

Full Council 20 July 2023 – Schedule of written responses to Public questions not answered at the meeting

Agenda Reference	Question	Response
7B	<p>Carl Dunks, of Rainham, submitted the following to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Murray:</p> <p>“Can there be a medical unit in Rainham (ME8) to help people with challenging behaviours such as Tourette’s, autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)?”</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. I have liaised with health colleagues who have advised as follows:</p> <p>National policy (Building the Right Support, 2015) sets out a requirement for local areas to reduce reliance on in-patient care and treatment in favour of local community-based care and support. Kent and Medway ICB (and its predecessors) have been progressing the transformation of local services for people with learning disability (LD) or autistic people as per national policy over a number of years. Initially, the focus has been on reducing the number of people with LD or autistic people in specialist hospitals and commissioning an improved range of community services as an alternative to hospital treatment e.g. Kent and Medway Complex Autism Service (KAMCAS).</p> <p>NHS Kent and Medway (ICB) are currently reviewing the neurodevelopment assessment pathways for children and young people and more information on this programme of work will be available over the next 12-24 months.</p> <p>Where a young person requires a supportive placement to meet their needs, this is assessed and managed on an individual basis.</p> <p>Recently K&M ICB have been developing an all age neurodevelopment strategy working closely with people with lived experience to inform the priorities within the strategy which will help shape how services are delivered in the future.</p>

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7D	<p>Alan Wells, of Chatham, submitted the following to the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, Councillor Curry:</p> <p>“Flash floods and flooding are projected to rise considerably by 2050 because of increased intensity of rainfall during winter and summer. Sea levels are also predicted to rise by 10-30cm, which will compound coastal flooding and negatively impact coastal infrastructure.</p> <p>In relation to the recently published Isle of Grain Policy Unit: Thames Estuary (TE2100) by the Environmental Agency to manage flood risk and adapt to rising sea levels, land on some parts of the Peninsula is within flood zone 3 which has a high probability of flooding. Flood defences have been built to protect and reduce flooding, but do not completely stop the chance of flooding because they can be overtopped or fail.</p> <p>TE2100 calls on the Council to produce Riverside strategies either as a standalone document or part of a Local Plan, created with local communities, and in place by 2030. Visions for the riverside show how flood defence upgrades can</p>	<p>Thank you for your question.</p> <p>Climate Change and associated flood risk are very serious matters that are being taken very seriously by this administration. The fact that the first part of my Portfolio title is Climate Change is a demonstration of how important we consider tackling climate change is.</p> <p>The matters of climate change and flood risk are key considerations in the emerging Local Plan. We are meeting regularly with the Environment Agency and we are developing flood risk strategies for Medway. As part of this emerging work and the Local Plan we will be engaging and consulting with local communities.</p>

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	<p>deliver social value and multiple benefits.</p> <p>In some places in the outer estuary, they will need to be in place earlier. This is because planning for defence raising will need to start before 2030. Riverside strategies enable opportunities to upgrade flood defences through planned developments. Decisions taken in the 2020s will determine the quality of public space along the river for generations.</p> <p>Environment Agency Director of Flood Risk Strategy and National Adaptation, Julie Foley said “What we already know in the Thames Estuary is that climate change is happening: sea level is rising faster than we were expecting, assets are deteriorating faster than we were expecting and some of the key dates that we originally thought we needed for bringing forward investments and raising flood defences are coming forward.”</p> <p>Ensuring the Peninsula’s communities, growth, and infrastructure is resilient to climate change, and to future sea level rise, the Council needs to ensure that TE2100 requirements will be embedded into the Local Plan.</p>	

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	<p>The Environment Agency published TE2100 recently. Setting out flood risk along the Thames Estuary, including between the Isle of Grain and Cliffe. To protect the Isle of Grain and this part of the Peninsula against future sea level rise.</p> <p>The report calls upon Medway Council to set out plans to manage the flood risk and adapt to rising sea levels, by 2030. This covers flood risk, waste water management and infrastructure investment.</p> <p>Given the need to address much of that call to action in this Council term, in developing plans for future riversides, will the Council commit to engaging Peninsula communities affected by flood risk and rising sea levels in Medway?"</p>	
7M	<p>Kate Belmonte, on behalf of Medway Green Party, submitted the following to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple:</p> <p>“Medway Green Party would like to congratulate the Labour team for their recent successes in May's Local Elections. The Green Party received a total of 7741 votes, making us the third largest political party in Medway, but because of the First Past the Post voting system operated by Medway Council we were unable to secure a seat. On</p>	<p>Thank you for your question and your kind congratulations Kate. How we elect our elected representatives is important but not a devolved matter, therefore not something we have the power to change even if we wanted to.</p> <p>My personal view on PR was covered in some detail in a long interview with the multi award winning Local Authority back in November 2022 where I made it clear the only place I would want to see PR is in a reformed, elected second chamber of Westminster parliament. I fully understand and respect this is an issue where there are a variety of opinions.</p>

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	<p>the Hoo Peninsula just 7192 votes secured 4 councillors.</p> <p>We support the motion passed at the 2022 Labour Party Conference, specifically the terminology which described First Past the Post does “long-term damage to the health of our democracy”, and which committed the Labour Party to introducing Proportional Representation. The Green Party also notes that alternative electoral systems have been adopted in other electoral bodies nationally, from London to the devolved bodies. Medway Greens also note that the Labour Portfolio Holder for Housing, Naushabah Khan, sits on the National Policy Forum for the Labour Party.</p> <p>Will Medway Labour Group commit to exploring, with the aim of introducing, alternative electoral systems for our Unitary Authority, so that every vote cast in Medway matters?”</p>	<p>It is disappointing that the Conservatives have changed the system for election for the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p> <p>Finally, although not a matter for Council, I’m proud that Naushabah Khan, as a member of our Cabinet, is playing an important role in helping to bring forward a manifesto which will give residents here in Medway and around the country positive reasons to vote Labour at the next General Election.</p>