

Medway Council

Meeting of South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee

Thursday, 12 June 2025

10.17am to 11.00am

Record of the meeting

Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next meeting of this committee

Present: Councillors: Curry, Burden and Edwards

In Attendance: Councillor Tim Gibson, Swale Borough Council
Joanne Johnson, Head of Regeneration, Economic Development and Property, Swale Borough Council
Tom Reynolds, Director (Environment), Gravesham Borough Council
Simon Thomas, Head of Planning, Canterbury City Council
Janine Weaver, Director, South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership, Director STG Building Control Partnership

49 Apologies for absence

There were none.

50 Election of a Chairperson

Councillor Curry was elected as Chairperson for the 2025-26 municipal year.

51 Election of a Vice Chairperson

Councillor Edwards was elected Vice Chairperson for the meeting.

52 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 13 March 2025 was agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chairperson as correct.

53 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee, 12 June 2025

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

54 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none.

55 Administrative Arrangements for 2025-26

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report and highlighted the scheduled meetings dates for the year. He added that Swale Borough Council membership of the Committee would be confirmed at a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee scheduled to be held on the evening of 12 June. As a consequence, the Member for Swale Borough Council was in attendance in an advisory capacity.

Decision:

- a) The Committee noted the schedule of meetings for 2025-26 municipal year as set out in section for of the report.
- b) The Committee noted that Medway Council would provide administrative support to the Committee for the 2025-226 municipal year.

56 Exclusion of the press and public

Decision:

The Committee agreed to exclude the press and public for the remainder of the meeting because consideration of agenda items 9 and 10 in public would disclose information falling within one or more of the descriptions of exempt information contained in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

57 South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership Annual Report

Discussion:

The Director of South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership introduced the report. She highlighted that it continued to be a challenging period for the public sector building control industry, particularly in recruitment and retention.

The Partnership had subscribed to the planning portal in February 2025 which had resulted in increased applications received and income.

South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee, 12 June 2025

Canterbury City Council undertook an internal audit of the Partnership during the year the results of which were positive, two recommendations were received which were the process of being implemented.

The Committee discussed the report and noted the high customer service rate and very high customer satisfaction rate which reflected well on the service provided by the Partnership.

It was asked who would be responsible for the Building Safety Levy on the Building Safety Act 2022, the Director confirmed that this levy would be payable by the developers to the local authority, who will cover administration costs then transfer to central government on a quarterly basis.

The partnership provided assistance with housing stock condition surveys for Medway Council. In the majority of instances officers were unable to gain access to the property to undertake the service. The Director of the Partnership undertook to discuss the causes of this with Medway Council housing service.

Decision:

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

58 South Thames Gateway Building Control Business Plan 2025-2028

Discussion:

The Partnership Director introduced the report and highlighted that the challenges the sector faced in recruitment and retention of staff and licensing of Register Building Inspectors.

The Committee discussed the funding contributions, it was asked what the rationale for the contributions were, the Partnership Director confirmed that contributions were dependent upon populace by area. There was broad agreement that the current arrangement was positive.

The Committee discussed possible effects of Local Government Reorganisation and the Partnership Director, explained that this would be considered in the next business plan. It was agreed that this would become clearer once proposals were submitted later in the year.

Decision:

The Committee agreed to adopt the 2025-28 Business Plan.

South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee, 12 June 2025

Chairperson

Date:

Steve Dickens

Telephone: 01634 332 051

Email: