Full Council 19 January 2023 – Schedule of written responses to Public questions not answered at the meeting

Agenda	Question	Response
Reference	Quosiis.	T (GSP G) (GSP G)
7B	Simon Buckingham, of Chatham asked the Portfolio Holder for	Thank you for your question, Mr Buckingham.
	Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty, the following:	Between 1 January and 31 December 2022, District Enforcement issued 3,860 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) across
	I am aware of the actions of a specific private company going around with a council logo on their uniform using,	Medway. Officers carry out patrols across the whole of Medway, including high streets and car parks.
	what some may consider to be "bully boy tactics". I have been assisting an elderly resident who has been unfairly fined by this organisation.	We routinely monitor the complaints relating to this contract and we have not detected an issue that they employ unfair enforcement techniques. If a resident believes that a FPN has been issued inappropriately, I
	Does the Portfolio Holder accept that the tactics of District Enforcement, when they are not hanging out at	would urge them to make representations to District Enforcement.
	the private Medway Motorway Services fining individuals, are likely to reduce people wanting to go to town centres?	Littering is a blight on our community, and it is well known that dropping rubbish is an offence. Litter makes our town centres unwelcoming places and discourages visitors. The work of District Enforcement is an important tool in keeping our streets litter free and mitigating the costs we incur in street cleaning in Medway.
7C	Damola Animashaun of Chatham asked the Portfolio Holder for	Thank you for your question, Miss Animashaun.
	Resources, Councillor Gulvin, the following:	The soaring costs of building repair and utilities is a national issue largely out of our control,
	I want Chatham Town Centre to succeed. I'm very concerned to hear service charges for those businesses	and we are constantly reviewing the service charge cost to keep it as low as possible.
	in the Pentagon are increasing by more than double inflation. This follows	The service charge for the Pentagon Centre covers the cost for the maintenance, repair and

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Reference	the previous year's increase also being well above inflation. What does the Portfolio Holder say to a business considering moving out of the Pentagon due to this increase?	management of the Centre on behalf of the tenants. These costs are apportioned across the whole scheme and each unit contributes a fair share of them. The service charge set for this year is the absolute minimum that we can charge to ensure the Pentagon is serviced and maintained appropriately.
7D	Caroline McGrath, of Chatham asked the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following: Every other road in Medway has potholes. I drive down these roads trying to avoid the big potholes and to try and avoid damage to my vehicle. When is Medway Council going to address all these potholes?	Thank you for your question, Ms McGrath. We have over 831km of road and around 1400km of footway, which is currently inspected by 7 Highway Inspectors who carry out a rolling programme of highway inspections of the road network, in every Ward, to identify and arrange for repairs as quickly as possible. In addition, we proactively deal with reports from members of the public, and if a repair is required, it will be arranged. In this financial year we have invested £1,427,968, resulting in the resurfacing of 15 roads (33,600m2), to ensure our network remains in good condition. We have also committed £500k to additional Highways works, which includes 19 larger patching sites that are all due for completion before the end of the financial year. Cold weather often results in significantly more potholes on roads and pavements due to water freezing in the cracks, which then expands as it turns to ice causing the cracks to widen. These

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TREFERENCE		inevitably then get progressively worse as vehicles drive over them. I accept we need to do more, but it must be borne in mind that this is not just a Medway issue, it is a national problem.
		Our response time to deal with reports of potholes from members of the public to it physically being repaired by our contractor Volker Highways is on average 17 days.
		Since the very cold spell in December, we have received 649 enquiries which resulted in action being taken and work is in progress to repair 838 potholes. We have also carried out more than 638 emergency callouts this year to repair potholes within 2 hours of identification where they pose a risk.
		Since April the Council continues to deliver repairs and 5,366 potholes have been repaired as at 31 December 2022.
		We continue to encourage residents and stakeholders to report potholes to us via our website (medway.gov.uk/highways) so that they can be investigated and repairs arranged as quickly as possible. By doing this, we are then able to keep them informed of the progress of their report.

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7E	Paul Everitt of Chatham	Thank you for your question
/ _	asked the Portfolio Holder	Thank you for your quotatin
	for Adults' Services,	Medway Maritime Hospital is a
	Councillor Brake, the	highly valued key strategic
	following:	provider of acute services for
	ionownig.	patients in Medway, Swale and
	Why isn't more being done	across Kent. The Hospital
	with Medway Maritime	provides a wide range of medical
	Hospital?	and surgical services to almost
	1 Toophar.	half a million patients a year,
	Building more apartments	including more than 125,000
	more flats and houses,	Emergency Department
	population growth getting	attendances, more than 88,000
	bigger, but the hospital hasn't	admissions, over 278,000
	changed that much. Most of	outpatient appointments and more
	the hospital was built in the	than 5,000 babies delivered by our
	1900s.	maternity services. Medway NHS
		Foundation Trust works closely
	The people of Medway	with other health care providers
	deserve an up to date	across Kent and Medway and has
	hospital.	an extremely close and unique
	•	working and partnership
		relationship with Medway Council.
		Over the last three years to 31 March 2022, Medway NHS Foundation Trust spent £79m on capital items, with over £20m planned for this financial year. This includes equipment, medical devices and IT, as well as investment in the building and estate. Some of the larger schemes recently have included the redevelopment and expansion of the Accident and Emergency department, the creation of a same day emergency care unit. The refurbishment of a number of wards, estates improvements to ensure fire safety compliance and an electronic patient records system. These are all designed to provide safe and suitable facilities for patients, visitors and staff.
		The Trust is in the process of reviewing the future demand for its

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		The NHS Kent & Medway ICB (ICB) considers the capital investment proposals submitted to it by all local NHS organisations, including Medway NHS Foundation for the next 3-5 year period. The ICB allocates resources on a fair share basis to NHS organisations. It will make some adjustments for those with the most pressing needs. Medway Council will continue to work with all our local NHS providers and specifically Medway NHS Foundation Trust. Our aim is to facilitate any action that will enhance and improve their ability to provide care and support for
		local residents, visitors and all hard working NHS professionals and support staff at Medway Maritime Hospital.
7F	Julian Sutton, on behalf of the Medway Green Party, asked the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (Lead Member), Councillor Mrs Josie Iles, the following: Hoo Village, and indeed much of the rest of the	Thank you for your question, the Council remains committed to ensuring children and young people are safe and grow up in the best possible environment. We continue to work with our partners in community safety to protect communities of Medway such as the Peninsula from anti-social behaviour.
	peninsula, has suffered from the distressing effects of noisy and speeding motorbikes, quad bikes and	Regarding engaging with young people on the Peninsula, our Youth Services teams deliver

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	If we do not change what we are doing, the problem will not go away.	
7G	Kevin Fowle of Chatham asked the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Hackwell, the following: Can the Weedswood part of the King George Rd address be removed and the original Walderslade historical designation and the title deeds be reinstated. My property and those of a lot of King George Rd from Walderslade Rd to Brake Ave existed long before the construction in the 1950's of the Weedswood council estate. It and Wayfield are distinct areas. Built as social housing.	Thank you for your question Mr Fowle. The naming and numbering of the streets and buildings within Medway is a statutory function of the council. Both Weeds Wood and Walderslade are examples of localities. A locality is a smaller area within a town, or is a village, or hamlet, and uses a recognised geographical name associated with that area to describe it. Not every part of Medway has a locality, and for residents who live in an area with a locality name they can be used optionally as part of their address. So, when using your address, you do not have to include Weeds Wood in it. Many of the localities in use now were created historically, reflecting the different stages of development in Medway. For example: • Walderslade refers to the former farm of the same name, on what now is Princes Avenue. • Weeds Wood reflects the large, wooded area that was on the site of King George Road and the Weeds Wood Estate, prior to its development. The inclusion of these locality names would have helped identify these locations within the larger area of Chatham. They would have been particularly useful at a time before postcodes. Once the Weeds Wood area was developed

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		its locality name would have been used to differentiate it from other
		local areas.
		Given the length of King George Road and the common use of the name Weeds Wood to describe the area, it would be confusing and excessive to split the road into different localities. le King George Road, Weeds Wood and King George Road, Walderslade. The use of the Weeds Wood locality as an informal part of your address now, will not have changed your title deeds.
7H	Peter Bonney of Strood	Thank you for your question, Mr
	asked the Portfolio Holder	Bonney.
	for Frontline Services, Councillor Filmer, the	We tackle poor air quality in the
	following:	Medway Air Quality Management
	According to a recent report	Areas, and more widely across Medway, through our adopted air
	by the World Health	quality action plans.
	Organisation the area of	D ((0)
	Central Strood bounded by the A2, Gordon Road and	Parts of Strood are located within the Central Medway Air Quality
	B2002, has at least twice the	Management Area. The 2015 Air
	acceptable levels of pollution	Quality Action Plan covering this
	by Nitrogen Oxide (NO2) and Particulate Matter (PM2).	Air Quality Management Area contains a range of measures
	This is caused by excessive	aimed at tackling road transport
	traffic, especially when it is	emissions, which include
	standing still or very slow moving.	improving freight movement, the encouragement of public transport
	inoving.	use, improvements in taxi
	The A2 is not coping with the	emissions, traffic management,
	heavy weight of traffic heading towards the Bridge	promotion of cycling and walking, car sharing and promotion of
	and so it constantly comes to	health awareness and air quality
	a standstill. This is mostly	issues. We have improved traffic
	caused by the totally inadequate crossroads at	flow in the town centre by removing traffic signals on
	Gun lane which needs a	Commercial Road and Knight
	complete redesign.	Road, and enhanced pedestrian
		facilities to promote active travel.
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	What does the Council intend to do to correct the problem?	
7N	Nina Gurung, of Gillingham asked the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gulvin, the following: I know from speaking to local residents they are concerned about community safety. There is reported consultation to reduce overall numbers of	Thank you for your question, Ms Gurung. I fully support Kent Police's commitment to Medway and the excellent work they consistently undertake to protect our local communities and keep Medway safe.
	uniformed personnel on the streets of Medway. Does the Portfolio Holder believe that consulting on having less uniformed personnel on the streets will	Kent Police is undertaking a County-wide review of Neighbourhood Policing and have given a commitment that every Ward will have a nominated and dedicated Police Officer.
	make local people feel more safe?	The consultation process will be used to inform the future direction of Neighbourhood Policing and I would urge as many people as possible to engage in that consultation. The closing date for responses is 22 January 2023.