with high concentrations, the Head of Regulatory and Environmental Services said that projects were being undertaken in relation to provision of bins and street cleansing. Development would include the use of specialist software and providing crews with tablets for them to record photographic evidence. Information had been collected over the last eight weeks. This would be reviewed to identify the areas of Medway to be targeted. Street Scene Officers were able to issue warnings where rubbish and recycling bags were put out early and enforcement action could be undertaken if this continued.

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- **Future of the waste contract and electric vehicles** – In response to a question about the future of waste contracts and the use of electric vehicles, the Head of Regulatory and Environmental Services said that guidance was awaited regarding the Environment Act, including how this would impact on the management and collection of waste. A piece of work was looking at replacement of vehicles with electric vehicles, within site limitations. Consideration was being given to the use of hydrogen vehicles. The Partnership Director said that over 150 vehicles that would have been running on diesel had switched to renewable energy.
- **Waste going abroad** – A Member gave his thanks to the waste collection teams and asked if it was known where the 11% of rubbish sent abroad was going. The Head of Regulatory and Environmental Services undertook to provide the Committee with information on this.
- **Hoath Way Recycling Centre and Pier Road Depot** – It was questioned whether provision could be made for rigid plastic recycling at the Hoath Way Recycling Centre and whether a direct contact number could be provided to residents for any future complaints about noise at the Pier Road Norse depot. The Partnership Director said that a number of local residents had engaged with one of his managers via a WhatsApp group in relation to the Pier Road depot and that he would look at the provision of other contact methods. There were no plans for the provision of rigid plastic recycling at the Hoath Way Recycling Centre due to the cost and space limitations of the site. For the service to be provided, it was likely that another provision would need to be reduced. Any further investigations would need to consider recycling volumes to look at whether it could be justified.
- **Fly Tipping on private land** – The Partnership Director said removal of Fly Tipping from private land was the responsibility of the landowner, although advice and assistance was offered. Successful prosecutions had included a 20 week jail sentence and a 5 year ban from involvement in the waste sector.

Decision:

The Committee:

- a) Expressed appreciation to officers, Veolia and Medway Norse for the services provided and noted the content of the report including the Annual Service Reports set out at Appendices 1, 2 and 3.
- b) Requested that consideration be given to recording figures for the number of nitrous oxide cannisters collected and that these be provided to the Committee and that further consideration be given to the collection of litter beyond verges, that was not currently part of the Norse contract

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- c) Requested that data in relation to commercial waste be provided to the Committee.
- d) Asked for liaison to be undertaken with supermarkets regarding the promotion of tetra pak recycling and for the two bins due to be provided in Hillyfield Community Park to be installed.
- e) Requested that the report looking at how residents of flats and Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) manage their waste be circulated to the Committee when available.
- f) Asked that details of work being undertaken to address the issue of rubbish and recycling sacks being left in the street for an excessively long period be provided to the Committee.
- g) Requested that the Committee be provided with information in relation to waste sent abroad from Medway.
- h) Requested that the provision of rigid plastic recycling at Hoath Way Recycling Centre and the availability of a single point of contact for residents regarding the Pier Road depot be further investigated.

310 Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report and Risk Summary Quarter 1 2022/23

Discussion:

The Committee received a report setting out performance for Quarter 1 against the Council's two priorities Place and Growth insofar as they fell within the remit of this Committee, along with a review of the Council's Risk Register.

The following issues were discussed:

HollieGuard vouchers and Safety in Action Day - A Member asked how the HollieGuard vouchers, for victims of domestic abuse, were funded. The Member also considered that the Safety in Action Day held at Chatham Historic Dockyard had been a very good event and asked whether it would be repeated.

The Assistant Director, Frontline Services said that HollieGuard vouchers were paid for by Safer Streets funding. Lessons to be learnt would be considered from the Safety in Action Day to consider how to repeat it. It had been one of the most well attended events held at the Dockyard in recent years.

Replacing Medway's streetlights – Clarification was requested around the dates given for the completion of this work as the report made reference to both September 2022 and March 2023. It was also questioned what could be done about any pockets of dark areas.

The Assistant Director said that she would look into the possible date discrepancy highlighted in relation to the streetlights. Light settings could be tweaked remotely and Members were encouraged to advise of any dark areas.

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Street Cleanliness data and risk – It was requested that the Committee be provided with street cleanliness data and that further information about strategic risk scores be given within Committee reports. It was also questioned whether the targets set were ambitious enough given that performance against many of the metrics was green.

The Committee was advised that the provision of street cleansing data would be followed up post meeting. Strategic risks were due to be considered and how they were reported could also be looked at. It was confirmed that targets were reviewed each year and that it was rare for performance to be green against so many indicators.

Air Quality Management Strategic Risk – Concern was expressed that the air quality strategic risk was being managed within the climate change strategic risk. The Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive said that this did not affect how the risk was monitored, just that it was fed back as part of climate change reporting. In response to a question that asked how the Committee could receive reports on the status of the climate change risk, the Director said that this would be covered within the quarterly performance monitoring reports considered by the Committee.

Decision:

The Committee:

- a) Considered the Q1 2022/23 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities and considered the amended Strategic Risk Summary as set out in Appendix 3.
- b) Considered the referral from the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 August 2022 regarding the suggestion that air quality management areas in Medway should have its own risk. The Committee also considered the comments of the Assistant Director, Regeneration and the Head of HIF and Regeneration that air quality mitigations were held within the climate change strategic risk rather than the HIF strategic risk.
- c) The Committee requested that it be provided data in relation to street cleansing.
- d) The Committee noted that strategic risks were due to be considered and requested that how they were included in Committee reports was also considered.

311 Petitions

Discussion:

The Committee received a report setting out petitions received by the Council which fell within the remit of this Committee including a summary of the responses sent to petition organisers by officers.

Decision:

The Committee noted the petition responses and appropriate officer action set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the report.

312 Work programme

Discussion:

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive said that the River Strategy would be presented to the December 2022 meeting of the Committee as planned. He also highlighted to the Committee that a report in relation to S106 funding was due to be presented in December and that a report on Innovation Park Medway was due to be considered in March 2023.

A Member asked whether reference would be made to the Medway Queen within the River Strategy and if not, requested a briefing note on the topic. A response would be provided to the relevant Member after the meeting.

It was requested that the Bus Improvement Strategy be considered at a future meeting of the Committee. This would be discussed at the next pre-agenda meeting.

Decision:

The Committee:

- a) Noted the proposed work programme, set out at Appendix A to the report, which included the recommendations of the pre-agenda meeting outlined in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.5 and 4.6 to 4.7 of the report and the proposed deferral at paragraph 3.6 of the report.
- b) Noted the request to receive the following briefing notes ahead of the reports being presented to the Committee:
 - Innovation Park Medway.
 - Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicles Strategy.
- c) Noted that the possibility of the Bus Improvement Strategy being considered at a future meeting of the Committee would be discussed at the next pre-agenda meeting.

**Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview And Scrutiny Committee, 13
October 2022**

Chairman

Date:

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