

**Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee -
4 April 2024
Quarter 3 2023/24**

Strategic risks relevant to this committee

Live or Managed risk	Risk Ref	Risk	Inherent Risk Score	Q3 22/23 Current Risk Score	Q4 22/23 Current Risk Score	Q1 23/24 Current Risk Score	Q2 23/24 Current Risk Score	Q3 23/24 Current Risk Score	Move ment	Definition (Current score) (L-likelihood) (I-impact)	Owner	Portfolio	Link to Council Plan
L	SR47	Climate Change	All	All	All	CIII	CIII	CIII	→	L – unlikely I – moderate	Deputy Director of Place and Assistant Director Frontline Services	Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration	Place

Full details of strategic risks relevant to this committee can be found in Appendix 2.

Performance by outcome

Key					
Red	Significantly below target (>5%)	Amber	Slightly below target (<5%)	Green	Met or exceeded target
DET	Deteriorating	STATIC	Static	IMP	Improving
Short term	since last quarter	Long term	average last 4 quarters	Goldilocks	Optimum performance is in a target range

Council Priority: PLACE Medway: A place to be proud of

Outcome: A clean and green environment

Programme: Climate Change

Performance Summary

There are no performance measures for this programme.

Project for this programme:

Climate change:

Highlights in Q3 include the following:

- The 2021/22 carbon emissions report has been produced and added to the council website.
- A review of council vehicles has been completed and a centralised repository has started to be created for review by managers in Q4. A second electric vehicle has been acquired by the Mayor's office.
- The Climate Response team commented on the Local Plan Reg 18 consultation and attended the Local Plan Environment workshop. The team has also commented on the Public Health team's draft Sustainable Food Policy, the draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and the Chatham Design Code consultation.
- The council received a total score of 39% from Climate Emergency UK's assessment of local authority action, meaning a position of joint 22nd out of all (186) UK single tier authorities. Only 26 UK single tier authorities scored over 50%. We scored 81% for collaboration and engagement (ranked joint 5th), 0% for Transport, and 16% for Planning and Land Use. A report has been shared with officers and Corporate Management Team (CMT) to highlight the most impactful actions needed to reduce carbon emissions in the Medway area. The findings will also support the refresh of the council's Climate Change Action Plan scheduled for 2024.
- The following funding applications have been successful:
 - ❖ £5k has been received by the Festivals and Events team from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) to develop an event sustainability checklist.
 - ❖ Council capital funding was awarded to the Library team for 2023/24, and procurement has started, for a new electric mobile library service.

- Medway's Free Bus Weekend campaign took place on 9-10 December in conjunction with the local bus operators, funded through Medway's Bus Service Improvement Plan+ allocation from the Department for Transport (DfT). It was widely promoted and initial figures from Arriva indicate an uplift in bus patronage, compared to previous weekends.
- During Q3 two new walking campaigns, Little Trekkers and Striders, were launched for primary and secondary schools, in support of International Walk to School Month in October. Across both campaigns, participation doubled to 16 schools compared to last year's competitions. A total of 32,227 active travel journeys were made by those schools who took part, with prizes awarded to the top three ranking schools in each category.
- 48 Solar Together installs have been completed for Phase 3 (47 under round 1, and one under round 2). A Medway based installer has been appointed to complete the installs for round 2 in Medway, for the first time.
- A study to look at allotment provision and community growing spaces in Medway is underway and a draft Greenspace study has been produced to address securing high quality green spaces for new developments within the new Local Plan. Both will provide evidence for the Local Plan.
- A new Partners for Green Growth grant has been launched, using a SPF allocation, to offer up to £2.5k to businesses who have a decarbonisation plan and want to implement it and take a step further towards being net-zero. To complement this, a Green Audit scheme has been launched with Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, to offer free audits and decarbonisation plans for businesses who want to start their net-zero journey.
- Members of the new Climate Change Working Party have met once and are enthused to be ambassadors for the climate agenda, with the aim of supporting and encouraging local climate action within their communities and networks. A Climate Action Ward Improvement Plan template has been developed to support each member and is being rolled out to the group. The Community Climate Working Group, made up of representatives from key sectors (such as education, business, greenspaces), has also had its first successful meeting.
- The ECO4 grant has continued to be promoted to encourage as many eligible households as possible to apply for the scheme. The HUG2 scheme has also launched and marketing materials are receiving final approval. Options are being considered for joint promotion with ECO4 into 2024 as both are being delivered by E.On. The batch application for HUG2 from Hoo Marina Park, which includes around 50 properties, has received approval from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and installs can progress.
- Meetings have been held between the Planning team and the Environment Agency who are undertaking significant work to create flood risk policies as soon as possible. Public consultation on the revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is due to commence in January 2024.
- Communications and Engagement:
 - ❖ Social media statistics this quarter include:
 - Twitter 536 followers

- Instagram 786 followers
- Facebook (FB) 121 followers
- ❖ Post with the widest reach on FB and Instagram – the new living roof bus stop on Intra reached 8,500 people (FB) thanks in part to 19 reshares. The same post on Instagram reached 371.
- ❖ Medway Matters article – "What's good for the climate is good for me" gave examples of healthy lifestyle changes that also reduce carbon footprints. This is the lead into the new 2024 campaign of the same name.
- ❖ Monthly newsletter articles included Medway's salt marshes, a call to action for volunteers for Medway's first Repair Cafe; due to launch in the new year, a tree giveaway as part of National Tree Week, the Making Space for Nature report, details of energy grants and community grant opportunities.
- Events attended by the Climate Response team include Lordswood Beavers' group, Green Careers Week at Mid Kent College, Rochester Eco Fair, Home Energy event at Medway Maritime Hospital, Medway Food Partnership Annual event and Medway Matters Live. Alongside these, meetings have taken place with key Medway partners, the Royal Engineers Museum and Rochester Cathedral.
- Examples of previously completed Climate Change Staff Volunteering initiatives and a one-off opportunity to help clear the grounds at Fort Amherst have been promoted on the staff intranet/newsletter. This led to a whole team helping with the grounds clearance. In total, 19 staff completed a full day's volunteering in Q3.
- Staffing levels remain a challenge for the service and a number of actions remain un-progressed this quarter.

Outcome: Put Medway on the map

Programme: Medway, a great place to live, work, learn and visit

Performance Summary

There are no performance measures for this programme.

Project for this programme:

Child-Friendly City:

- Child Friendly Medway (CFM) is for all children and young people (CYP) up to the age of 25.
- It is driven by the voices of CYP to engage (capture voices - CYP), deliver programming and shape Medway. Our backbone is based on consultation and engagement with CYP. We capture their voices, hopes and wishes for Medway through our CFM City Halls, postcards and feedback at our Seeing is Believing events and activities. We share this information with our internal and external partners, whom we work closely with, to help take action. Our programming and engagement work also connects with their parents and carers, including expectant parents, and extended family members.
- We provide a universal programme and offer a wide array of activities and events to attract various audiences across Medway. We aim to meet the varying interests of CYP and Medway families' needs and wants. Our programming is delivered across Medway in various facilities and community spaces. We work to remove any barriers to participation, for example ensuring we offer free activities to remove the cost barrier and to help narrow the gap for CYP. We also look to ensure public transport is available for our larger scale events like our City Hall and Super Saturday. We always consider accessibility for venues and whether activities are suitable for CYP with additional needs, and when possible, we work with partners to make modifications needed so all can participate.
- We work with a large network of internal and external partners and steering groups to promote and help drive wider engagement and ensure that we are reaching out to a diverse audience of CYP.
- Some of the partner groups we work with are:
 - ❖ Medway Parents and Carers Forum
 - ❖ Schools reaching across Medway
 - ❖ Nucleus Arts
 - ❖ Medway African Caribbean Association
 - ❖ Medway Culture Club
 - ❖ Shine & Wednesday Squad (Special Education Needs (SEN) youth groups)
 - ❖ Various council teams including Medway Adult Education (MAE), Planning, Education, Public Health, Culture, Medway Youth Service and Medway Sport

- ❖ The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Office, Kent Police, Community Safety Partnership and the Neighbourhood Task Force
- ❖ MidKent College
- ❖ Medway Children and Families Hubs
- ❖ Disability Dance
- ❖ Pentagon Shopping Centre
- Our network of partners is growing, and we work with internal and external partners to target programming where needed and to respond to the voice of CYP. We work closely with the CFM Partner Board which represents internal and external partners, professionals, the voluntary sector and schools across the community.
- CFM actively seeks funding to develop existing programmes and shape new ideas and initiatives. Funding has been received as part of the Start for Life initiative, Safer Streets 5, The PCC and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).
- The Start for Life initiative has enabled us to work with the Public Health team to provide free weekly messy play sessions in the Children and Family Hubs and in Chatham at Nucleus Arts. We also have bi-monthly Soft Play sessions and, this quarter, have introduced free Parent and baby/toddler Pilates. We have continued our community Storytime and Snack sessions.
- This quarter we have provided opportunities for the Planning team to join us at our Halloween Trick or Treat, Scare Fest, and Elf Yourself events where they consulted with CYP on the design code for Chatham City Centre.
- We sit on various internal and external team boards and a steering group to help drive partnership working for CFM. Listed below are some of the boards we have worked with during this quarter:
 - ❖ Design Code – with the Planning team
 - ❖ Medway Cultural and Education Partnership
 - ❖ Culture team – partner updates
 - ❖ Refresh Project (Culture team)
 - ❖ Creative 2024 project
- To ensure Medway Council teams are kept informed about the CFM initiative and partnership programming opportunities we host quarterly updates where all council teams are invited to attend. We encourage teams to have at least one person in attendance to inform their teams of CFM updates. We also encourage all new hires to attend and learn about CFM. In these meetings we host Q&As as well as themed discussions. We also share posters and flyers with the Youth Service and Children and Family Hubs.
- We also share our programming with Kent Police (Child Centred Policing team) and Neighbourhood Task Force.

Seeing is Believing Programming

- Our Seeing is Believing programme is inspired by young people. We provide a wide array of engagement opportunities for CYP, parents, carers and families. The CFM team and our partners, internally and externally, run a wide array of activities and events across Medway as part of this delivery.
- Listed below are some of the events and activities we have delivered during this quarter:
 - ❖ Family Fun Fri-Yay
 - ❖ Doodle and Draw
 - ❖ Doodle and draw Junior session
 - ❖ Mini Nucleus Messy play
 - ❖ Pop up mini-Nucleus
 - ❖ Stage and Social Sundays (inclusive dance and drama session)
 - ❖ Seasonal activities and events

For the Love of Reading project

- CFM delivers this legacy project to engage with CYP to inspire an enjoyment of books; this is done by leaving books for children to find, storytelling activities, our swap shop bookshelf, and our new book nooks at family hubs.
- Listed below are some of the activities and events delivered during this quarter:
 - ❖ Soft Play and Story Corner
 - ❖ Pop-up community story time and snacks
 - ❖ Installation of book nooks in family hubs and wellbeing centres

CFM City Halls

- This platform is used to help us determine the strategy and delivery plan, values, and action plan, as well as to help influence events and activities for CYP. It also provides an opportunity for consultation and engagement about services and place shaping Medway.
- Our sixth City Hall took place this quarter with a private screening of the Wonka film. We were supported by the MAE team and CYP and were able to ask questions of the Chief Executive, Richard Hicks, and the Leader, Councillor Vince Maple. This was our biggest City Hall to date with 276 guests.
- The purpose and method of the City Hall are as follows:
 - ❖ Partnership Working – with CYP and the CFM team, Child-Friendly Delivery Board and our partners in a less formal space
 - ❖ Voice – provide a platform and a safe space for CYP and parents/guardians to shape Medway and the CFM initiative
 - ❖ Creating a community – for CYP
 - ❖ Platform – to consult CYP
 - ❖ Growing membership – providing an opportunity for more CYP to be involved
 - ❖ Leadership – creating an organic way for CYP to lead and shape the delivery

Partner events

- The CFM team has great partnership working links with internal and external teams and supports several partner events.
- Listed below are some of the partner events we have participated in during this quarter:
 - ❖ Halloween Trick or Treat, Scare Fest
 - ❖ Elf Yourself
 - ❖ Halloween cinema event
 - ❖ Medway's Magical Christmas at MidKent College
- In addition, we have funded the Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime at MidKent College.

Road Map

- In 2023 we released our Road Map of all CFM Seeing is Believing programming, including our City Halls, events and activities that CFM leads, sponsors or supports. This has provided teams with opportunities for partnership working and using our programming as a platform for direct engagement with CYP, parents, carers and families.

CFM Plan and CFM Action Plan

- The CFM team has shared the CFM Plan and CFM Action Plan with various council teams through one-to-one meetings and quarterly updates. As part of this, teams will be required to provide updates on how they are achieving their objectives.
- The CFM team is working with teams to support this work through existing workstreams and by identifying new opportunities to address the CFM Action Plan. This will help deliver the Child Friendly City initiative.
- The CFM team will work with relevant teams as they relate to the seven core themes set by CYP:
 - ❖ Cleaner & Greener
 - ❖ Creativity & Culture
 - ❖ Engaging
 - ❖ Health & Wellbeing
 - ❖ Inclusive & Community Focused
 - ❖ Safety
 - ❖ Aspirational
- Future work we have planned for the next quarter includes:
 - ❖ UKSPF funding – our Signs of Youth project
 - ❖ Safer Streets 5 – funding for Women and Girls and community activities and events
 - ❖ PCC funding for Family Fun Friday, a drop in Football event, and a Women and Girls cinema event
 - ❖ Snow White pantomime
 - ❖ Under the Sea Event with the Pentagon Shopping Centre
 - ❖ The Grimm Tales theatre event with Pretending People and Medway Little Theatre

- ❖ World Book Day events with the Medway Libraries and Town Centre teams
- ❖ Working with the Education team and other council teams to map work delivered in schools

Council Value: financial resilience

There are 2 Council Plan measures for this value:

- FIN 18: Unmodified value for money (VFM) conclusion from external auditors

The delayed publication of accounts and completion of audits is a national issue primarily because of audit delays arising from the Covid19 pandemic. It has been agreed, by the Council's Chief Operating Officer and Medway's Lead Audit Partner at Grant Thornton, that the audits of the financial statements for 2021/22 and 2022/23 will not take place, and instead the Council and the auditors will work to ensure that the Statements and audit in respect of the 2023/24 financial year are completed to the statutory timeline. As such, measure Fin 12: Unmodified audit opinion on statement of accounts is not available for 2021/22 and 2022/23. The external auditors have however completed their Value for Money work for 2022/23, and identified significant weaknesses meaning measure FIN 18: Unmodified value for money (VFM) conclusion from external auditors is an adverse outcome.

- Fin 12: Unmodified audit opinion on statement of accounts

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