

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 DECEMBER 2022

ATTENDANCE BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR RESOURCES

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gulvin, Portfolio Holder for Resources

Summary

This report sets out progress made within the areas covered by the Portfolio Holder for Resources which fall within the remit of this Committee.

1. Background

1.1 The areas within the terms of reference of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee covered by the Portfolio Holder for Resources are:

- Community Safety Partnership
- CCTV
- Property

Note: The following services fall within the Resources Portfolio, in relation to the Community Safety Partnership:

- Tobacco control, excluding smoking cessation services
- Community safety aspects of alcohol and drug misuse
- Public health aspects of promotion of community safety, violence prevention and response.

1.2 The Community Safety Partnership is made up of the following responsible authorities –

- Medway Council
- Kent Police
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)
- The Probation Service
- Integrated Care Board (ICB).

1.3 The nature of the work of the Community Safety Partnership means that several areas of work detailed in this report although are all community safety

initiatives, involve a number of different council departments who are the responsibility of a number of Portfolio Holders.

1.4 Achievements for 2021/22 are detailed by services area below.

2. Community Safety Team

2.1 The remit of the team is to identify on-going, long-term anti-social behaviour issues and act as a hub for Medway Council colleagues and partner agencies. The team has close working partnerships with Kent Police and other members of the Community Safety Partnership. They have extended a holistic approach to assist housing providers and other organisations in dealing with anti-social behaviour that affects the wider community, including working closely with Medway Council's Rough Sleeper Outreach Team and Youth Services.

2.2 The team attend a weekly meeting with Kent Police and the Medway Task Force. The Task Force act as a conduit to other agencies and stakeholders. The meeting allows a partnership approach to community safety and a speedier response to community issues in Medway.

2.3 The Community Safety Team attend the Vulnerability Panel with the Task Force. This meeting brings together partner agencies, stakeholders, and other agencies to deal with community related issues that affect the wider community and require a multi-agency approach. In the last year the panel has dealt with numerous cases ranging from anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse to mental health. The panel brings a holistic approach to problem solving and allows all involved parties to work towards successful outcomes.

2.4 The Community Safety Team attend various other meetings including with the Adolescent Team and Partners, CCTV Operations Group, Community Safety Unit, PACTs and a new initiative recently created by The Community Safety Team; a bi-weekly meeting with the Rough Sleeper Outreach Team to expedite the process of identifying rough sleepers engaging in anti-social behaviour, taking an holistic approach and when appropriate, enforcement action, to resolve the anti-social behaviour identified from occurring.

2.5 Since its creation, the Community Safety Team (Anti-Social Behaviour Team) has dealt with 900 cases, which include 223 reports of anti-social behaviour occurring during the last twelve months. These reports have ranged from some simple anti-social behaviour issues, which required a straightforward early intervention to resolve, to complicated community safety issues which needed a protracted investigation and a multi-agency approach led by Community Safety Officers.

3. Community Payback

3.1 The Community Payback Scheme has been resumed following a suspension brought about by the Covid 19 outbreak. Eighteen Community Payback requests have been completed so far in 2022 which include litter picks, alley clearances, levelling off soil, garden clearances, and a project in Rochester

involving railings being repainted. A recent meeting has taken place between Community Payback, Medway Task Force, and the Community Safety Team to explore ways which the project can be developed further in Chatham and Luton.

4. Medway Task Force (MTF)

- 4.1 The Task Force has been delivering Safer Streets 3 focused primarily on reducing violence against women and girls. This work has resulted in:
- 4.2 Five additional lighting projects, including Victoria Gardens solar powered heritage lighting, four bus stops lit up; lighting in Rope Walk underpass and lighting installed in an alleyway used by commuters leading off Hills Terrace.
- 4.3 Medway Safe Spaces scheme extended to include Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham, Rainham, Strood, Luton, Dockside and Twydall. This scheme now has over 84 businesses signed up and the team is currently looking at ways to develop this initiative further.
- 4.4 Street scene improvement work has taken place over the lifetime of this project resulting in 23.48 tonnes of waste removed and 704 jobs, including Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) and investigations; 4 new bins installed, and overgrown shrubbery cut back to improve visibility.
- 4.5 Four x 45 second safety videos have been developed covering the themes of drink spiking, exercising alone, safe spaces and help and support. These videos form part of a wider social media safety campaign around #itsgoodtoknow which also brings in safety information linked to Trading Standards, Child Friendly Medway, Road Safety, and the Community Safety Partnership.
- 4.6 Active Bystander training was delivered free to both schools – Year 11 students and to agencies and businesses working in public spaces. Further training is being provided to transport hubs as part of Safer Streets 4.
- 4.7 Ladies Night was financed through the Safer Streets Fund – this project was focussed on engaging with hard-to-reach ladies within the Chatham area. This initiative co-ordinated by Medway Council's Housing Policy Officer, proved extremely successful in engaging with over 30 hard to reach women on a monthly basis in a non-threatening environment providing access to services in an informal setting. Funding has since been secured through the CSP PCC's (Police and Crime Commissioner's) fund to continue this initiative.
- 4.8 The Safer Medway Partnership extended the reach of shop watch radio in both Rochester and Chatham and Medway Street Pastors were supported with additional clothing and equipment.
- 4.9 The MTF has continued to co-ordinate numerous engagement sessions aimed at speaking to members of the public, particularly women around safety and providing free safety products – over 3,240 products have been given out.

These products have also been distributed as part of the wider night-time economy operation developed by Medway Community Safety Unit – Op Vigilant. Feedback received has been extremely positive.

- 4.10 Fifty Hollie Guard vouchers were purchased to be distributed to protect victims of stalking. Hollie Guard Extra is a phone app which provides victims with a discreet alarm activation with 24/7 monitoring and immediate response service.
- 4.11 Through the Safer Streets Fund (Home Office funding which allows partners to invest in crime prevention initiatives) the MTF supported Medway Sport with the 'This Girl Can' programme providing additional sporting sessions to encourage women into sport. The MTF also supported with International Women's Day which proved to be a very successful event at Medway Park.
- 4.12 In July 2022, Medway was once again successful in securing £203K Safer Streets 4 money and already a number of these work streams have been delivered. Additional state of the art CCTV cameras has been installed in Rochester multi-storey, complemented by anti-graffiti paint in the stairwells in order to reduce ASB. A new Illicit Tobacco post has been recruited working within Medway Council Trading Standards Team. Further street scene work has commenced in Chatham and Luton which has already seen some excellent results.
- 4.13 Safer Streets funding has enabled Child Friendly Medway to run additional CFM events in the Chatham and Luton areas. The first event, Super Saturday, took place in the Pentagon and was a huge success – feedback was positive from both families attending but also local businesses who saw the biggest footfall in a while.
- 4.14 Safer Streets Funding will also be spent on work in Millennium Green and Shipwrights; target hardening work, youth engagement work and active bystander training focussed on transport hubs – liaison with South-Eastern Railway has commenced.
- 4.15 The MTF was also successful in securing funding from the Violence Reduction Unit which has resulted in the renovation of a construction unit at the Rowans School enabling young people to learn construction skills leading to qualifications. This work has already been completed and is first class. Funding is also being used by Medway Youth Services to secure additional interventions for young people in Chatham and Luton through music and is proving extremely popular in engaging young people.
- 4.16 The Medway Vulnerability Panel continues and since its inception has received over 109 cases (October 2022). Agency attendance has widened to include Mental Health Services, namely Porchlight and Shaw Trust and National Probation Services which has proved very beneficial in supporting those who are vulnerable in Medway.

- 4.17 Safety in Action 2022 has gone from strength to strength with 40 Medway primary schools signed up. Delivery was widened to include a newly developed video on ASB and a Prevent input. All Medway schools received the SIA workbooks. A poster competition resulted in the class winner attending the fire station and meeting agencies and the runner up school received a short visit from the MTF. A SIA event was organised at Chatham Dockyard which saw over 40 agencies in attendance with a footfall of over 5500. This proved to be a hugely successful day in engaging Medway families in all aspects of safety and received very favourable feedback from all involved.
- 4.18 Proactive work to prevent deliberate fires within Medway and to identify vulnerable cohorts who are vulnerable to fire has continued. Multi-agency all out days led by KFRS have proved very successful in engaging residents, not only regarding fire safety but wider issues impacting on them. Save Safely campaign has commenced – helping the public make safe decisions regarding the cost of living. Between October 21 – October 22 the fire officer within the MTF has managed 102 safeguarding cases within Medway.
- 4.19 The MTF has continued to develop engagement opportunities within their focus area through a quarterly resident's meeting; coffee morning at two local primary schools; Hate Crime Awareness Event at the Magpie Centre; events within the town centres, community hubs, schools, and colleges. Multi-agency street engagement days have taken place in numerous locations engaging with residents on a number of issues around street scene, housing, parking, benefits, etc and providing free safety products, and dealing with issues and signposting where appropriate. Attendance at businesses within Luton as part of business crime week proved extremely beneficial in engaging and supporting business owners.
- 4.20 Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) staff within the Task Force continue to support local individuals referred to them by the wider team and through their local engagement work have developed wider networks to support vulnerable people which is even more important with the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.
- 4.21 As part of the wider safety work the police officers have been running regular road checks in Task Force focus areas to maintain safety on local roads through focus on speed, road worthiness of vehicles, valid driving documents and unlawful waste carriers.
- 4.22 The MTF maintains a close work relationship with the Violence Reduction Unit, The Adolescent Team, and Youth Services in responding to emerging youth violence.
- 4.23 The MTF is currently organising a Violence Against Women and Girls Walk and Talk event on 9/12/22 to take place in Rochester on a Friday early evening. This will involve a number of partners engaging with local people around VAWG.

5. PACTs (Partners and Communities Together)

- 5.1 The Community Safety Team have attended PACTs within Hoo St Werburgh, All Hallows, Gillingham and Gibraltar Hill.
- 5.2 The Hoo PACT identified current public concern focussed on anti-social behaviour occurring in Hoo, most noticeably linked to drug supply and nuisance motorcycles. Following this PACT, the Community Safety Team identified two hotspot locations and made provision for rapid deployment cameras to be installed in Knights Road and outside of the Pottery Road Recreation Ground. The Community Safety Team are shortly to be participating in joint initiative with Police Community Support Officers from Kent Police, providing drop-in public surgeries which will provide a facility for Hoo residents to attend and share intelligence and report any anti-social behaviour concerns which they may have.
- 5.3 Following the Hoo PACT, a representative from the Community Safety Team also attended the Parish Council meeting and provided crime prevention advice (supplied by Kent Police) to the meeting and reassured both the Parish Council and members of the public present, that Kent Police and Medway Council were acting upon their concerns and were putting measures in place to counter the anti-social behaviour which had been reported.

6. Community Engagement

- 6.1 The Community Safety Team has participated in multiple community engagement events including the Safety in Action Day at the Historic Dockyard, UCA personal safety event, Magpie Café hate crime event, Business Engagement as part of a locations assessment, Luton Millennium Green, The Elaine Centre Strood 'You Matter Event', and various drop-in coffee morning sessions within the community. The Community Safety Team has also participated in door knocking engagement days in partnership with Street Scene and the Medway Task Force in Thorold Road and Grange Hill. The Community Safety Team will shortly be supporting Medway Task Team in forthcoming engagement days for Operation Septure / Anti-bullying week, and a 'Violence Against Woman and Girls' event.
- 6.2 The Community Safety Team will shortly be providing a facility to residents for drop-in surgeries in Hoo, alongside Police Community Support Officers, and the Community Safety Team will also be providing further drop-in sessions in Cuxton and Chatham High Street.

7. Illegal Tobacco

- 7.1 Work relating to illegal tobacco and nicotine containing products (vapes) continues to be a priority area for the team with intelligence reports from our inspections sent to the Police and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).
- 7.2 A total of 85 visits to traders were made and a total of 1,230 illegal products were seized. Investigations are on-going in relation to these seizures.

8. Age Restricted Goods

- 8.1 During this period work in this area was severely restricted by covid restrictions. This resulted in only one test purchase operation taking place where a total of 6 premises were visited by a test purchase volunteer. All premises complied with the legislation and no sales were made.

9. Strategic Community Safety Approach

- 9.1 A strategic approach continues to be adopted to ensure the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is closely aligned with the ambitions of Medway as a great place to live, work, learn and visit.
- 9.2 The strategic assessment reviewed the CSP's existing priorities and has confirmed that they meet their statutory obligations as a partnership, reflecting the priorities of partner agencies in delivering a safer Medway, and supporting sustainable regeneration.
- 9.3 The annual strategic assessment will this year refresh the Action Plan as part of the 4-year CSP Plan, which the CSP continues to align with the Police and Crime Commissioners Safer in Kent Plan.

10. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)

- 10.1 Legislation introduced by the Government in 2014 gave local authorities more freedom and flexibility to control ASB in places to which the public has access. PSPOs replaced the Designated Public Place Order (DPPO), which created 'alcohol control zones' and Dog Control Orders. The change to the law came into effect on 20 October 2017. From this time the DPPOs were treated as provisions of a PSPO.
- 10.2 PSPOs are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.
- 10.3 There are existing PSPOs in Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester and Strood in relation to dog control. These can be varied or discharged at any time following further consultation.
- 10.4 The boundaries, following a public consultation process, were extended prohibiting the consumption of alcohol within Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester and Strood town centres.
- 10.5 During the summer of 2022, tents were pitched within the moat area of Rochester Castle and within the war memorial garden in Rochester High Street. As both these locations are identified as being significant local landmarks of educational and historical importance, a public consultation will

shortly be commenced in relation to a PSPO prohibiting tents and overnight sleeping in these two locations.

11. Prevent

- 11.1 The Kent and Medway Prevent Duty Delivery Board (PDDDB) is the strategic partnership board responsible for overseeing Prevent delivery across Medway and Kent and is jointly chaired by Corporate Directors from Medway Council and Kent County Council (KCC) and has good attendance from a range of partners.
- 11.2 The Kent and Medway Prevent Partners Plan sets out required activity and was amended to reflect both the Counter Terrorism Local Profile recommendations and themes from the Kent and Medway Counter Terrorist Risk Assessment 2021-22, with agreement from all partners. Progress updates are delivered to the quarterly Kent and Medway PDDDB.
- 11.3 The Medway Internal Prevent Cross-Directorate Group (CDG) continues to meet and mirrors the equivalent KCC meeting. Attendance has recently been refreshed with attendance required for all service areas at the request of the Director of People – Children and Adult Services. The Kent and Medway Prevent Coordinator chairs this group in partnership with the Director of People. The Kent and Medway partners action plan is also monitored through this group with regular updates.
- 11.4 The KCC Assistant Director for CONTEST and SOC, Prevent Coordinator and Prevent Community Engagement Officer continue to deliver a high level of training to colleagues, partners, and communities. There has been low attendance at Prevent training sessions for Medway officers which is being addressed through the Medway CDG. There is a vast amount of training being delivered to partners such as Kent Police, incorporating all teams across the force. The training is constantly updated and new dates for 2023 will be set for Medway officers through Workforce Development. An overview of Prevent information and training courses is available on Medway Council's intranet (MedSpace). The Prevent Coordinator is still waiting for access to Medspace which has been raised multiple times in the Medway Cross Directorate Group.
- 11.5 The Medway Prevent Education Officer (PEO) continues to have strong engagement across Medway schools and with partners. There is good interest from Medway schools and bookings are consistent. Medway schools contact the PEO for advice and support where required. The Medway Education Officers liaise with the PEO on matters of safeguarding where required. The Prevent Education Officer newsletter continues to be produced bi-monthly and disseminated via MedSpace alongside other relevant resources.
- 11.6 Strong links have been made with Medway Special Educational Needs (SEN) provisions. The Medway PEO was recently invited to participate in a multiagency staff training event at one of the main SEN Provisions in

Medway. This is as a direct result of previous positive engagements with staff and students at the setting.

- 11.7 The Medway PEO is linked in with the 7 Kent Police officers dedicated to Medway education settings. They have received training on Prevent and engage with the PEO when required.
- 11.8 The PEO was part of 2022 Safety in Action and is working on delivery for Medway Safety in Action for 2023. This will be co delivered with Medway Youth Service and The Medway Task force. The session will focus on extremist's use of online gaming to target young people. This event will be available to all Medway primary schools.
- 11.9 The Medway PEO continues to update training, resources, and support to reflect fast changing and emerging risks and issues as well as address gaps in resource provision and knowledge. The PEO has linked In with Public Health Medway to review the Prevent Education training resources developed for schools. These resources are shared with settings and include direct links for schools to contact the PEO for advice and support.
- 11.10 The PEO joined the newly established Medway Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) forum meetings run by the Education Safeguarding Officers. These were well attended by over 100 DSLs from Primary, Secondary, and independent schools. The PEO gave a briefing at the session and as a direct result several schools requested staff and student sessions for 2023.
- 11.11 The Independent Review of Prevent announced by the Government as part of the Counter Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 has been significantly delayed following last years terrorist incidents in October 2021 and November 2021 as well as parliamentary changes. The review has been completed and the outcome from the review is due to be published in November/December 2022.
- 11.12 In July the Prevent Community Engagement Officer (PCEO) successfully delivered the first ever 'Online Awareness of Hateful Extremism' gaming project to Medway and Kent communities. The gaming bus was positioned outside The Pentagon shopping centre in Chatham. The aims of the project were to counter hateful extremism and spread awareness around safety in the online world/gaming spaces. The project raised awareness with gamers around the harms of extreme hate and exploitation from those that wish to radicalise others. With the support of Community Safety Partners, the awareness and resources provided will increase online safety habits for participants when gaming. Over 200 people joined attended the bus over the two days. The range of ages were between 3 – 52 (mean – 14). A full evaluation report has been shared with partners.
- 11.13 The PCEO has had a close working relationship with the Medway Kent Police Community liason officer. This partnership enabled the PCEO to meet many Medway communities including the Chatham and Gillingham Imam's. The team has continued to develop existing relationships and create new

engagement opportunities in Medway. The PCEO has engaged with Chatham Football Club in addition to the Medway Dance Network, Gillingham Church and Midkent College for Hate Crime awareness week.

- 11.14 The PCEO monitors and receives updates on local stickering and graffiti incidents across Medway. This is fed back to relevant partners and increases engagement should repeated incidents or trends be identified. There have been no recent incidents reported for Medway this may be due to the loss of the Kent Police CLO and changeover of Medway Community Safety Unit (CSU) lead.
- 11.15 The Social media for the Prevent team is currently managed by the PCEO, the platform increases opportunity to make community partners aware of our prevent engagement in local areas. The PCEO continues to monitor the online tensions within Kent and Medway online media spaces.
- 11.16 Since May 2022 a further 44 Prevent training sessions have been delivered to over 900 attendees. This includes 6 Medway sessions to 100 officers.
- 11.17 The 2023/2024 national Prevent area prioritisation process started with the Kent and Medway round table held on 17th October 2022. The portal for priority area resources opens mid December 2022.
- 11.18 On 17 August 2022 the KCC and Medway Prevent Team hosted a 4-hour in person visit at Sessions House from the Security Minister and Director of Prevent from Homeland Security. The Minister had been in post since 7th July 2022, and this was his first Prevent visit. We were asked to host the visit to showcase our local Prevent delivery, partnerships, and Channel cases. The Prevent team provided interactive detailed briefings on the local risk and governance structures, a detailed Channel case study, Prevent education delivery and Prevent community updates. Feedback from the visit was very positive, and it was a fantastic opportunity for the Minister to hear about our comprehensive Prevent delivery across Kent and Medway. However, the Security Minister resigned from post on 5th September and a new Security Minister has now been appointed.
- 11.19 Work continues in relation to the Domestic Abuse research project, which focuses on the correlation of Channel referrals to Domestic Abuse (DA) as a perpetrator/victim/witness. The Joint Controller Agreement and Data Protection Agreements are being finalised with input from the Home Office Channel team and will be shared with Medway for their full sign off. Updates will be included in future reports.
- 11.20 The Kent and Medway Prevent Team continue to engage in several events across Kent and Medway. Following the success of the 2022 hybrid event, the 2023 Hateful Extremism CPD (Continuing Professional Development) event with Kent Police will be held on 28 February 2023. We are in the early stages of planning for the event.

11.21 In August 2022 we received the new guidance approved by Joint Extremism Unit (JEXU), Probation and Homeland Security for Prevent Coordinators to be included in all MAPPA meetings. This has been developed following the reviews into the Streatham and Fishmongers Hall terrorist attacks. The Prevent Coordinator has received invites to the regular MAPPA Senior Management Board meetings (SMB) which will add to the development of partnership working for MAPPA cases.

12. Channel Panel

12.1 Channel is the early intervention multi-agency process designed to safeguard vulnerable people from being drawn into violent extremist or terrorist behaviour. Channel works in a similar way to existing safeguarding partnerships aimed at protecting vulnerable people.

12.2 On 23 August 2022 the team received a letter from Cathryn Ellsmore, Deputy Director of Prevent indicating she will be making a recommendation to Ministers to roll back the Dovetail pilot nationally and restore the police-led model. This created significant uncertainty within the Dovetail team and although only a recommendation at this time, it is frustrating to have received this before the IRP has been published. Initially the letter had not been sent to the Chief Executives, this was challenged and as a result Homeland Security sent the letter to all relevant Chief Executives.

12.3 Impacted staff (Dovetail team) attended a meeting held by the Home Office Channel team on 31 August, a question session held with Dovetail staff from across the country. There were limited answers provided other than the guarantee of a 12-18 month notice period from the date of the decision to stop the Dovetail pilot. Unfortunately, in October both Channel Coordinators following this news have decided to move on from their roles. One will leave in mid-November, the other in early December. The Channel Supervisor has not given any notification of leaving at this time and options are being explored for this role April 2024 onwards.

12.4 Therefore, the responsibility of carrying out key Channel processes for Kent and Medway is formally being transferred to Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE) from 3 December 2022. We have been operating the Dovetail model of Channel delivery since 2016 so full discussions are being held with CTPSE as to the functions that they will now have responsibility for. A full day meeting is scheduled on 27 October for initial discussions to take place.

12.5 The Kent and Medway Channel panel will still be coordinated by KCC; however, the initial assessment and section 36 Counter Terrorism Security Act 2015 decision will now be made by CTPSE. Any new referrals that are submitted between now and then will be taken on by CTPSE colleagues. The November and December panel will still take place virtually, with a new face to face panel starting from January 2023. It is vital that close working relationships remain with CTPSE and Kent and Medway Prevent team, significantly the Channel Supervisor, Prevent Coordinator and Channel Chair

- 12.6 KCC's (Kent County Council) Assistant Director CONTEST is the designated chair for the panel.
- 12.7 A joint Channel Panel development day with Croydon Prevent team is planned for 3 November. This follows the very successful joint development day that was held in January 2020. Several high-profile national speakers will be presenting on the day alongside a plenary session to enhance the ongoing professional development of how we operate our Channel Panel.
- 12.8 From Jan 2022 to October 19, 2022, 20% of all the referrals that have come to Dovetail have been individuals residing in Medway.
- 12.9 81% were for "Unclear" ideology, 9% for Islamist related extremism and 9% for Extreme Right-Wing concerns.
- 12.10 55% of referrals were made by Kent Police, 18% of referrals were made by Early Help and 0-25 Disability Team at Medway Council. 18% of referrals were made by schools. 9% of referrals were made by Charities.
- 12.11 Of all the referrals that have come to Dovetail and been assessed at the time of writing, 67% have been assessed as being suitable to progress and be discussed at the Kent and Medway Channel panel. The assessment has concluded that there are clear vulnerabilities to radicalisation and the threshold has been met to discuss this case in a multi-agency forum. Of the referrals that have gone on to be discussed at the Channel panel, 67% have been adopted as needing bespoke and targeted support to deal with their risks and vulnerabilities of radicalisation or violent extremism. 75% of these individuals have consented.
- 12.12 Key themes in referrals: over the last 8 months we have seen that individuals who may have an interest in gore/gruesome related material may have inadvertently accessed extremist material. We have seen a correlation between individuals referred to prevent that have an interest in pornography and/or have been in possession of indecent images. Internet sites such as "GAB" and "Discord" remain prominent in referrals

13. Serious and Organised Crime Partnership (SOCP)

- 13.1 The SOCP has brought together a wide base of partner organisation to tackle serious criminality including organised crime groups (OCG) and there are currently no unarchived threat groups known to be active, County Line and local drug dealing networks have been well suppressed and many arrests and prosecutions by local officers and the Chief Constables County Line and Gang's Team have followed. Agencies have monitored and traced prison releases and individuals who need early intervention to prevent reoffending. Emerging crime trends, threats and alerts from the national monitoring group Op Opal have also been reviewed and disseminated to allow partners to keep people in Medway from falling victim.

14. Blue Light Project

- 14.1 The Blue light project (BLP) continues to facilitate multi-disciplinary support those who face severe and multiple disadvantages. Meetings are attended by a range of organisations including Police, rough sleeping initiative, housing providers, Public Health, third sector organisations, support services for people who use drugs, mental health, social care, probation services and prison health.
- 14.2 Approximately ten people are on the list at any one time for discussion and support to prevent them 'falling between the gaps' in services. Information is shared between partners and actions are allocated which contribute to improved outcomes for the BLP clients. Those referred in to the BLP faced barriers to services and it has been noted by partners that cases are becoming increasingly complex; several of whom have exhausted all avenues of support.
- 14.3 It was recognised that many of the service users being discussed at the BLP are victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse. As result, the commissioned domestic abuse service Oasis, now attends the meeting and makes regular referrals into the project.

15. Doorstep Fraud

- 15.1 The Trading Standards team are continuing their work challenging doorstep crime in Medway. Working in partnership with Kent Police, local banks, Neighbourhood Watch, and community groups they have intervened in 14 cases this year and directly saved householders from parting with £92,800 to rogue traders.
- 15.2 The team are continuing to encourage residents to declare their properties 'No Cold Call Homes' and last year introduced a new pack which includes a facility for vulnerable residents to nominate trusted neighbours to support them if they are cold called. The team have supplied a further 3780 of the new packs and further engagement events are planned in local communities. The availability of the packs has been widely promoted on the Teams Facebook page
- 15.3 In February a trader who carried out unnecessary and poor roofing work on the home of a Rochester resident was fined by Magistrates £250 for each of 3 consumer protection offences and ordered him to pay £5,500 compensation and costs of £1,866, totalling £8,116. Investigations into further complaints and potentially linked companies are on-going.
- 15.4 The team continue visit chronic victims of scams to offer support and advice on how to stop being the target of scam letters and emails. The team have undertaken 84 of these visits this year, sign posting many of the residents to other critical support services.

15.5 A recent joint operation with the Police resulted in the arrest of 4 suspected rogue traders. As part of this operation the team were able to secure a refund, via the bank's chargeback scheme, of £18,000 to the 82-year-old victim.

15.6 The team are also undertaking a project examining the electrical compliance of low cost and second-hand heaters for sale in Medway. This will ensure public safety and prevent possible household fires.

16. Kent and Medway Serious Youth Crime project

16.1 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) funded a two-year project to work with young people between 10 and 17 in North Kent and Medway who are involved in, or at risk of being involved in, serious youth violence and related behaviours. This includes gang affiliation, County Lines drug supply and potential Child Criminal Exploitation. Over the last two years, intervention has been offered to these young people via the Serious Youth Violence and Prevention (SYV) Project Contract delivered by Project Salus CIC. The funding was awarded to KCC in partnership with both Medway Council and Kent Police.

16.2 The project commenced in June 2020 and for a period of two years has had a positive impact on both the individuals and communities it works with. Through review of the contract and extensive evaluation, via the London South Bank University Evaluation team (final report available shortly) the project has received extensive positive feedback from partners, stakeholders, and funders. This project has also been used to shape the delivery of other mentor-based projects throughout the county (including Head Start).

16.3 Key to this delivery has been the partnership approach that has been developed with Kent Police, Medway Council, and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). The project was delivered across two cohorts (Protect and Prevent) of young people with the aim of reducing both criminal activity and preventing any escalation within the youth justice system.

16.4 The SYV Project contract delivered by Project Salus CIC ended on 14 June 2022. It was agreed that the contract be extended for a term of one year with a reduced capacity, meeting the needs of those young people most in need of provision. The additional funding allows Project Salus CIC to support the identified cohort of young people and continue to accept referrals, for a period of one year. This will add capacity to the system and can be focused to respond to specific local pressures.

17. Unauthorised Encampments

17.1 2022 has so far been a challenging year so far with Medway Council having 18 traveller incursions at multiple sites including Beechings Way, Luton Recreation Ground, Barnfield Recreation Ground, Wigmore Park and Ride, Rainham High Street Car Park, Cornwallis Avenue, Bligh Way, and Hempstead Recreation Ground. This is a significant increase to the 10 traveller incursions in 2021.

17.2 The Community Safety Team has been in consultation with Medway Norse to explore prevention measures which may be considered to reduce the volume of future traveller incursions, particularly in areas which have been subject to multiple incursions.

18. CCTV

18.1 A new Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for CCTV and Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) were appointed in early 2022.

18.2 A full review of all surveillance system assets deployed in public places is currently underway.

18.3 A 'surveillance system' may include static CCTV, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR), redeployable CCTV, body worn videos (BWVs) and dashcams.

18.4 Capital Improvement Works. A maintenance review conducted by Kyndi Ltd (the Council's CCTV contractor) identified that a total of 42 cameras were either red or orange RAG rated, meaning that they were either non-operational (be it power, or connectivity issues) or nearing end-of-life. In addition, large parts of the camera stock were still operating on legacy analogue systems and required digital high definition (HD) upgrades.

18.5 Council officers working with Kyndi colleagues scheduled a programme of rolling capital improvement works around the Medway towns, utilising the CCTV capital fund approved in the Council budget. Since March of this year, 18 Community Safety cameras and 6 car park cameras have been upgraded in Twydall, Strood, Rochester and parts of Chatham.

18.6 The next tranche of works will focus primarily on Chatham, and then, on to Gillingham, Rainham and Parkwood.

18.7 CCTV Partnership. The CCTV Partnership is shared between Medway Council and Gravesham Borough Council, with all community safety CCTV operated and monitored by Kyndi Ltd on a 24/7, 365 days a year basis. The Partnership Board had not met during the pandemic but was reinstated shortly after the new single point of contact was appointed.

18.8 The Partnership Board review operational performance, which is gathered monthly and agree CCTV budget costs for 2023/24, which will then feed into the Council's annual budget build process.

18.9 Rochester Multi Storey Car Park. Safer Streets Round 4 Funding: Earlier this year, the Medway Task Force submitted a bid for Safer Streets Funding. This bid was successful, with funding in part going towards the installation of four state-of-the-art next generation CCTV cameras on the ground level and on all floors above. At the same time, the entire surveillance system within the car park was overhauled in October 2022.

- 18.10 Rapid Deployment Cameras (RDC's). There is a pool of rapid deployment cameras available, in instances where we have to act swiftly to tackle crime hotspots and spikes in criminal activity or civil disturbance. Medway Council currently has a pool of 10 rapid deployment cameras in stock, with nine deployed presently across Medway: -
- Three at Barnfield Recreation Ground
 - Two at Rainham Recreation Ground (recently subject to public petition and press interest)
 - Two in Hoo St Werburgh, one on Knights Road (near local shopping centre) and the other on Pottery Road (at the entrance to Recreation Ground).
 - One at Greenview Walk/Cornwallis Avenue
 - One at Fort Street, Rochester
- 18.11 The Council is looking to invest in several more RDC's, with other locations currently awaiting the outcome of feasibility studies. These include Hook Meadow (near Walderslade Girls School), Chalk Pit Hill and the Spemby Building in New Road.
- 18.12 The pool of RDCs once erected, remain in situ for around 12 weeks. At the end of this period, another review is carried out, whereby the Council and Medway Task Force will analyse crime statistics and trends over that period. Thereafter, a decision is taken to propose to remove the RDC or to make it permanent.
- 18.13 Monitoring. Each month a report is generated by the Kyndi CCTV control room that lists activity levels of all cameras and circulated to the SPOC (who is chair of the CCTV Partnership Operational Group). Part of this report will highlight zero activity cameras. If a camera reports zero activity for a period of 6 months, the camera's placement will be reviewed (is it in the correct position? Is it performing a specific function that has changed? Has the environment surrounding the camera changed etc).
- 18.14 Process for a new camera or decommissioning: If it is found that a camera is serving no specific purpose in the opinion of the CCTV SPOC, Community Safety Team and Kyndi Ltd, based on documented evidence, it will be submitted to the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Executive Group (CSP SEG) for decommissioning or re-deployment elsewhere. It is at this point the qualified professionals of the board may intervene with their own service-based intelligence. If it is decided that a camera is to be removed, Ward Members will be informed of this decision and the rationale behind it.
- 18.15 If a Ward Member, a Member of the Public or an Officer of the Council feels a location would benefit from a new camera due to anecdotal evidence of increased activity in an area, this may be reported to the Community Safety Team (it's important to note the distinction between the Community Safety Team and the Community Safety Partnership at this point). The Community

Safety Team will then investigate whether a Camera is the correct response to the specific issue. If this is the case the team will then collect evidence and complete a privacy impact assessment and present the suggestion to the CSP SEG for consideration.

- 18.16 This process will ensure that no single Officer, Member or Government Official will decide the location or removal of any camera in Medway.
- 18.17 It was agreed by CSP SEG on the 9 November 2022 that two CCTV cameras be decommissioned:
- Union Street Car Park, Chatham; now that the car park is deemed surplus to requirements; and
 - Peveral Green, as a result of zero activity.
- 18.18 Furthermore, two of the three rapid deployment cameras sited at Barnfield Recreation Ground will be made permanent.
- 18.19 Kyndi Investment – Video Tracking Analytic System (VTAS). Over the last few months, Kyndi have invested circa £100k on the new Video Tracking Analytic System (VTAS) which enables improved control of the Telemetry of the CCTV camera network and full integration of all the Control Centre cameras to one bespoke system. This provides uniformity of delivery for the operators and vastly improved reporting system.

19. Environmental Enforcement

- 19.1 The Environmental Enforcement Team continue to work in partnership with Kent Police and neighbouring local authorities. They use Kent Police's custody suite to facilitate the interviewing of suspects in environmental crime investigations. The team successfully prosecuted 15 cases in the last year with court awarding fines and costs totalling £9,765. One case resulted in a 20-week custodial sentence along with a 5-year Criminal Behaviour Order being issued. One case resulted in a 2-year conditional discharge being issued. One case is awaiting presentence reports before sentencing. 3 formal cautions have also been issued. There are 4 cases in the court system awaiting outcomes and 3 cases are awaiting court dates.
- 19.2 The team conducted 4 operations alongside Kent Police, this resulted in 48 vehicles being stopped with 7 vehicles being seized. There is also another operation planned for November 2022. The past year has seen a reduced number of operations due to Kent Police involvement in Op Brock (Channel ports disruption). Joint operations are now being planned to take place every 6 to 8 weeks.
- 19.3 The team have been conducting a large-scale fly tipping investigation, which is currently ongoing, where container loads of waste have been deposited on private and public land. There have been more than 50 twenty-foot container loads of waste deposited across Medway. It is likely that this is linked to organised crime. There has also been this type of fly tipping across other Kent local authority areas.

20. Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

- 20.1 The VRU is funded by the Home Office to develop a public health informed preventative approach to serious violence amongst those aged under 25. The team are drawn from Kent Police, Medway Council and Kent County Council and use four key approaches that underpin their work: data sharing across all services; multi-agency collaboration; evidence-based activity and evaluation of new approaches; hearing the voice of communities and young people.
- 20.2 In September 2022 serious violence amongst those under 25 across the County was lower than the previous three years. Knife enabled violence had returned to the levels seen pre-pandemic and was showing an increase. In comparison to other districts, Medway has consistently had high levels of overall serious violence when considering either volume or harm and remains a priority area for the VRU.
- 20.3 The VRU coordinator for Medway and Swale provides expertise on serious violence to support a strategic response to the issues facing Medway. A number of challenges, such as violence linked to groups of young people, cut across geographic boundaries and the coordinator ensures that the response to violence brings together partners for single, shared approach to violence prevention.
- 20.4 The VRU currently fund the following services in Medway:
- 20.5 Medway A & E Reachable Moments; youth workers offer support to young people admitted into hospital due to serious violence and maintain the support in the community.
- 20.6 Focused Deterrence; young street groups receive a wrap-around response that combines enhanced enforcement with a persistent and repeated offer of support. The approach includes a specialist service to work with the community affected by the group so that solutions to the harm caused are created and supported by the community members. The work has been piloted in Chatham and has seen a reduction in the harm caused to the local community.
- 20.7 Medway Task Force; the VRU has funded the MTF to offer spaces to young people at the Medway Music Klub, and to establish a specialist classroom space at the Rowans Pupil Referral Unit to teach construction skills. The coordinator has developed links with the Construction Youth Trust who are a charity that supports young people to access employment in the construction sector, and the Trust are offering support to school leavers.
- 20.8 Education; seven mainstream Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) including the two in Medway are receiving specialist support from a clinical psychologist to develop the skills of school professionals. The project allows the staff to deliver a Social Skills program and offers bespoke consultancy to each PRU on how best to develop their staff so that young people develop improved

thinking and emotional management skills. The VRU are working with Medway Council to fund and deliver a trauma-informed approach within all schools in Medway.

- 20.9 Active Bystander; Medway Task Force and the VRU are collaborating to promote an 'Active Bystander' campaign which encourages individuals to intervene or speak out when they witness unacceptable behaviour. The campaign will include messages created by young people from the Rowans PRU and Medway Youth Service.

21. Communications

- 21.1 The corporate Communications team continue to promote the work of Medway Council Front Line Services. Additionally, the Community Safety Partnership has its own Twitter account with tweets being sent on behalf of the partnership with general community safety advice as well as messaging when and where we are holding community engagement events. The account currently has 1,621 followers.

22. Valuation and Asset Management

- 22.1 The team's resources include a Service Manager, (vacant post as the previous post holder has retired) a property records officer (1FTE), an administrative officer (1FTE) and 3.2 FTE Senior Valuation Surveyors.
- 22.2 General Transactions which the team has completed, include some of the following:
- 22.2.1 The lease of part of the ground floor of Gun Wharf to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). The family courts are due to open later this year/early next, this will keep the courts in Medway (reducing travel time for court users and the council's lawyers/social workers) and will result in income and savings of nearly £346,000pa for the Council.
- 22.2.2 The adult education centre (AEC) in Gillingham has vacated 48 Canterbury Street, which has allowed the Council to save £38,000pa in rent (over £60,000pa in property costs) and claim compensation from the landlord of £47,000, whilst avoiding dilapidations costs. The AEC has now moved into the new Skills Hub at Britton Farm.
- 22.2.3 The Council has also acquired the former Debenhams Premises for £1,837,500 using external funding (this property was offered to the council when it was still let for circa £18m plus costs, but the council decided not to purchase the property at that time.)
- 22.3 Capital receipts
- 22.3.1 Last financial year, the Council received over £6.515m in capital receipts from 13 transactions (Including the Regear of Gillingham Business Park, Phase 3

and Phase 4a Rochester Riverside and land at the Broadway.) The land at the Broadway was sold as a site for an old people's home and the council managed to sell the long leasehold ten years ago for £370,000 and then it sold the freehold last year for £625,000.

22.3.2 This year (2022/23) the Council has already received over £278,000 in capital receipts, including the first payment in respect of phase 2 of Temple Waterfront.

22.4 Development and Regeneration

22.4.1 The Council has a property portfolio with a Value of around £0.5bn

- 836 property Assets.
- 283 individual sites with buildings on them.
- 429 tenants, excluding those at the Pentagon and the Innovation Centre and Studios
- 57 Leasehold Interests.
- Over 1000 parcels of land.

22.4.2 Works have started on the new Primary School at Rochester Riverside, and we are working with the Department for Education (DFE) to complete an agreement for lease/lease of the school and for a funding agreement, whereby the DFE will pay for the 1 Form Entry extension. The school will be open in September 2023.

22.4.3 We have been assisting the Housing Revenue Account(HRA) in appropriating and acquiring suitable sites for housing development for council housing.

22.4.4 The Garrison point and Chatham Waterfront sites have transferred to Medway Development Company (MDC) and construction is underway. The affordable development at White Road (20 units for Affordable rent) is complete, has transferred to MHS Homes and has won an award.

22.4.5 We have arranged for the revaluation of the housing stock, as of 31 March 2022 (193 Beacon valuations) and we have completed all asset valuations for the 31 March 2021 (57 valuations completed and nearly 1,000 reviewed and/or checked). We have categorised leases for finance, carried out an impairment review and assisted finance with any audit queries.

22.4.6 Net Income (before borrowing costs) for the 2021/22 financial year totalled £3,528,901, which can be broken down as follows:

- Pentagon Centre: £1,627,658.
- Council housing shops: £217,431.
- Investment properties: £816,367.
- Commercial properties £568,621.
- Highways Properties £8,602.

22.4.7 The Council's rented properties are achieving a return of circa: 7.18% for Commercial/non-operational properties, 3.64% for Ground rents and 6.7% for Investments. Long-term voids (at over 6 months) are running at 2.85%. In 2021/22, the Council generated net rental income of circa £3.24M and the team generated fee income (ignoring SLA income) of circa £225,855.

22.4.8 Amongst other things, in the last year (1/10/21 to 30/09/22) the following transactions (excluding the Pentagon) have been completed:

Leases Granted	33
Leases Taken	2
Rent Reviews	25
Disposals	11 £726,700

22.5 The Pentagon Shopping Centre

22.5.1 Strategic management of the Centre is carried out by Ellandi, with Workman, dealing with the day-to-day management.

22.5.2 The ground floor of centre is currently almost fully let, with a vacancy rate of only 4% at ground floor (compared to national shopping centre average of 19%). More leases will be completed, before year end, meaning that this vacancy rate will be even lower. Over the past 12 months, we have completed 21 new lettings, renewals and regears of units within the centre.

22.5.3 Following the lifting of all restrictions, the Pentagon is recovering well against 2019 benchmarks in terms of footfall and spend. There are positive signs of recovery across the centre, which will only be bolstered further by the delivery of the projects on the first floor.

22.5.4 The management team is continuing to keep up with the changing demands of both tenants and visitors – ensuring that we are keeping the centre a safe a pleasant and environment for shoppers. Analysis of the catchment, using data from Visitor Insights and insight from our annual shopper survey, shows that the Pentagon Centre continues to serve its local catchment's immediate needs. Shoppers visit an average of 90 times a year. Although the proportion of visitors spending while at the Centre is above benchmarks across all categories.

22.5.5 Plans for development of the first floor (which are to include a Healthy Living Centre and an Innovation Hub) are progressing with the RIBA stage 3 design, completed, most of the first -floor occupiers have either moved out/or have agreed to move out and negotiations are at an advanced stage with occupiers.

22.6 Plans for Mountbatten House

22.6.1 Planning consent has been secured for the development of Mountbatten House, the council has now acquired the building, and enabling works are underway.

22.7 Seedbed Units

22.7.1 In 2021/22, the income generated from the council's Seedbed units at Pier Road and Hopewell Drive was as set out below:

	Gross income	Costs	Staff costs	Net income
Hopewell	£100,128	£22,875	£9,980	£67,273
Pier Road	£129,046	£18,770	£4,400	£105,876

22.7.2 Current occupancy is as set out below:

	No of units	No of units let	% of units let	Lettable space sqft	Amount of space let sqft	% of space let
Hopewell	23	22 (Up from 18 last year)	96% (Up from 78% last year)	11,318	11,047.00 (Up from 9,222 last year)	98% (up from 81% last year)
Pier Road	29	24 (Down from 26 last year)	83% (Down from 90% last year)	10,920	8983.00 (Down from 10,020 last year)	82% (down from 92% last year)

22.7.3 At Pier Road, one unit is waiting for improvements by Medway Norse before letting. One unit is held for a change of unit and there are two applications pending and one unit is on the market (612sqft.)

22.7.4 At Hopewell Drive, the last vacant unit is under offer and we are awaiting completion of the lease.

23. Property

23.1 Excellent progress has been made in several areas, such as near completion of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) move works at Gun Wharf, and new commissions in areas such as education, corporate portfolio reviews. The Refit roll-out is now proceeding onto Phase 2 with a further £4M being awarded via PSDS Salix funding to carry out low carbon heating across 20 buildings during 2023, this increases the previous £12m contribution of green energy up to circa £16m on the Climate Change Agenda via P&CP work areas.

23.2 The Capital Projects Team are near completion on the Operations Depot on Maidstone Road alongside the new adjacent developments and the site is

now in use. This has been a challenging project with our team working closely with the planning department due to the special views from across near countryside with English Heritage Countryside and the success will be clearly demonstrated with the establishment of green responses in our design approach that will merge the project into the surrounding country views.

- 23.3 The P&CP Team have again demonstrated successes at this year's Design and Regeneration Awards Abbey Court, Hundred of Hoo and Fire Station Café. The successful selection of three projects for consideration speaks highly of our continued delivery of high-profile projects before and throughout the pandemic which the awards had taken account of, and our teams won the public buildings design including education award for the Abbey Court SEN school Phase 1.
- 23.4 Our pipeline which stood at £50m earlier in the year has now been updated with a further £20m of Educational works and a number of new Corporate development potential opportunities, as well as significant technical and design phase energy projects, such as the Chatham HNDU heat network which we await the funding award to proceed to DPD (Detailed Project Development), which could lead to an estimated £46m scheme should it provide feasible and we have now taken on sponsorship duty from our Business Change colleagues to proceed with TEF (Techno Economic Feasibility) study for the Hoo peninsula, utilising power station heat recovery following discussions and agreement with BEIS (UK Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) to deliver a TEF and DPD phases together by March 2024.
- 23.5 The move of Chatham's family law courts by P&CP, (previously situated at Anchorage House Chatham), to Gun Wharf will improve Medway Council's revenue stream in the order of £375k per annum and this will mean that the Courts remain in Medway and our main portfolio asset the Gun Wharf Corporate Headquarters will be developed and supported further and maintained along with the Law Courts via the lease agreement.
- 23.6 Leisure: At the Splashes leisure pool site in Rainham. The team has built on previous surveys and decisions on the reprovion of this popular local amenity. The site has been levelled, and we are now reappraising next steps due to the global financial inflation that is impacting many projects that have reached this stage. The financial position and procurement approach are now under review. The future design may require careful consideration alongside other potential delivery areas and is being reviewed regularly with the project board and members. We have ensured the consultants involved in this project have experience of other leisure facilities and we have made significant progress to ensure Medway have a design team who are proven in their ability to deliver sustainable projects.
- 23.7 Children's Services: We have supported a potential funding bid for the Aut Even site where we await further instructions.

- 23.8 Brook Theatre: Future high street funding and The Levelling up fund have been awarded for delivery of an improved facility including upgrading its accessibility and digital offering as well as vital building improvements and redecoration.
- 23.9 This will also enrich Chatham's creative sector by upgrading space and providing affordable office and coworking facilities alongside digitally enhanced rehearsal and performance spaces to develop their practice also contributed to the overall scheme which will improve facilities and digitally upgrade and futureproof the Brook to support and enhance their business. The grant funding deadline is March 2025 (originally March 2024), as an extension has been agreed with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
- 23.10 Education: The team are taking forward the next phase of Abbey Court school in Strood. The Award-Winning Phase 1 has led on to the latest phase of SEN school ambitions for our Medway provision which is now in place on the previous Temple School site. The site is adjacent to a new housing development, and the previous successful phase, with a continue knowledge of the previous maintained following the successful commission of the new Contractor. Bradfield – This school project has now reached the stage of Pre-Start now on site with an established Contractor. The attached elevation indicates the visual representations of the new block.
- 23.11 Additional large building Schemes at Hundred of Hoo Primary and St Nicholas Primary are now in design/construction phases delivering additional teaching spaces much needed in these areas of Medway
- 23.12 Condition: Smaller scale but just as important we are continuing to deliver and roll out the Maintenance and Condition works on our Medway Schools including a range of schemes such as new Roofs and New Road and Swingate Schools, FRA works like Fire Shutters on Kitchens and high-risk areas, replacement heating and boiler systems at Parkwood school. Our aim is to always be proactive as opposed to reactive however there are always building issues with an ageing stock that need resolving quickly i.e., subsidence issues, drainage works, improved security.
- 23.13 Housing HRA 2022/23 programme: We continue to support the Housing works this year defects for roofing which is nearly completed. We continue to be available to assist with Capital schemes, and input into the condition programme as required.
- 23.14 Heritage: Regular meetings are held with our special Heritage site leads, and conservation officers, alongside the Joint Venture Medway Norse to review the requirements of our listed buildings and Heritage portfolio, We share responsibility for delivering the buildings updates with English Heritage/Heritage England, and work to the latest condition programme to maintain the structures The Corn Exchange is an example where following external works being completed, we have implemented internal works, and

will continue to support the internal Clients to maintain the plant and décor. Good progress has been made this year, for example at Upnor castle.

- 23.15 Corporate Offices: The changes required to the Gun Wharf internal layouts by moving our staff out from Level 2 were successfully completed, with our team delivering new spaces for meeting rooms for a new flexible way of working. The works to waterproof the basement area at the front of Gun Wharf and maintain key service integrity is also complete and Phase 1 of Refit saw new LED lights installed across Gun Wharf. We have received compliments on the way this has been achieved without disruption to the staff or public, and on the look of the re-laid walls and pavements.
- 23.16 Rochester Pier – Working with Peel Ports to establish predicted cost and timeframe for removal of collapsed sections of pier and secured £130,000 for restoration of remaining pier sections as enhanced green space with Esplanade Gardens, Sun Pier – assessing feasibility of increasing mooring income by long term leasing of pontoon in place of day mooring, predicted income from changes to be used to fund structural report and repairs in addition to further improvements to public area for future events to create additional income.
- 23.17 Energy initiatives/Climate Change/NCZ: Re: Fit: In addition to the regular condition programme implemented by our JV partners Medway Norse, our team are rolling out Phase 1 of the new Refit initiative (current value circa £3.5m of a £12m programme, with £4m additional Salix funding now awarded for low carbon heating measures).
- 23.18 Phase 1 is expected to deliver the following savings over an 11.8-year payback:
- 4,932m³ of water
 - 2.05GWh (22%)
 - 446tCO₂ (20%)
 - £258,726 (37%)
- 23.19 Phase 2 will focus on delivery of low carbon heating across 20 buildings using £4m PSDS public sector decarbonisation fund, (Salix) funding and will be delivered during summer 2023.
- 23.20 Phase 1 Scope.
- 23.21 We have installed 10 double chargers for electric vehicles at Gun Wharf.
- 23.22 In terms of an energy cost update, we do not yet have the exact gas and electricity prices that Laser will be charging us from October 2022, but the latest update from Laser (18 Oct 2022) is that the expected percentage increase on unit rates is 224.6% for Gas, and 66.3% for electricity and that we should have the prices next month.

23.23 Special Projects: Government BEIS Heat Network Zoning Consultation - The Refit agenda has proved popular within the Council through the invest to save programme with investment payback and has also allowed the corporate team to access funding to carry out special Projects.

23.24 Heat Networks: One of the special projects is a new funded Chatham heat network study underway, this initiative will inform the Council of options to connect an energy centre with local stakeholders to a Heat Network (river sourced heat pump), that Medway Property and Capital Projects undertook a review via consultants and engaging with public bodies, such as NHS, Universities, and the MOD, to adopt potential new Energy funding initiatives. There are other potential Heat Network opportunities within Medway and our team has now taken on the Hoo peninsular TES Technical Evaluation study following discussions with business change and BEIS, we will take forward the Chatham and Hoo projects co-joined to achieve efficiencies with our consultants in conjunction with agreed procurement routes discussed with BEIS to ensure a beneficial Heat Network study approach, albeit one is at TES and Chatham is at DPD (detailed programme design) and this will provide a joint response to the Governments BEIS Heat Network Zoning ambitions and should be complete by March 2024.

23.25 The team have continued to work with the One Public Estate (OPE) project with funding being obtained in some key Medway Locations. The following schemes have been investigated and the status is noted below.

- White Road Community Centre (Community /Social residential) – handed over, works completed.
- Clover Street Chatham, Healthy Living Centre and housing with CCG – now Pentagon works ongoing, successfully securing funding from OPE change request process for feasibility study at Pentagon.
- Temple Street, Strood – Healthy Living Centre with CCG.
- Britton Farm office and residential options – 40 units handed over, works completed.
- Temple waterfront remediation study – potential residential site – works aborted, not feasible.
- Gillingham Fire Station – “make ready” site for Southeast Coast Ambulance Service – works aborted due to client change their mind.
- Chatham Dockyard old Police Station development – works completed

23.26 MDC: Medway Development Company. Medway Work streams under consideration are reviewed regularly by the Head of Service, the portfolio holder and the MDC Director to ensure that our future developments encompass potential MDC delivery opportunities for new units to maximise space making enhancements to fit in with the master plan objectives. We continue to support this development on a very practical level with budget reviews and assistance through our team with our accountants and finance/payments. The Chatham building developments are now progressing well, and the Head of service is/will be making regular visits to these sites.

23.27 Kent Estates Partnerships Board (KEPB): We continue to lead on the initiatives at the board with progress being made on several fronts. We have just presented our Flood defences initiative having first presented to the Kent Finance Directors, and we were subsequently requested to present to KEPB. Both presentations resulted in follow up requests on how to proceed with a Re: Fit project, and we will look to assist along with LGP (Local Government Partnerships).

Lead officer contact:

Richard Hicks, Director Place and Deputy Chief Executive
richard.hicks@medway.gov.uk
Tel 01634 332764

Ruth Du-Lieu, Assistant Director, Frontline Services
ruth.dulieu@medway.gov.uk
Tel 01634 333163

Sunny Ee, Assistant Director Regeneration
sunny.ee@medway.gov.uk
Tel 01634 331030

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None