

Medway Council
Meeting of South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint
Committee

Thursday, 18 September 2025

10.05am to 10.35am

Notes of the meeting

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

Present: Councillors: Curry and Burden

In Attendance: Stevie Andrews, Planning Manager, Canterbury City Council
Shazad Ghani, Head of Planning, Gravesham Borough Council
Tom Reynolds, Director (Environment), Gravesham Borough Council
Rebecca Wilcox, Chief Housing Officer, Medway Council
Janine Weaver, Director, South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership, Director STG Building Control Partnership

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Edwards and Gibson, the Democratic Services Officer explained that whilst a substitute Member had been expected, this was not possible due to unforeseen circumstances and, consequently, the meeting was inquorate.

It was agreed that the Members present would take the opportunity to informally discuss the draft Business Plan 2026-29 though no formal decision making would be made at the meeting.

2 Record of meeting

The item was deferred until the December meeting.

3 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Not required due to the meeting being inquorate.

4 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

Not required due to the meeting being inquorate.

5 Election of a Vice Chairperson

The item was deferred until the December meeting.

6 Exclusion of the press and public

Not required due to the meeting being inquorate.

7 Monitoring Report April to August 2025

The item was deferred until the December meeting.

8 South Thames Gateway Building Control Business Plan 2026-2029

Discussion:

The Partnership Director introduced the report. She highlighted the sector had seen significant cost increases compared to forecasts in the last business plan caused by an increase in salary costs and additional requirements to mentor and check work undertaken by officers which had to be completed on site. There had also been an increase in the resource required for enforcement work. Both these elements of the partnership were statutory requirements so could not be removed. The response of the partnership to this increased cost base would need to be to increase income from chargeable work and for the authorities to increase their contributions to the partnership.

The following issues were discussed:

Members acknowledged the challenges which faced the Partnership and that this would mean additional resources were required from the partnership authorities to support it. The Partnership Director stated that the current economic circumstances meant that the income received by the partnership was not forecast to cover the costs of statutory work at this time.

Communications – a Member commented that the work of the partnership was very positive, it provided value for money and work was of a high standard. He felt more could be done to promote the work of the partnership and generate more income. The Partnership Director undertook to review opportunities to promote the partnership more effectively within the four authorities and include proposals within the business plan.

Members were broadly supportive of the RBI establishment growth plan and agreed this should be discussed further, the partnership director added that the partnership had identified the potential to employ a trained for the next financial year which could be done through an apprenticeship and almost no cost to the partnership.

It was agreed to have an informal discussion with Members and officers prior to the December meeting so the Business Plan could be developed further and more discussion undertaken.

Conclusion

South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee, 18 September 2025

- a) Members were supportive of the Business Plan for 2026–2029, which outlines the strategic objectives, performance targets, and financial arrangements for non-chargeable activities. Further discussion to be undertaken through an informal meeting of the Committee prior to the December.
- b) Members were supportive of the Registered Building Inspector (RBI) establishment growth plan.

Chairperson

Date:

Steve Dickens

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