

Summary of responses from public consultation

There were 318 submitted responses to the consultation.

Key findings from the report are provided below:

The clear majority agree that each of the listed priorities will help to improve Medway as a place to live, work, learn and visit:

- Delivering quality social care and community services (93%)
- Benefitting from good education, quality jobs and growing economy (96%)
- Enjoying clean, green, safe and connected communities (92%)
- Improving health and wellbeing for all (92%)
- Living in a good quality, affordable homes (89%)

The five priorities were ranked in the following order from the highest importance to the lowest importance:

- Benefitting from good education, quality jobs and growing economy
- Improving health and wellbeing for all
- Delivering quality social care and community services
- Enjoying clean, green, safe and connected communities
- Living in a good quality, affordable homes

Thinking about the “quality social care and community services” priority, the seven sub-priorities were ranked in the following order from high to low importance:

Support our children and young people to ensure they are safe, secure and stable

- Ensure that services support children in care to thrive, fulfil their potential, build meaningful relationships and make good transitions to adulthood, so that they can live as independent lives as possible in their communities
- Provide effective, targeted support for our most vulnerable residents to enable them to fulfil their potential and improve their quality of life
- Support all adults, including those living with disability or physical or mental illness to live independently and stay safe
- Support people in Medway to live independent and fulfilled lives into an active older age
- Support people of all ages to live the most happy, healthy, independent life possible, utilising assistive technologies
- Provide creative, cultural and community services and facilities across Medway that everyone can access and benefit from

More than half of all respondents felt the following sub-priorities were of high importance to them:

- Support our children and young people to ensure they are safe, secure and stable (72%)
- Ensure that services support children in care to thrive, fulfil their potential, build meaningful relationships and make good transitions to adulthood, so that they can live as independent lives as possible in their communities (67%)

- Provide effective, targeted support for our most vulnerable residents to enable them to fulfil their potential and improve their quality of life (61%)
- Support all adults, including those living with disability or physical or mental illness to live independently and stay safe (60%)
- Support people in Medway to live independent and fulfilled lives into an active older age (58%)

Less than half of all respondents felt the following sub-priorities were of high importance to them:

- Support people of all ages to live the most happy, healthy, independent life possible, utilising assistive technologies (49%)
- Provide creative, cultural and community services and facilities across Medway that everyone can access and benefit from (32%)

Thinking about the “good education, quality jobs and growing economy” priority, the five sub-priorities were ranked in the following order from high to low importance:

- Ensure all children and young people access a high-quality, inclusive education
- Develop a strong mixed economy which provides training and work opportunities that support career development, increasing high value businesses and expanding high quality employment
- Work with business partners to ensure education and skills development supports children, young people and adults to lead successful lives, and secure employment opportunities, with targeted support for the unemployed and vulnerable groups
- Support the growth and diversification of business in our town centres, reflecting the importance of placemaking and regeneration
- Develop Medway’s reputation as a home for creative, cultural and green industries to support a growing economy, maximising our national recognition as a Priority Place for culture and heritage

More than half of all respondents felt the following sub-priorities were of high importance to them:

- Ensure all children and young people access a high-quality, inclusive education (84%)
- Develop a strong mixed economy which provides training and work opportunities that support career development, increasing high value businesses and expanding high quality employment (63%)
- Work with business partners to ensure education and skills development supports children, young people and adults to lead successful lives, and secure employment opportunities, with targeted support for the unemployed and vulnerable groups (61%)

Less than half of all respondents felt the following sub-priorities were of high importance to them:

- Support the growth and diversification of business in our town centres, reflecting the importance of placemaking and regeneration (49%)

- Develop Medway's reputation as a home for creative, cultural and green industries to support a growing economy, maximising our national recognition as a Priority Place for culture and heritage (41%)

Thinking about the "clean, green, safe and connected communities" priority, the five sub-priorities were ranked in the following order from high to low importance:

- Create child-friendly communities which ensure all people in Medway will feel safe and live free from harm and abuse
- Engage Medway's residents in ensuring Medway is clean and well maintained. Protect and enhance Medway's river, green spaces and environmental assets as a means of effectively tackling climate change
- Provide improved opportunities to walk, cycle, use public transport and electric vehicles, reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality
- Celebrate the individuality of each town centre, ensuring services, events and activities reflect and support the diverse communities of Medway
- Develop and facilitate easy-to-use and simple digital solutions for residents to access services and engage with the public sector

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- Create child-friendly communities which ensure all people in Medway will feel safe and live free from harm and abuse (69%)
- Engage Medway's residents in ensuring Medway is clean and well maintained. Protect and enhance Medway's river, green spaces and environmental assets as a means of effectively tackling climate change (68%)
- Provide improved opportunities to walk, cycle, use public transport and electric vehicles, reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality (51%)

Less than half of all respondents felt the following sub-priorities were of high importance to them:

- Celebrate the individuality of each town centre, ensuring services, events and activities reflect and support the diverse communities of Medway (29%)
- Develop and facilitate easy-to-use and simple digital solutions for residents to access services and engage with the public sector (27%)

Thinking about the "improving health and wellbeing for all" priority, the five sub-priorities were ranked in the following order from high to low importance:

- Support families to give their children the best start in life
- Empowering people to achieve good health and wellbeing through prevention, with access to local activities and services that will enable and support them to lead independent, active and healthy lifestyles
- Work in partnership with communities and organisations to address the issues that negatively affect health and wellbeing, making sure everyone has the opportunity to live long, healthy lives
- Address the factors that influence health and wellbeing, with a primary focus on reducing health inequalities

- Work collaboratively to grow participation year on year in recreational play, sport and physical activity as a means of promoting improved physical and mental health and wellbeing

More than half of all respondents felt the following sub-priorities were of high importance to them:

- Support families to give their children the best start in life (65%)
- Empowering people to achieve good health and wellbeing through prevention, with access to local activities and services that will enable and support them to lead independent, active and healthy lifestyles (58%)
- Work in partnership with communities and organisations to address the issues that negatively affect health and wellbeing, making sure everyone has the opportunity to live long, healthy lives (55%)
- Address the factors that influence health and wellbeing, with a primary focus on reducing health inequalities (55%)

Less than half of all respondents felt the following sub-priority was of high importance to them:

- Work collaboratively to grow participation year on year in recreational play, sport and physical activity as a means of promoting improved physical and mental health and wellbeing (44%)

Thinking about the “good quality, affordable homes” priority, the four sub-priorities were ranked in the following order from high to low importance:

- Ensure the council’s housing stock is good quality, efficient, free from damp and mould and tenants are at the heart of decision making
- Assist people with specific accommodation needs including older people, people with disabilities, people needing specialist support and those who find themselves homeless
- Engage with communities to identify ways to improve streets, parks and local surroundings which create vibrant places to live and enhance the quality of people’s lives
- Implement a Local Plan which reflects the needs of the communities in Medway, supporting a transition to a low-carbon future promoting affordable, energy efficient and sustainable homes

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- Ensure the council’s housing stock is good quality, efficient, free from damp and mould and tenants are at the heart of decision making (70%)
- Assist people with specific accommodation needs including older people, people with disabilities, people needing specialist support and those who find themselves homeless (65%)
- Engage with communities to identify ways to improve streets, parks and local surroundings which create vibrant places to live and enhance the quality of people’s lives (61%)

Less than half of all respondents felt the following sub-priority was of high importance to them:

- Implement a Local Plan which reflects the needs of the communities in Medway, supporting a transition to a low-carbon future promoting affordable, energy efficient and sustainable homes (48%)