

**You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the  
MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Date: Wednesday 14 July 2021  
Time: 6.30 p.m.  
Venue: Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park, Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors Bartlett, Mrs Blackmore, Brice, Brindle, Bryant, Burton, Cannon, Clark, Coates, Cooke, Cooper, Cox, Cuming, Daley, English, Eves, Fissenden, Forecast, Fort, Garten, Mrs Gooch (Mayor), Mrs Grigg, Harper, Harwood, Hastie, Hinder, Holmes, Joy, Khadka, Kimmance, McKay, McKenna, Mortimer, Munford, Naghi, Newton, Parfitt-Reid, Perry, Purle, Mrs Ring, Mrs Robertson, D Rose, M Rose, Round, Russell, J Sams, T Sams, Spooner, Springett, Trzebinski, R Webb, S Webb, de Wiggondene-Sheppard, Wilby and Young

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<u>AGENDA</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
1. Prayers	
2. Apologies for Absence	
3. Dispensations (if any)	
4. Disclosures by Members and Officers	
5. Disclosures of Lobbying	
6. To consider whether any items should be taken in private because of the possible disclosure of exempt information.	
7. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Borough Council held on 22 May 2021	1 - 7
8. Mayor's Announcements	
9. Petitions	
10. Question and Answer Session for Members of the Public	

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**Issued on Tuesday 6 July 2021**

**Continued Over/:**

*Alison Broom*

**Alison Broom, Chief Executive**

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 11. Questions from Members of the Council to the Chairmen of Committees   |         |
| 12. Current Issues - Report of the Leader of the Council, Response of the Group Leaders and Questions from Council Members  |         |
| 13. Report of the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee held on 8 June 2021 - Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 19)  | 8 - 9   |
| 14. Report of the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee held on 8 June 2021 - Lenham Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 19)   | 10 - 11 |
| 15. Report of the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee Acting as the Crime and Disorder Committee held on 29 June 2021 - 2021/2022 Strategic Assessment and Revised Community Safety Plan | 12 - 36 |
| 16. Oral Report of the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee to be held on 6 July 2021 - Local Development Scheme 2021-2023   | 37 - 58 |

## **INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC**

In order to ask a question at this meeting in person or by remote means, please call **01622 602899** or email [committee@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:committee@maidstone.gov.uk) by 5 p.m. one clear working day before the meeting (i.e. by 5 p.m. on Monday 12 July 2021). You will need to provide the full text in writing.

If your question is accepted, you will be provided with instructions as to how you can access the meeting.

In order to make a statement in relation to an item on the agenda, please call **01622 602899** or email [committee@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:committee@maidstone.gov.uk) by 5 p.m. one clear working day before the meeting (i.e. by 5 p.m. on Monday 12 July 2021). You will need to tell us which agenda item you wish to speak on.

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## **MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE MAIDSTONE EXHIBITION HALL, KENT EVENT AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, DETLING, MAIDSTONE ON 22 MAY 2021**

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Ring (Mayor) and  
Councillors Bartlett, Mrs Blackmore, Brice, Brindle,  
Burton, Cannon, Clark, Coates, Cooke, Cooper, Cox,  
Cuming, Daley, English, Eves, Fissenden, Forecast,  
Fort, Garten, Mrs Gooch, Mrs Grigg, Harper, Harwood,  
Hastie, Hinder, Holmes, Joy, Khadka, Kimmance,  
McKay, McKenna, Mortimer, Munford, Naghi, Newton,  
Parfitt-Reid, Perry, Purle, Mrs Robertson, D Rose,  
M Rose, Round, Russell, J Sams, T Sams, Spooner,  
Springett, Trzebinski, R Webb, S Webb, Wilby and  
Young

1. PRAYERS

Prayers were said by the Reverend Wil North of St Margaret's Church, Barming.

2. RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Councillor McKay reserved his right to record the proceedings.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Bryant and that Councillor Harwood would be late in arriving at the meeting.

4. DISPENSATIONS

There were no applications for dispensations.

5. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no disclosures by Members or Officers.

6. DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING

There were no disclosures of lobbying.

7. ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING MUNICIPAL YEAR

It was moved by Councillor Munford, seconded by Councillor Perry, supported by Councillors Cox and Harper, and

**RESOLVED:** That Fay Lynette Gooch, a Councillor of the Borough, be duly elected Mayor of the Borough of Maidstone until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022.

Note: Councillor Harwood joined the meeting when the new Mayor was being robed.

**\*\*THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR MRS GOOCH) IN THE CHAIR\*\***

8. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MAYOR

The Mayor received congratulations on her election from scholars representing local schools as follows:

Samuel Luxton	Maidstone Grammar School
Anna Soan	Maidstone Grammar School for Girls
Ruby Symington	Barming Primary School

9. THE RETIRING MAYOR

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Mrs Joy, supported by Councillors Mrs Gooch and Harper, and

**RESOLVED:** That the hearty thanks of this Council be given to Councillor Mrs Marion Ring and Mr Richard Ring for the admirable discharge of their duties as Mayor and Mayor's Consort during the past two years, and for their courteous approach to all sections of the community.

10. EXEMPT ITEMS

**RESOLVED:** That the items on the agenda be taken in public as proposed.

11. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2021

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Borough Council held on 24 February 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed.

12. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING MUNICIPAL YEAR

It was moved by Councillor Clark, seconded by Councillor Munford, supported by Councillors Springett and McKay, and

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Derek John Mortimer be duly appointed Deputy Mayor for the Borough of Maidstone until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022.

13. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed the Council that there would be a relaunch of the Maidstone Market on 12 June 2021 and she would like to see as many Members there as possible.

14. ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING MUNICIPAL YEAR

It was moved by Councillor Purle, seconded by Councillor Mrs Blackmore, and

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Burton be elected as the Leader of the Council until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022.

15. APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING MUNICIPAL YEAR

It was moved by Councillor Burton, seconded by Councillor Mrs Blackmore, and

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Purle be appointed as the Deputy Leader of the Council until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022.

16. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, COMMUNICATIONS AND GOVERNANCE - REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

In accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council considered the allocation of seats to each Political Group in relation to its various Committees.

It was moved by Councillor Burton, seconded by Councillor Harper, and

**RESOLVED:** That the allocation of seats on Committees be as set out in Appendix 1 to the report of the Head of Policy, Communications and Governance.

17. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

In accordance with Section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council considered the appointments to its Committees and Substitutes.

It was moved by Councillor Burton, seconded by Councillor Harper, and

**RESOLVED:** That the wishes of the Group Leaders with regard to appointments to Committees and Substitutes, as set out in the schedule circulated at the meeting, be accepted.

18. ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION, INCLUDING THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION, AND THE HYBRID (PUBLIC) MEETINGS ADDENDUM TO THE CONSTITUTION

It was moved by Councillor Burton, seconded by Councillor S Webb, that, subject to the deletion in Part 3.1, Rule 32(1), of the sentence: "The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each Service Committee shall come from different political groups", the Council's Constitution, including the Scheme of Delegation, and the Hybrid (Public) Meetings addendum to the Constitution be adopted with effect from 22 May 2021.

Amendment moved by Councillor Harper, seconded by Councillor Cox, that in the interests of good governance and democracy, and to enable a full consideration of the implications, the proposed deletion of the sentence specifying that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each Service Committee shall come from different political groups be referred to the Democracy and General Purposes Committee to make a recommendation to a future Council meeting prior to implementation.

AMENDMENT LOST

The original motion was then put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:** That, subject to the deletion in Part 3.1, Rule 32(1), of the sentence: "The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each Service Committee shall come from different political groups", the Council's Constitution, including the Scheme of Delegation, and the Hybrid (Public) Meetings addendum to the Constitution be adopted with effect from 22 May 2021.

19. REPORT OF THE DEMOCRACY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 31 MARCH 2021 - APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON AND RESERVE INDEPENDENT PERSON

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor R Webb, that the recommendations of the Democracy and General Purposes Committee relating to the appointment of an Independent Person and a Reserve Independent Person be approved with the amendment of the second recommendation and the addition of a third recommendation as follows:

2. That the allowances paid per annum to the Independent Person and Reserve Independent Person being £749 and £249 (plus indexation rises for 2020/21 and 2021/22 in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme) respectively, be approved.

AND

3. That Mrs Barbara Varney, the previous Independent Person, be thanked for her services and valuable contribution over the years.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Mr Alan Harrison be appointed as the Independent Person for the Council and Mr Paul Murphy be appointed as the Reserve Independent Person for a term of four years with immediate effect until 21 May 2025.
2. That the allowances paid per annum to the Independent Person and Reserve Independent Person being £749 and £249 (plus indexation rises for 2020/21 and 2021/22 in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme) respectively, be approved.
3. That Mrs Barbara Varney, the previous Independent Person, be thanked for her services and valuable contribution over the years.

20. **NOTICE OF MOTION - EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

The following motion was moved by Councillor Purle, seconded by Councillor Perry:

1. *That Council agrees, in principle, to revert to executive arrangements from its next Annual Meeting for the Municipal Year 2022/23 onwards.*
2. *That Council recognises the substantial work required to bring forward final proposals, to review interim arrangements and other aspects of Member involvement.*
3. *That Democracy and General Purposes Committee be requested to consider the matters outlined in two and put a proposed executive arrangements model to Council for adoption in order to allow the executive arrangements to be adopted to meet the principle agreed in one.*

When put to the vote, the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Council agrees, in principle, to revert to executive arrangements from its next Annual Meeting for the Municipal Year 2022/23 onwards.
2. That Council recognises the substantial work required to bring forward final proposals, to review interim arrangements and other aspects of Member involvement.
3. That Democracy and General Purposes Committee be requested to consider the matters outlined in two and put a proposed executive arrangements model to Council for adoption in order to allow the executive arrangements to be adopted to meet the principle agreed in one.

Note: Councillor Fort left the meeting after consideration of this item.

21. NOTICE OF MOTION - WHOLE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The following motion was moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Purle:

*At the briefing given by the Local Government Boundary Commission it was made clear that if the current system of election by thirds were to be retained Borough Council Wards would have to comprise three Members. It was noted that there could be exceptions; but, these were rarely granted.*

*The Council considers that there are a number of examples in our Borough where three Member Wards would not be appropriate. Therefore, in the light of the Boundary Commission's default position, the Council requests and requires that Officers produce a report on Whole Council Elections for the next Democracy and General Purposes Committee meeting to enable the Democracy and General Purposes Committee to reconsider whether the current system of election by thirds is fit for purpose and report back to the Council with its considered views.*

When put to the vote, the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED:** At the briefing given by the Local Government Boundary Commission it was made clear that if the current system of election by thirds were to be retained Borough Council Wards would have to comprise three Members. It was noted that there could be exceptions; but, these were rarely granted.

The Council considers that there are a number of examples in our Borough where three Member Wards would not be appropriate. Therefore, in the light of the Boundary Commission's default position, the Council requests and requires that Officers produce a report on Whole Council Elections for the next Democracy and General Purposes Committee meeting to enable the Democracy and General Purposes Committee to reconsider whether the current system of election by thirds is fit for purpose and report back to the Council with its considered views.

Note: Councillor Hastie left the meeting after consideration of this item.

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL ACTING AS CORPORATE TRUSTEE OF THE CHARITY KNOWN AS THE COBTREE MANOR ESTATE**

22. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, COMMUNICATIONS AND GOVERNANCE - REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON THE COBTREE MANOR ESTATE CHARITY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Cox, seconded by Councillor English, and

**RESOLVED:** That the allocation of seats on the Cobtree Manor Estate Charity Committee be as follows:

Conservative	3
Liberal Democrat	1
Independent	0
Labour	1

23. APPOINTMENT OF THE COBTREE MANOR ESTATE CHARITY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Burton, seconded by Councillor Mrs Blackmore, and

**RESOLVED:** That the wishes of the Group Leaders with regard to the appointment of Members and Substitutes to serve on the Cobtree Manor Estate Charity Committee, as set out in the schedule circulated at the meeting, be accepted.

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL ACTING AS CORPORATE TRUSTEE OF THE QUEEN'S OWN ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT MUSEUM TRUST**

24. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, COMMUNICATIONS AND GOVERNANCE - REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON THE QUEEN'S OWN ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT MUSEUM TRUST COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Burton, seconded by Councillor Mrs Ring, and

**RESOLVED:** That the allocation of seats on the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment Museum Trust Committee be as follows:

Conservative	3
Liberal Democrat	1
Independent	1
Labour	0

25. APPOINTMENT OF THE QUEEN'S OWN ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT MUSEUM TRUST COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Burton, seconded by Councillor Round, and

**RESOLVED:** That the wishes of the Group Leaders with regard to the appointment of Members and Substitutes to serve on the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment Museum Trust Committee, as set out in the schedule circulated at the meeting, be accepted.

26. DURATION OF MEETING

11.00 a.m. to 1.15 p.m.

# Agenda Item 13

## **MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **COUNCIL**

**14 JULY 2021**

## **REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 JUNE 2021**

### **BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

#### **(REGULATION 19)**

#### **Issue for Decision**

On 9 February 2021, this Committee resolved that the Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan, once modified, should proceed to referendum. In light of the Coronavirus pandemic, Neighbourhood Plan referendums were suspended until 6 May 2021.

A referendum was carried out alongside the local, county and Police & Crime Commissioner elections on 6 May 2021. The referendum was successful, with 89% voting in favour of the neighbourhood plan. As a result, the Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan becomes part of the Development Plan for Maidstone (Section 38 (3A) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

#### **Recommendation Made**

That the Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan be 'made' (adopted).

#### **Reasons for Recommendation**

The Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Planning Area comprises the whole of Boughton Monchelsea Parish and was designated on 29 October 2012. The Neighbourhood Plan was then subject two rounds of mandatory consultation. Firstly, the Parish Council undertook a formal 6-week public consultation on the pre-submission draft of the Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14) between 26 April 2019 and 11 June 2019.

Secondly, Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council submitted the Regulation 15 Submission Plan and supporting documents to the Borough Council on 10 March 2020. Maidstone Borough Council facilitated a further 6-week public consultation (Regulation 16) between 14 August 2020 and 28 September 2020 (extended to accommodate the August Bank Holiday). In accordance with the agreed Neighbourhood Planning Protocol, the Borough Council submitted representations to both consultations. The Regulation 14 response was submitted under the delegated authority of the Head of Planning and Development. The Regulation 16 response was submitted following the agreement of this Committee at its meeting of 8 September 2020.

The Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents, together with all representations received, were forwarded to the examiner who dealt with the examination through written representations, concluding that a public hearing was not necessary.

The examiner's report was received on 17 December 2020 and recommended that the Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan, once modified, proceeds to referendum on the basis that it has met all the relevant legal requirements.

In line with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and the locally adopted Neighbourhood Planning Protocol, this Committee made a decision on 9 February 2021 that the Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan, subject to the above modifications, should proceed to referendum.

The delayed referendum was carried out alongside the local, county and Police & Crime Commissioner elections on 6 May 2021. Voters were asked "Do you want Maidstone Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Boughton Monchelsea to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?". The referendum was successful, with 89% voting in favour of the neighbourhood plan. Following a successful referendum, a neighbourhood plan becomes part of the development plan for the borough (Section 38 (3A) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

There is a statutory duty to make the Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan within 8 weeks of the successful referendum. On this occasion the statutory duty will not be met owing to the delayed referendum as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic and government requirement to minimise social contact. Local elections were also postponed and scheduled to take place on 6 May 2021, hence committees have been suspended and the 8 June 2021 was the first opportunity for the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee to consider the Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 19). Agreement to postpone the decision was gained from the Parish Council.

### **Alternatives Considered and Why Not Recommended**

The Council could choose to not make the Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan. This would be in breach of Section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (Regulation 18A) which requires a neighbourhood plan to be made within 8 weeks of a successful referendum. The reasons for the decision of making the Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan going beyond the 8-week period have been outlined above in this report and is considered to be acceptable given the restrictions on social contact that were imposed. It is the view of officers that there are no new matters arising that would prevent Full Council making the plan.

### **Background Documents**

Background Document 1: Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan  
[Appendix 1 Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan.pdf - Google Drive](#)

Background Document 2: Referendum Result  
<https://localplan.maidstone.gov.uk/home/neighbourhood-planning>

**Appendices** – None

# Agenda Item 14

## **MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **COUNCIL**

**14 JULY 2021**

## **REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 JUNE 2021**

### **LENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (REGULATION 19)**

#### **Issue for Decision**

On 8 September 2020, the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee resolved that the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan, once modified, should proceed to referendum. In light of the Coronavirus pandemic, Neighbourhood Plan referendums were suspended until 6 May 2021.

A referendum was carried out alongside the local, county and Police & Crime Commissioner elections on 6 May 2021. The referendum was successful, with 92% voting in favour of the neighbourhood plan. As a result, the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan becomes part of the Development Plan for Maidstone (Section 38 (3A) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

#### **Recommendation Made**

That the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan be 'made' (adopted).

#### **Reasons for Recommendation**

The Lenham Neighbourhood Planning Area comprises the whole of Lenham Parish and was designated on 27 November 2012. The Neighbourhood Plan was then subject two rounds of mandatory consultation. Firstly, the Parish Council undertook a formal 6-week public consultation on the pre-submission draft of the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14) between 24 September and 12 November 2018.

Lenham Parish Council submitted the Regulation 15 Submission Plan and supporting documents to the Borough Council on 17 December 2019. Maidstone Borough Council facilitated a further 6-week public consultation (Regulation 16) between 14 February 2020 to 27 March 2020 (which was extended to account for the Coronavirus pandemic). In accordance with the agreed Neighbourhood Planning Protocol, the Borough Council submitted representations to both consultations. The Regulation 14 response was submitted under the delegated authority of the Head of Planning and Development. The Regulation 16 response was submitted following the agreement of this Committee at its meeting of 10 March 2020.

The Lenham Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents, together with all representations received, were forwarded to the examiner who dealt with the examination through written representations, concluding that a public hearing was not necessary.

The examiner's report was received on 30 June 2020 and recommended that the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan, once modified, proceeds to referendum on the basis that it has met all the relevant legal requirements.

In line with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and the locally adopted Neighbourhood Planning Protocol, this Committee made a decision on 8 September 2020 that the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan, subject to the above modifications, should proceed to referendum.

The delayed referendum was carried out alongside the local, county and Police & Crime Commissioner elections on 6 May 2021. Voters were asked "Do you want Maidstone Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Lenham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?". The referendum was successful, with 92% voting in favour of the neighbourhood plan. Following a successful referendum, a neighbourhood plan becomes part of the development plan for the borough (Section 38 (3A) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

There is a statutory duty to make the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan within 8 weeks of the successful referendum. On this occasion, the statutory duty will not be met owing to the delayed referendum as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic and government requirement to minimise social contact. Local elections were also postponed and scheduled to take place on 6 May 2021, hence committees have been suspended and the 8 June 2021 was the first opportunity for the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee to consider the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 19). Agreement to postpone the decision was gained from the Parish Council.

### **Alternatives Considered and Why Not Recommended**

The Council could choose to not make the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan. This would be in breach of Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (Regulation 18A) which requires a neighbourhood plan to be made within 8 weeks of a successful referendum. The reasons for the decision of making the Lenham Neighbourhood Plan going beyond the 8-week period have been outlined above in this report and is considered to be acceptable given the restrictions on social contact that were imposed. It is the view of officers that there are no new matters arising that would prevent Full Council making the plan.

### **Background Documents**

Background Document 1: Lenham Neighbourhood Plan

<https://localplan.maidstone.gov.uk/home/documents/neighbourhood-plans/lenham/r18-referendum/Appendix-1-Lenham-neighbourhood-plan-2017-2031.pdf>

Background Document 2: Referendum Result

<https://localplan.maidstone.gov.uk/home/neighbourhood-planning>

**Appendices** - None

# Agenda Item 15

## **MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **COUNCIL**

**14 JULY 2021**

### **REPORT OF THE COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ACTING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 JUNE 2021**

### **2021/2022 STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND REVISED COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN**

#### **Issue for Decision**

The Safer Maidstone Partnership's Community Safety Plan for 2019-22 has been refreshed following the annual undertaking of a strategic assessment. The Strategic Assessment provides members with an update on the progress made during year two of the plan and the latest figures relating to the priority areas and other areas of concern. The revised CSP Plan replaces the previous version with minor changes that provide greater focus on growing trends or changes in service delivery. It sets out the strategic direction for the Partnership for the remaining year of this Plan.

#### **Recommendation Made**

That the revised "June 21 Update" of the Community Safety Plan 2019-22 be adopted.

#### **Reasons for Recommendation**

On 19 March 2019 the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee acting as the Crime and Disorder Committee recommended the adoption of our then new Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Plan to Council in April 2019. The plan was duly adopted and the Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP) set about delivering the plan. The plan was refreshed and brought to the Committee on 30 June 2020.

The Strategic Assessment has been refreshed for 2021 and the assessment demonstrates the positive steps taken by the Partnership, despite the obvious impact of the pandemic, in the last 12 months against the priorities set by the CSP Plan. It also provides updated statistics from across the Partnership to help us identify trends and any growing concerns.

The Strategic Assessment also outlines Key Conclusions and Recommended Changes to the Community Safety Partnership Plan which have been adopted into the CSP Plan.

#### **Alternatives Considered and Why Not Recommended**

Do not approve the revision of the Community Safety Plan. This is not recommended as the Community Safety Plan sits behind the work of

the SMP and should reflect current trends and working practices.

### **Background Documents**

The 2021/2022 Strategic Assessment and revised Community Safety Plan – Report to the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee Acting as the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 29 June 2021

Safer Maidstone Partnership Strategic Assessment 2021-22

### **Appendix**

Maidstone Community Safety Partnership Plan 2019-2022: June 2021 Update



**Maidstone Community**  
**Safety Partnership Plan**  
**2019-2022**

**June 2021 Update**

**'Where people feel safe  
and are safe'**

[maidstone.gov.uk](http://maidstone.gov.uk)



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## Preface by the Leader of Maidstone Borough Council

As we recover from the global pandemic, we must not underestimate the challenges facing the Borough of Maidstone.

Chief among the concerns of many people I meet on the doorstep are those of crime & disorder, the perception of rising violence on our streets and the scourge of violence in the home.

The Council's power to tackle these challenges is not limitless, but fortunately for those concerned, the Council's role is considerable.

Here in Kent, our Police & Crime Commissioner has led the initiative to increase the number of police officers available to the force. And in the wider national sphere, the Government has committed to delivering further increases in such numbers with the Home Secretary making clear her aim of wanting criminals to feel the full force of the law.

This Council is committed to working with our local Police to deliver residents' expectations. Our aim is that Maidstone will be a place **where law abiding residents feel safe and are safe.**

Maidstone's Community Safety Partnership is a key example of the Council working with the Police and other agencies to this end.

This is the third year of the existing Community Safety Partnership Plan. This document will set out: -

- a) The objectives of the current plan;
- b) Why the Council has been focussing on these areas; and
- c) What we plan to achieve.

During the course of the year, this Council will be working with partner agencies to develop a new strategy, with revised priorities and a harder edge, to ensure that our efforts are relevant and effective. We will be seeking to continue increasing the use of the robust powers Parliament has given us in tackling anti-social behaviour and criminality. We will also be aiming to step up our efforts tackling the obvious environmental factors in which crime breeds, like messy streets and graffiti that fuel an 'anything goes' mentality.

Be assured that we have been listening carefully to your concerns on these issues and will continue to do so as we move forward.



**Cllr David Burton,  
Leader of Maidstone  
Borough Council**

## Forward by Co-chairs of the Safer Maidstone Partnership Executive



**Alison Broom**  
**Chief Executive,**  
**Maidstone Borough**  
**Council**



**Gary Woodward**  
**Chief Inspector**  
**Kent Police**

The Maidstone Community Safety Partnership has a good track record of collaborative working to keep our communities safe and feeling safe. Our 2019-22 plan builds on extensive experience of working together and the productive and resilient relationships developed, which enable us to identify and tackle local community safety issues that matter to Maidstone residents. The plan will be revised annually following review of information and the details of this, as well as the progress against this plan, will be set out in our Strategic Assessment.

We want our approach to be evidence based, objective led, and outcome focussed – but just as importantly to include proper consideration for both the victims and the witnesses and their needs. In these unprecedented times it would be remiss to not address the impact of the global pandemic on our borough. Covid-19 has impacted on each of the priority areas set out in this plan already and its continued impact will be considered as the live action plans for each priority theme evolve.

The plan seeks to build on what has already been achieved and give greater emphasis to prevention and reducing harm. Overall, our aim remains to reduce the amount of anti-social behaviour and the number of crimes which occur in the Maidstone borough and the harm caused. However, some crimes, for example domestic abuse, are historically under-reported and so our aim is to create an environment where people are confident to come forward and report it.

This will ensure we have a more accurate picture, and can use our resources to reduce the threat, risk and harm for the most vulnerable members of our community.

We all have a responsibility to prevent crime and disorder from happening in the first place – SMP partners will work not only with each other but also with communities to achieve this, as well as tackling crime and disorder when it occurs. The Safer Maidstone Partnership will work to strengthen community cohesion as part of its community safety role, protecting the vulnerable and supporting our communities by creating a borough where people feel safe and are safe.



## Introduction

Community safety in Maidstone is not the sole responsibility of one agency or body. Regulation requires that we form a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) made up of 'responsible authorities'; those agencies with a duty participate, as well as other interested bodies from across the borough and beyond. The CSP work to implement and deliver initiatives that will help keep Maidstone borough a safe place to live, work, learn and visit.

In Maidstone, the Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP) is the name given to Maidstone's CSP, who work collectively to protect the vulnerable, pursue those who do not respect our borough or the law and to raise awareness of priority themes that the data we collect and the people we speak to say are the areas that threaten our communities the most. This refreshed version of the 2019-2022 CSP Plan is a continuation of previous plans, building on 20 years of work by the partnership, tackling crime and improving safety in the borough.

The SMP, which is co-chaired by Alison Broom, Chief Executive of Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) and Chief Inspector Gary Woodward of Kent Police, is made up of responsible authorities (those bodies for whom membership of the CSP is a statutory obligation) and many community, voluntary and private sector partners. Collectively we work to deliver the CSP Plan, forming specialist sub-groups and measurable action plans that deliver against high level outcomes for each of the priority themes.



## Safer Maidstone Partnership Priority Setting:

### What data we used and what it told us:

The SMP has a duty to produce an annual strategic assessment to measure our performance against priority performance areas under the CSP Plan 2019-22 and other crime and disorder issues in the borough. It gathers research, evidence and intelligence from local and Kent-wide sources, as well as drawing upon the professional expertise of those working at District level.

The data provided by Kent Police is recognised for its high ethical standard of crime recording. Whilst longer term data comparison is challenging, due to changes in the way crime was recorded compared to historical data on their previous system, the data is now building on the new police system which we enable us to develop analysis of the data to see what trends exist.

### What people told us:

The 2017 Resident's Survey captured individual's perceptions or feelings of safety. These can be influenced by a number of factors which may or may not relate to whether someone has been a victim of crime.

The survey received 2350 responses; most respondents (66%) said that "a clean and safe environment" was the most important of our Council priorities to them. It also showed that whilst in general our residents feel safe in the borough with 93% of people saying they feel very safe or fairly safe in their home and 94% people said that they felt safe in their local area in the day. Whilst less people said they felt safe in their local area at night (60%).

Residents also provided information about their fears of specific crimes which we can link to wider CSP issues; 46% of respondents were concerned about someone breaking into their home and 56% were worried about being a victim of fraud or identity theft. We know that burglary and rogue trading, a type of fraud, are common amongst serious organised crime groups and that burglary is also often used to fund dependencies associated with substance misuse.

Some residents (29%) are worried about being attacked or assaulted. A further 38% are worried about being pestered or insulted in the street. These can be linked to substance misuse, mental health issues or general Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), but can also be linked to domestic abuse, with 50% violent crime not occurring in a public place.

Overall, the survey showed that residents support the need to continue to actively work towards reducing and preventing crimes in our community. More information on the resident survey results is available [here](#).

In 2020 MBC undertook a survey in relation to the impact of the pandemic. Alongside an increased impact on mental health (52% negative impact), other factors such as anxiety about being outside, financial pressures due to employment issues and fear associated with the virus itself have impacted many people in our communities.

MBC's Strategic Plan 2019-2045 includes Safe, Clean and Green as a priority. Within the Strategic Plan it identifies that, between 2019-2024, particular importance will be placed on improving community safety by working with our partners to make people less vulnerable to crime.

### Local Community Safety Considerations:

The borough of Maidstone covers 40,000 hectares and is situated in the heart of Kent. The borough's population of over 171,000 is the largest in Kent with approximately 75% of its population living in urban areas and is strategically located between the Channel Ports and London, with direct connections to both via the M20 and M2 motorways. Maidstone is the county town of Kent and hosts one of the largest retail centres in the South East and is serviced by three central railway stations which connect to London, the coast and to the Medway towns. It also boasts one of the largest night-time economies in the county. The town itself now benefits from the introduction of the Maidstone's Business Improvement District which, alongside a growing MaidSafe community, works in partnership with the police, local authorities and local businesses to reduce business crime in Maidstone, increase trade and make Maidstone a safer environment for its staff, customers and visitors.

Where our borough is located and our economy, including the sheer number of visitors the borough has throughout the year, are all factors that are considered as part of our priority setting.

Direct links to London and the Medway towns provide fantastic connectivity for people who live and work in the borough, however they also provide opportunities for criminals who exploit these networks to access vulnerable people and places in our borough. A direct example of this is the threat of County Line gangs who use the rail networks to illegally distribute and deal dangerous drugs from one city/town to another.

Geographical breakdowns of crime types is now being developed alongside other partner data. This will improve identification of trends and concerns raised in both urban and rural communities. To support this with a local narrative, the Community Safety team, in 2021, introduced "Ward Cluster" meetings. In these meetings, elected members from, up to 4 similar, wards meet with representatives of the SMP to discuss their Community Safety concerns and to work collaboratively with the SMP to deliver against an agreed plan for their areas. The clusters have been created using wards that are neighbouring, with similar demographics and concerns.

### Priority Setting- 2021 Update:

The SMP sets the priorities for the CSP Plan based on the analysis and interpretation of the data and survey information analysed through the strategic assessment.

Analysis of the data and professional input from the existing sub-groups in the 2021 Strategic Analysis supports the SMP Priorities set out in the 2019-2022 Community Safety Plan. These priorities remain as:

- Protecting our communities against serious, violent and organised crime (including modern-day slavery)
- Keeping children and young people safe
- Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse (including stalking)
- Reducing the impact of substance misuse on our community
- Safeguarding people whose mental health makes them vulnerable to becoming a victim or where it leads to an impact on the wider community

The global pandemic has had a significant impact on how front-line services have operated and how people have behaved. The combined impact of reduced contact with the public, significant limitations on travel and social contact, and closure and strict restrictions in public spaces and recreational spaces, is that almost all services have seen unprecedented shifts in demand. As a result, the data for the last year, analysed in the 2021 Strategic Assessment, is considered highly irregular. Observations and analysis have considered the context of the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on 'normal' day-to-day life.

Rather than focus on Covid-19 as a single specific priority or risk to community safety, the impact of the pandemic on each of the priority areas will be considered as the live action plans for each priority theme evolve.

In addition to these priorities, work will continue around the Government driven Prevent duty and the general duty to reduce ASB as cross-cutting themes. Reducing reoffending will also be a core part of the work undertaken by each sub-group.

The priorities identified for Maidstone borough are reflective of those identified across the county and collated by the Kent Community Safety Partnership in the 'Kent Community Safety Agreement' (KCSA). They also link to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) 'Safer in Kent Plan 2017-22\*'. An illustration of the KCSA and PCC Plan priorities is provided in [Appendix 1](#).

\*refreshed annually

## Safer Maidstone Partnership Governance:

The success of the SMP is linked to the work of its sub-groups and the leadership of its Executive Board and Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This section, supported by the diagram in [Appendix 2](#), describes how the Partnership works as a structured entity and how it delivers its community safety priorities through the work of its sub-groups.

### Safer Maidstone Partnership Executive Group (SMPEG):

The Safer Maidstone Partnership Executive Group (SMPEG) works with all other strategic boards in the borough. It offers strategic governance to ensure high quality and cost-effective services are provided within the borough. The key functions of the executive group are to:

- Provide strategic leadership and vision to make Maidstone a safer borough
- Be a strategic driver, working with all partners to support the direction of the partnership
- Deliver sustainable Community Safety Strategy (CSS) priorities and any relevant targets arising from these priorities
- Deliver statutory responsibilities held by the SMPEG
- Have oversight, receive and agree funds and funding applications relating to community safety within Maidstone

### Crime and Disorder Committee:

Under the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, every local authority is required to have in place a Crime and Disorder Committee. The Committee is empowered to review, scrutinise and make recommendations regarding the work of the responsible authorities regarding their crime and disorder functions. The Communities, Housing and Environment Committee undertake the role of the Crime and Disorder Committee at specified meetings throughout the year. MBC Elected Members are also invited to 'Members Briefings' and training sessions, where specialist training is provided to support members in their understanding of the priorities themselves and the work that is being undertaken to address them.

### Safer Maidstone Partnership:

The SMP is responsible for:

- Delivering CSP strategic priorities and any relevant targets arising from these priorities on behalf of the SMPEG
- Fulfilling statutory responsibilities held by the SMPEG
- Responding to other issues relating to community safety, which include those that may arise, from government policies or other developments

### SMP Subgroups:

The Partnership is structured so that it has subgroups to develop, co-ordinate and deliver the activities to achieve the outcomes for each of the priority themes. Each sub-group is responsible for:

- Producing an annual action plan containing measurable activities and indicators
- Ensuring that there are resources available to deliver these plans
- Submitting funding applications to obtain additional resources where required

The nature of some of the work is such that it is difficult to measure or show a direct impact of the work undertaken. For example, it is not possible to measure how many people are able to avoid an abusive relationship after an awareness raising event but we are able to measure the usage of the 'one-stop-shop' for people seeking further advice and assistance with domestic abuse.

For each priority theme an action plan will be agreed that has:

- A high-level outcome which set out what the Partnership is aiming to achieve
- Indicators which measure trends in associated behaviours, crimes, service usage, etc
- A series of measurable actions that the partnership believes will achieve the higher-level outcome

Using the same example, one such action is to ensure that temporal and geographical data from the 'one-stop-shop' usage is reviewed to ensure it is available to those at risk but might not be able to visit the current town centre location. The potential is to have 'pop-up' sessions if the review finds it to be necessary.

It has been agreed that the CSP governance structure for 2020/21 will not have specific working groups for mental health or substance misuse, although consideration is being given to reintroducing the substance misuse forum.

For mental health it was agreed that there were already strategic and operational meetings which focus on this area of work and therefore the creation of a group for the SMP was unnecessary. The weekly Community Safety and Vulnerability Group (CSVG) provides an opportunity to help the most vulnerable and to gather grass roots intelligence that help partners to understand any growing trends. In the absence of a specific subgroup the terms of reference for the CSVG have been reviewed to maximise its effectiveness.

During the first two years of this plan it was felt that the substance misuse did not require a specific sub-group. As our partnership develops with KCC Public Health, Change Grow Live and other partners, conversations have started around reintroducing a new partnership meeting. With substance misuse often an underlying factor in the concerns raised by the other subgroups, such as 'Keeping children and young people safe', where substance misuse is identified as a particular area of concern, the work of those sub groups will also include actions for the substance misuse theme and will be developed into conversations in any new group as it emerges.

[Appendix 3](#) provides a summary of the sub-groups and working groups that work in each of the priority areas.

Each sub-group is also responsible for ensuring that equalities analysis is carried out to ensure that their plans conform to duties under the Equalities Act 2010.

### The Maidstone Task Force

In September 2020 the Maidstone Task Force was launched. Following an uplift in staffing for Kent Police, the decision was taken to utilise resources to provide the framework for an exciting new multi-agency task force for Maidstone. As one of the largest districts in Kent, it was recognised that some areas in Maidstone have disproportionate levels of crime, social/economic deprivation and health inequality. The Task Force's objective is to seek to redress these imbalances, to work with those communities to provide resilience and long-term/permanent improvements.



The taskforce built on the existing strengths of the Safer Maidstone Partnership and a multi-agency team has now been established to provide enhanced joined up solutions to complex multi factorial problems.

Albeit there have been challenges as a result of the pandemic, the implementation phase of the project saw the creation of a new collaborative workspace within Maidstone House. The space, which without social distancing restrictions will house up to 25 people from across the partnership, will form a Community Safety collaboration hub for both the task force focus and the borough as a whole.

The first focus area selected for the task force was the combined wards of Shepway South and Shepway North. Analysis of the available crime data revealed high levels of ASB, particularly around the shops and in housing blocks, and Domestic Abuse in both Wards. Analysis of the health data revealed that residents in the wards:

- had a lower life expectancy and fewer healthy years lived than the national average and other parts of the borough (Male and Female)
- were more likely to die prematurely (Coronary Heart Disease, Cardiovascular disease, Cancer)
- experienced higher rates of mental illness
- represented greater proportion of residents claiming benefits than the national average
- had the highest A&E attendance and admission rates for the borough

Delivery in the focus areas is centred around "Building Community Engagement and Cohesion". Using a problem-solving model, known as OSARA, the task force is taking a partnership approach to challenging some of the social norms that are particular to the wards. Tackling ASB in partnership with Golding Homes, who have provided a dedicated officer into the task force, has already seen some improvements in the area according to residents.



### Linked Boards

Although there is no longer a requirement for Local Strategic Boards, the Partnership and its officers are just one of a number of strategic and statutory groups across the borough where cross-cutting themes are discussed. Where possible the priority themes of this plan will be carried through into these groups to ensure that community safety priorities are embedded in other partnership strategies and in turn, those strategies are taken into account in both the CSP Plan and the work of the Partnership.

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# Priorities



Protecting our communities against serious, violent and organised crime (including modern-day slavery)



Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse (including stalking)



Keeping children and young people safe



Reduce the impact of substance misuse on our community



Safeguard people whose mental health makes them vulnerable



## Protecting our communities against serious, violent and organised crime (including modern-day slavery):

### Why is this important?

Serious and organised crime cost the UK billions of pounds each year and pose a risk to both our communities and our national security. This can clearly be seen in the rise in violent crime and knife crime on a local and national level. The Serious Violence Strategy (2018) recognises that a range and powers are held by agencies, such as local authorities, that play a vital role in supporting the police to disrupt serious and organised crime activities in the borough. Organised Crime Groups (OCG) are groups of individuals involved in serious or organised crime for personal gain. Crime is often regarded as their 'occupation'. The work of the SMP can often disrupt OCGs activity, particularly targeting those outside the protected core. Serious organised crime, whilst often linked to OCGs, can also be undertaken by individuals exploiting opportunities and vulnerabilities to undertake criminal activities for gain. These can be broad ranging from burglary through to gang related activities, such as moving drugs (County Lines) into the borough or exploiting women sexually.

In Maidstone, we have an established Serious and organised Crime Panel (SOCP). The Panel meets regularly to tackle the threat, risk and harm of serious organised crime through a coordinated approach. Over the last year the SOCP have worked to actively disrupt four OCGs in both rural and urban areas, where their activities have threatened vulnerable people and the environment. Work has also disrupted repeat offenders of organised crime.

Working with the Kent Violence Reduction Unit, SMP partners will look to use analytical data and intelligence to put in place support, diversions and actions that will reduce violence in young people, particularly in relation to knife crime.

**SMP Objective:** The SMP will protect our communities from the illegal practices of serious organised crime groups.

### What is our focus?

The SOCP has adopted the national SOC 4Ps framework, which from a local perspective, means that in relation to OCGs and crime series:

**Pursue:** prosecuting and disrupting criminal activity

**Prevent:** deterring individuals, including reducing reoffending

**Protect:** helping communities protect themselves against SOC

**Prepare:** manage the impact or consequence of SOC to protect communities

### Year 3 - What will we do?

The SOCP will refresh its action plan to help deliver on our SMP Objective. Actions from the plan will include:

- Support the reopening of the NTE as lockdown restrictions are lifted.
- Work to disrupt a new OCG relating to drugs/money laundering with links in and around the town centre.
- Work with partners to identify and disrupt illegal puppy farms and unlicensed breeders.



## Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse (including stalking):

### Why is this important?

Domestic abuse is broadly described as any incident(s) of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members. The abuse can be, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional.



The Domestic Abuse Act became law in April 2021 and places new duties on local authorities to help tackle domestic abuse. In two-tier areas, such as Kent, the lead authority is Kent County Council and Maidstone Borough Council officers are taking an active role on the Kent Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and through the Maidstone Domestic Abuse Forum to help shape the new Kent-wide Domestic Abuse Strategy and develop services for people experiencing domestic abuse. In addition, staff have been updated on changes made to the homelessness legislation brought about by the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act, which will be reflected in the review of the Council's new Housing Strategy due to be adopted in late 2021

**SMP Objective:** The SMP will ensure that all communities residing in the borough can live their lives in safety without the fear or harm caused by domestic abuse.

### What is our focus?

The continued increases in reporting and attendance at the 'one-stop-shop' indicates that the SMP should prioritise supporting the victims of domestic abuse through the provision of local services like MARAC, Sanctuary and IDVA.

The partnership needs to find new innovative ways to raise awareness so that people can seek advice and are confident in reporting abuse when it occurs. The increase of victims coming forward should not be seen as a negative as we need victims to continue to come forward so that we can determine the full extent of the issue within our borough.

We will support children who witness domestic abuse in their home and through our Keeping Children and Young People Safe group will promote safer relationships, helping young people make better choices and increasing their confidence to report issues.

### Year 3 - What will we do?

The Domestic Abuse Forum will refresh their action plan to deliver on our SMP Objective. New actions for the plan will include:

- Support the roll out of Domestic Abuse Champions across Maidstone and Kent in partnership with Kent Independent Domestic Abuse Services
- Deliver more awareness raising events, such a Cradle to Grave, that target nurseries, schools and professionals who will be less aware of the impact of Domestic Abuse

## Keeping children and young people safe:

### Why is this important?

We know that some of our children and young people live in abusive and violent households and some are affected by drugs and alcohol. We also know that many are confident and driven. Young people are often affected by issues across our priority themes which affect them more deeply, causing longer term damage. We must safeguard our young people from individuals that intend to cause them harm through the supply of drugs and sexual exploitation (CSE). We must also challenge growing trends such as knife crime, serious youth violence and the impact of gang culture in our young people.



Keeping children and young people safe



In Maidstone, cannabis use continues in our young people is high and has increased steadily over the last 8 years. For young people, cannabis is more readily available than alcohol but can be expensive, resulting in more young people becoming involved in offending to fund their drug use.

There also remains a concern that the behaviour of some of our young people puts individuals and communities at risk and that increases in our young people's own fear is leading to a worrying national trend of carrying knives for safety.

**SMP Objective:** The SMP we will protect our young people from those that put them at risk.

### What is our focus?

Through the District Contextual Safeguarding Meeting (DCSM), as part of the Adolescent Risk Management structure, SMP Partners will continue to work collaboratively to identify individuals and locations of concern and put in place support for individuals and undertake location assessments to identify opportunities to provide contextual safeguarding in areas of concern. Where necessary, individuals, groups and places will be escalated to a Complex Adolescent Risk Meeting (CARM) for further support. With no "home grown" gang in Maidstone, vigilance is needed to ensure our young people are aware of the threat posed by London and other Kent based gangs, gang culture itself and the associated CSE/substance misuse issues. We must also identify and divert the activities of disruptive groups of young people within our communities where their behaviour causes an increase in the fear of crime.

The SMP will also ensure the DCSM feeds into the revamped Local Children's Partnership Group "Reconnect" strategy and utilise funding opportunities provided by the VRU to reduce violence in young people

### Year 3 - What will we do?

The DCSM will update their action plan to help deliver on our SMP Objective. Actions from the revised plan will include:

- Introduce the new "My Place" initiative, supporting young people whose families are placed in Maidstone as a result of violent or gang related concerns which had been delayed by the pandemic
- Use the results of the Voice of Young Maidstone survey to guide the professionals and parents in the borough in protecting young
- Implement new initiatives to support parents, including Caring Dads and DICE training

## Reduce the impact of substance misuse on our community:

### Why is this important?

People who misuse drugs, alcohol or other substances cause considerable harm to themselves and to our communities. The harm they cause is not only their own physical and mental health but can also impact on the wellbeing of their families. The communities in which they live can also be harmed through crime, disorder and ASB associated with substance misuse. The impact of substance misuse across each of the priorities has led to this area being kept as a priority, not just a cross-cutting theme. It has been agreed that whilst it is not necessary to have a specific sub-group for this theme in itself, there is still a need for an action plan that can be delivered through specific teams and through the work of Serious Organised Crime Panel (gangs and supply chains) and Youth Safety sub-groups (cannabis, cigarette and alcohol abuse in young people).



**SMP Objective:** The Safer Maidstone Partnership will encourage people to seek the support to overcome addiction, particularly those who are part of 'high risk' cohorts.

### What is our focus?

The Serious Organised Crime Panel, and associated policing teams, will play a key role in ensuring that drugs and illicit substances are difficult, if not impossible to find in Maidstone. Where this extends to illicit tobacco, relationships are being put in place with KCC Trading Standards to undertake joint action to rid the borough of this illegal trade. For the DCSM, there will be a focus on ensuring that our young people are reminded of the dangers that exist, particularly in relation to gangs and County Lines trafficking. We will build on the success of the Housing First project in supporting our street homeless, particularly those individuals that are the hardest to engage, to assist them accessing the support they need to overcome their addictions. A new project will be launched to help reach treatment-resistant drinkers and we will change the way the enforcement of the current Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for drinking is enforced to empower officers to tackle people who are drinking and are anti-social in a public place.

### Year 3 - What will we do?

The Community Protection Team on behalf of the Safer Maidstone Partnership will develop an action plan to help deliver on our SMP Objective across the sub-groups and services. Actions from the plan will include:

- Improving partnership working with public health leads including considering reintroduction of a Substance Misuse Forum
- Revisit the powers available to disrupt the illegal sale of tobacco/alcohol including closure orders
- Support the introduction of the Safer Socialising Scheme
- Review the substance misuse responses to the Voice of Young Maidstone Survey and adapt services as necessary

Safeguard people whose mental health makes them vulnerable to becoming a victim or where it leads to an impact on the wider community:

### **Why is this important?**

The mental health of our residents can be affected greatly by the behaviour of others, particularly where the behaviour goes unchallenged. Whether that is the behaviour of inconsiderate neighbours or a coercive and/or controlling partner, the impact can have a significant impact on an individual's quality of life. Mental Health concerns can lead to people targeting their vulnerability and abusing them for financial or other forms of gain. People with mental health concerns can also be the cause of anti-social behaviour themselves, which affects others or a wider community. They can also become isolated, lose their support network and neglect their own care.



Mental health, like substance misuse, cuts across all our priority themes and is a growing concern in Maidstone with more police and local authority investigations containing concerns about the mental health of either the victim or the perpetrator. This is evident in the weekly Community Safety and Vulnerability Group (CSVG) where an estimated 75% of cases relate to Mental Health for either the perpetrator or the victim.

Across the priority themes there are also cohorts, like our young people, the victims of domestic abuse and those who misuse substances, that are experiencing higher prevalence of mental health problems.

**SMP Objective:** The Safer Maidstone Partnership will work to reduce the community impact of Mental Health, particularly where a person's poor mental health results in them being either the cause or the victim of anti-social behaviour or crime.

### **What is our focus?**

The CSVG will continue to meet weekly to support the most vulnerable in our community. We will look to introduce a steering group for vulnerability to oversee the CSVG and support its work and identify trends that need more support. Across the Priority Themes we will ensure the mental health of the vulnerable is protected from activities and behaviours that threaten to cause harm.

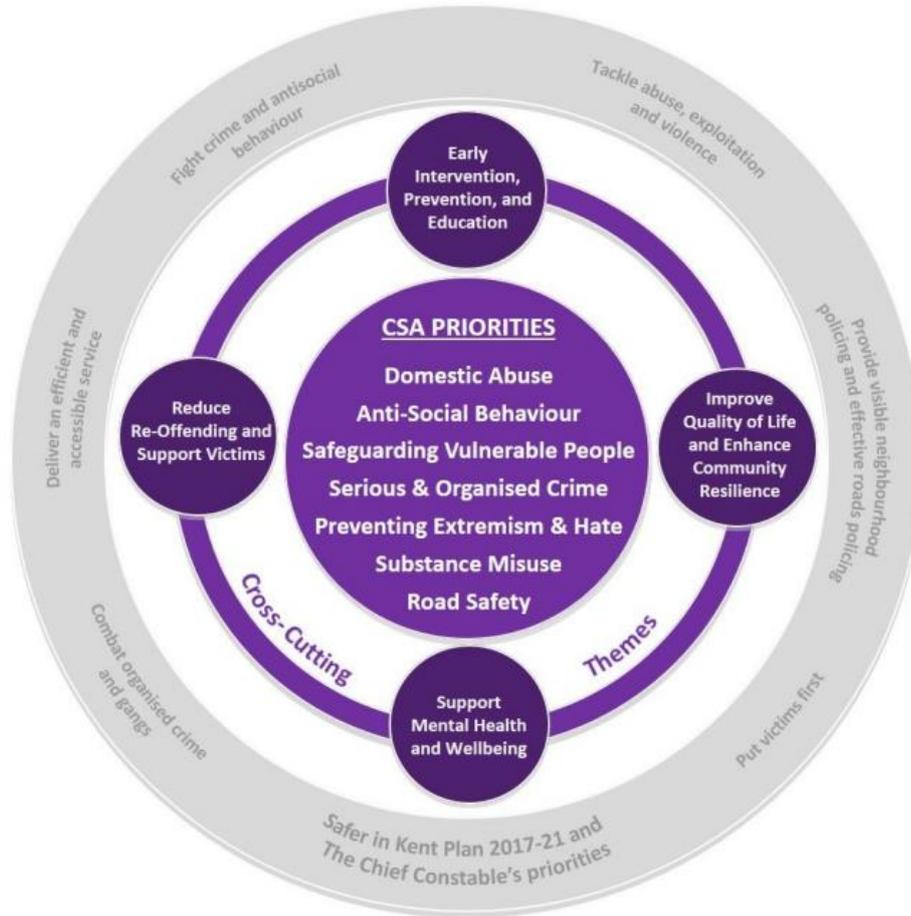
### **Year 3 - What will we do?**

The Community Safety Unit, including the Community Protection Team, will develop a revised action plan to help deliver on our SMP Objective across the sub-groups, the CSVG and relevant services. The action plan will include:

- Host an awareness raising summit that ensures partners are aware of the signs and dangers of self-neglect in the community
- Engage in pilot of a 'Co-occurring Conditions' Multi-Disciplinary Team for people who have Mental Health and Substance Misuse Issues from January 2021
- Work with the CCG to ensure sustainable funding for mental health services for homeless/rough sleeping people

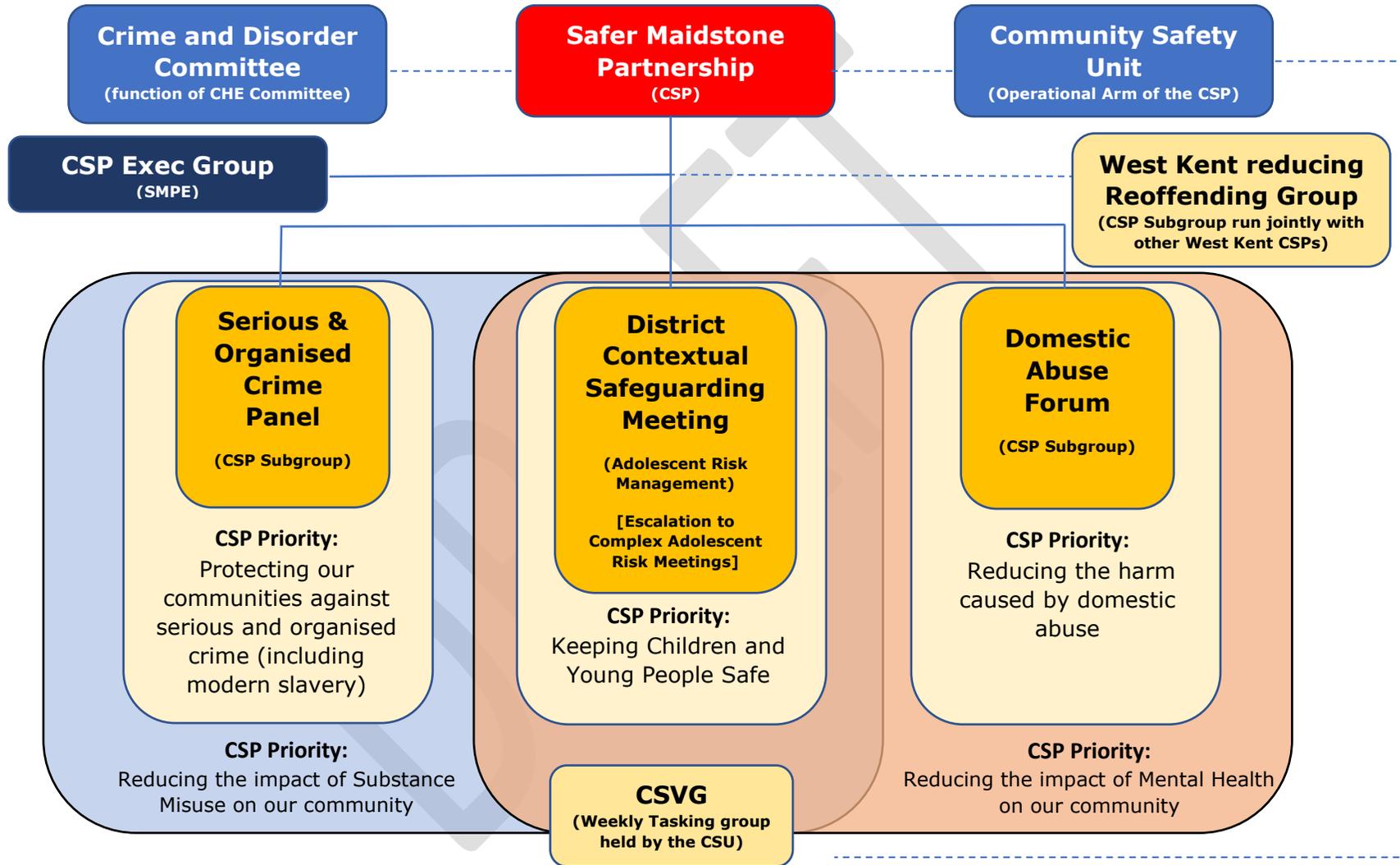
# Appendices

## Appendix 1- Priorities & cross cutting themes for the CSA and the PCC:



Source= Kent Community Safety Partnership 'Kent Community Safety Plan- April 2018'

Appendix 2- Safer Maidstone Partnership Structure and Priorities:



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Appendix 3- Summary of the sub-groups and working groups that work in each of the priority areas:

Priority Theme	<u>Sub-groups and Working Groups delivering the action plans (not an exhaustive list)</u>
<b>Protecting our communities against serious and organised crime (including modern slavery)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Serious &amp; Organised Crime Panel</u></li> <li>• Kent Environmental Crime Waste Practitioners Group</li> </ul>
<b>Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Domestic Abuse Forum</u></li> <li>• Vulnerable Investigation Team Professionals meeting for repeat victims</li> </ul>
<b>Keeping Children and Young People Safe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Contextual Safeguarding Meeting (DSCM), with escalation to Complex Adolescent Risk Meetings</li> <li>• Maidstone Local Children's Partnership Group</li> <li>• Adolescent Risk Management panel</li> </ul>
<b>Reducing the impact of Substance Misuse on our community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of DCSM</li> <li>• The work of the Community Protection, Homeless Outreach with Change Live Grow (CGL) and Licensing teams</li> </ul>
<b>Reducing the impact of Mental Health on our community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Safety and Vulnerability Group and its steering group</li> <li>• MBC Safeguarding Board</li> </ul>

## Appendix 4- Glossary of terms and acronyms:

ASB = Anti-Social Behaviour	IOM = Integrated Offender Management
CCG = Clinical Commissioning Group	KCC = Kent County Council
CDAP = Community Domestic Abuse Programme	KSSCRC = Kent Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company
CDRP = Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	MARAC = Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
CARMS= Complex Adolescent Risk Meetings	MBC = Maidstone Borough Council
CGL = Change, Grow, Live (West Kent Drug & Alcohol Wellbeing Service in Maidstone)	Modern-day slavery= Human trafficking– involves transporting, recruiting or harbouring people for the purpose of exploitation, using violence, threats or coercion.
County Lines= County lines commonly involves the illegal distribution and dealing of seriously dangerous drugs from one city/town to another.	NPS = National Probation Service or New Psychoactive Substances depending on context
CSE = Child Sexual Exploitation	OCG = Organised Crime Group
CSP = Community Safety Partnership	One Stop Shop= Drop in service for victims of Domestic Violence.
CSU = Community Safety Unit	PCC = Police & Crime Commissioner
CSVG= Community Safety and Vulnerability Group	PSPO = Public Space Protection Order
DA = Domestic Abuse	SMP = Safer Maidstone Partnership
DCSM = District Contextual Safeguarding Meeting	SMPE= Safer Maidstone Partnership Executive Group
IDVA = Independent Domestic Violence Advisor	VRU = Violence Reduction Meeting

**'Where people feel safe  
and are safe'**

**[maidstone.gov.uk](http://maidstone.gov.uk)**



**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**14 JULY 2021**

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON 6 JULY 2021**

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2021-2023**

The Council is currently working to a timetable for delivering the Local Plan Review (LPR) that is set out in the Local Development Scheme 2020-2022 (September 2020 edition). The Council is required by the Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) (as amended) to maintain an up to date Local Development Scheme. Changes are proposed to the Local Development Scheme which would, among other changes, see Regulation 19 consultation commencing in October 2021.

At its meeting on 6 July 2021, the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee will consider the report of the Head of Planning and Development recommending that the Council be recommended to approve the Local Development Scheme 2021-2023. This report sets out the full changes proposed to the Local Plan Review timetable, the reasons for those changes, as well as the implications of the changes.

The report is attached as Appendix A. The Local Development Scheme 2021-2023 is attached as Appendix 1 to the Committee Report.

The recommendations (if any) of the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee will be reported orally to the Council at the meeting on the 14 July 2021.

## **APPENDIX A**

**Local Development Scheme 2021-2023**

<b>Final Decision-Maker</b>	Full Council
<b>Lead Head of Service</b>	Rob Jarman – Head of Planning and Development
<b>Lead Officer and Report Author</b>	Mark Egerton – Strategic Planning Manager; Anna Ironmonger – Planning Officer
<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Wards affected</b>	All

**Executive Summary**

The Council is currently working to a timetable for delivering the Local Plan Review (LPR) that is set out in the Local Development Scheme 2020-2022 (September 2020 edition). The Council is required by the Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) (as amended) to maintain an up to date Local Development Scheme. Changes are proposed to the Local Development Scheme which would, among other changes, see Regulation 19 consultation commencing in October 2021. The revised Local Development Scheme 2021-2023 can be found at Appendix 1. This report sets out the full changes proposed to the Local Plan Review timetable, the reasons for those changes, as well as the implications of the changes. It also seeks a recommendation from this committee to Full Council that the Local Development Scheme 2021-2023 is approved.

**Purpose of Report**

Decision

**This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:**

1. That a recommendation is made to Full Council that the Local Development Scheme 2021-2023 is approved.

**Timetable**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Strategic Planning and Infrastructure	6 July 2021
Council	14 July 2021

# Local Development Scheme 2021-2023

## 1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
<b>Impact on Corporate Priorities</b>	<p><i>The four Strategic Plan objectives are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Embracing Growth and Enabling Infrastructure</i></li> <li>• <i>Safe, Clean and Green</i></li> <li>• <i>Homes and Communities</i></li> <li>• <i>A Thriving Place</i></li> </ul> <p>The Local Plan Review (LPR), can contribute to all four objectives.</p> <p>The LPR consultation documents previously agreed by this Committee explain the interrelationship between the Strategic Plan objectives and the LPR.</p>	Rob Jarman Head of Planning and Development
<b>Cross Cutting Objectives</b>	<p><i>The four cross-cutting objectives are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Heritage is Respected</i></li> <li>• <i>Health Inequalities are Addressed and Reduced</i></li> <li>• <i>Deprivation and Social Mobility is Improved</i></li> <li>• <i>Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability is respected</i></li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the relationship between these objectives and the LPR is explained in the Scoping, Themes and Issues consultation document</p>	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
<b>Risk Management</b>	<i>Already covered in the risk section</i>	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
<b>Financial</b>	Provision has been made for the costs of delivering the local plan review within the Council's agreed budget and medium-term financial plan.	Section 151 Officer & Finance Team]
<b>Staffing</b>	Where possible, the recommendations contained in this report will be managed within existing staff resource.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development

<b>Legal</b>	Accepting the recommendations will fulfil the Council duties under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)	Russell Fitzpatrick MKLS (Planning)
<b>Privacy and Data Protection</b>	This report does not raise any specific privacy/data protection issues at this stage	Policy and Information Team
<b>Equalities</b>	No implications identified as part of this report and recommendations. A draft impact assessment has been undertaken. This is a live document that is revisited as the review progresses	Policy & Information Manager
<b>Public Health</b>	The LPR will have, or has the potential to have, a positive impact on population health and that of individuals.	Public Health Officer
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	The LPR can potentially have a positive impact on crime and disorder.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
<b>Procurement</b>	This report does not raise any specific procurement issues at this stage.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development & Section 151 Officer

## 2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Significant progress has been made on the Local Plan Review, with the key milestone of Regulation 18 Preferred Approaches consultation being met in line with the approved Local Development Scheme 2020-2022 (September 2020 edition).
- 2.2 The Council is required by Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) (as amended) to maintain an up to date Local Development Scheme (LDS). Changes to the LDS are proposed which would involve the Local Plan Review (LPR) Regulation 19 consultation commencing in October 2021. The updated LDS is provided as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.3 This report sets out the background to the work on the Local Plan Review, provides an update on the Local Plan Review and sets out the nature of changes proposed within the revised LDS.

### What is a Local Development Scheme?

- 2.4 The purpose of an LDS is to set out the timetable for the delivery of Council produced planning policy documents and to inform local people and stakeholders. In this case the Local Plan Review.

### **Why is the Local Plan Review timetable changing?**

- 2.5 The previous iteration of the Local Development Scheme 2020-2022 (September 2020 edition) was approved by Full Council on 30th September 2020. The September 2020 edition was produced in response to government proposals to update the standard methodology used to calculate housing need, as well as proposed interim arrangements for the new methodology to come into effect. The changes in methodology would have significantly increased the number of houses the Borough would be required to provide.
- 2.6 In the event, the government did not continue with its proposed update to the standard methodology and reverted to the original standard methodology, meaning that the Council is required to build in the region of 1200 houses per year (updated annually).
- 2.7 Since the Local Development Scheme 2020-2022 (September 2020 edition) came into effect the Regulation 18 Preferred Approaches Consultation has taken place between 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The Council received approximately 3,200 responses to the consultation. A large number of responses related to a variety of key areas in the Local Plan Review. The response to the consultation will help inform the Regulation 19 LPR documents.
- 2.8 Significant progress has been made on the LPR Regulation 19 documents. These are 'draft for submission' documents, meaning that these are the version of the LPR that the Local Planning Authority intends to submit for Independent Examination by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. The progress includes a series of studies and topic papers that will form part of the wider evidence base for the LPR, as well as drafting of the Regulation 19 LPR documents themselves.
- 2.9 There is an inter-relationship between many components of the evidence base. For example, it is important for the implications of one specialist study to inform the potential, broader policies and proposals within the LPR documents. Good examples are transport and air quality modelling, which are feeding into a variety of policies in the Regulation 19 documents.
- 2.10 Officers are also mindful of the need to brief Members on the latest information and proposals, prior to public consultation commencing on the Regulation 19 documents and associated evidence. This includes changes to government policy with regard to affordable housing, with the introduction of First Homes, as well as emerging matters, such as biodiversity net gain.
- 2.11 Once the Regulation 19 documents are subject to publication and consultation, stakeholders, the public and others with an interest in the borough will have the opportunity to consider whether they believe the documents are sound and legally compliant. This is an important series of tests and will provide Maidstone Borough Council, as Local Planning

Authority, important information as it seeks to proceed to submission of the documents and associated evidence base. Indeed, if, following the Regulation 19 consultation, the Council decides to undertake further work and/or consultation on the Local Plan Review, there will be associated time, resource and cost implications.

### **How is the Local Plan Review timetable changing?**

2.12 The Local Development Scheme 2021-2023 will cover the production of the LPR from 2021-2023 (Appendix 1). The proposed changes are as follows:

Draft Local Plan Review Consultation (Regulation 19)	Submission (Regulation 22)	Examination	Main Modification Consultation	Adoption
October-November 2021	March 2022	August-September 2022	November 2022	January 2023

2.13 Whilst the various benefits of changing the LPR production timetable are apparent, not completing the review of the LPR within 5 years of adoption of the 2017 Local Plan is also a consideration.

2.14 In this regard, the Government’s planning practice guidance states, “Policies age at different rates according to local circumstances and a plan does not become out-of-date automatically after 5 years”. The Council has been exceeding its targets for the 5-year housing land supply and 3-year delivery test, making up for previous under-supply and providing evidence that the policies in LP17 remain effective in that respect – a key consideration for decision makers.

2.15 A further consideration is the very small period of time between adoption date of October 2022 set out in the current LDS timetable versus the adoption date of January 2023, set out in the proposed LDS timetable. The 3-month delay is minimal, with the Independent Examination providing clarity to all parties regarding key components of the LPR proposals.

2.16 Indeed, the delays required to meet additional evidence requirements or to extend the length of the LPR Independent Examination would be far greater than the minor changes proposed to the current timetable. Accordingly, whilst it is not possible to eliminate risk from the ongoing, accelerated LPR production process, the slight delay to the Regulation 19 consultation would help keep risks in that regard to acceptable levels.

2.17 The current LDS is out-of-date as it includes a Regulation 19 consultation in June 2021. A note has been placed on the Council’s website letting those with an interest in the Local Plan Review know that the timetable is under review and that a revised LDS is being considered by this committee.

2.18 The Local Development Scheme 2021-2023 will require final approval from Full Council. It is proposed to send a report to Full Council on 14<sup>th</sup> July

2021. If approved, the revised LDS will come into effect on the same day and will supersede the Local Development Scheme 2020-2022 (September 2020 edition).

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### **3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS**

3.1 Option 1: The Local Development Scheme 2021-2023 is approved for adoption by Full Council. The LDS outlines the timetable for delivering the LPR, which has consideration for the Strategic Plan priorities and cross-cutting objectives.

3.2 Option 2: The Local Development Scheme 2021-2023 is not approved for adoption by Full Council. Under Section 15(8) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), local planning authorities must revise an LDS when it is considered appropriate. The current LDS is out-of-date and to not adopt an updated LDS will be contrary to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and would mean that the Local Planning Authority would fail its legal tests for producing the LPR.

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### **4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 Option 1 is the preferred option. By adopting the Local Development Scheme 2021-2023 the Council will be compliant with Section 15 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), in particular Section 15(8) which outlines that local planning authorities must revise an LDS when it is considered appropriate.

### **5. RISK**

5.1 The recommendations contained in this report seek to ensure that the risks associated with the production of the LPR are minimised. The recommendations have regard to the legal requirements of producing an LPR in accordance with an up-to-date LDS and also the desire for the LPR to meet the government tests of soundness at Independent Examination.

5.2 The revised timetable does not eliminate risk of the LPR being found unsound. However, it would help keep risks in that regard to acceptable levels.

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### **6. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION**

6.1 If approved by Full Council, the Local Development Scheme 2021-2023 will be published on the website. The delivery of the Local Plan Review against milestones in the LDS will be monitored through the Authority Monitoring Report, which is published each year.

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## **7. REPORT APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Local Development Scheme 2021-2023

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## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Background document 1: Local Development Scheme 2020-2022 (September 2020 edition) – <https://localplan.maidstone.gov.uk/home/documents/local-plan-review-documents/lpr-progress/Local-Development-Scheme-2020-2022-September-2020-FINAL-VERSION.pdf>

# LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

July 2021

2021-2023

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2021-2023**

**This document is produced by  
Maidstone Borough Council**

**This Local Development Scheme came into effect on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and replaces all previous  
versions of the Scheme**

**All enquiries should be addressed to:**

**Strategic Planning**

**Maidstone Borough Council**

**Maidstone House**

**King Street**

**Maidstone**

**Kent**

**ME15 6JQ**

**Telephone: 01622 602000**

**Email: [LDF@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:LDF@maidstone.gov.uk)**

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## **1. Introduction to the Local Development Scheme**

### **What is the Local Development Scheme?**

1.1 The government requires local planning authorities to prepare a **Local Development Scheme** (LDS). The LDS is a project plan and this version covers the period 2021-2023. The purpose of a LDS includes setting out the timetable for the delivery of Council produced planning policy documents. These are often referred to as Development Plan Documents or Local Plans. The Council intends to produce a review of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan (October 2017). The Local Plan Review (LPR), as this document will be known, will affect the whole of Maidstone Borough. The LDS contains a timetable for the delivery of the LPR to inform local people and stakeholders of the key milestones in its production.

1.2 The previous iteration of the Local Development Scheme 2020-2022 was approved by Full Council on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (referred to as the September 2020 edition) and contained a timetable for the delivery of the LPR for the period 2020-2022. The September 2020 edition was produced in response to government proposals to update the standard methodology used to calculate housing need, as well as proposed interim arrangements for the new methodology to come into effect. The changes in methodology would have significantly increased the number of houses the Borough would be required to provide.

1.3 The Local Development Scheme 2021-2023 supersedes the Local Development Scheme 2020-2022 (September 2020 edition). The Local Development Scheme 2021-2023 was approved by Full Council on **14<sup>th</sup> July 2021** and came into effect on the same day.

### **The Development Plan**

1.4 **Development Plans** are an important part of the English planning system and are needed to guide the local decision making process for land uses and development proposals. At **14<sup>th</sup> July 2021**, the Development Plan for Maidstone borough comprises:

- Maidstone Borough Local Plan 2011-2031 and associated Proposals Map (October 2017)
- Staplehurst Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016-2031 (August 2020)
- North Loose Neighbourhood Development Plan 2015-2031 (April 2016)
- Loose Neighbourhood Development Plan 2018-2031 (September 2019)
- Marden Neighbourhood Development Plan 2017-2031 (July 2020)
- **Lenham Neighbourhood Plan 2017 – 2031 (July 2021)**
- **Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan (July 2021)**
- Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-2030 (September 2020)

1.5 Further information regarding each of these documents is provided below.

1.6 The **Maidstone Borough Local Plan** sets out the framework for development within the Borough until 2031. It includes a spatial vision, objectives and key policies. It also includes an associated 'Policies Map' that sets out the geographical extent of key designations and site specific proposals set out in the local plan. Maidstone has an on-line policies map that can be accessed through its website. The Maidstone Borough Local Plan plays a key part in delivering Maidstone Council's Strategic Plan. The Maidstone Borough Local Plan was found sound following independent

examination and was adopted by Full Council on 25 October 2017. The Maidstone Borough Local Plan contains Policy LPR1 'Review of the Local Plan'. This requires a review of the local plan to ensure that the plan continues to be up to date. Policy LPR1 outlines matters which may be addressed by the review. Key considerations are the need to maintain and enhance the natural and built environment; and improve air quality.

**1.7 Neighbourhood Development Plans** are prepared by Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums, and the plans are subject to consultation, independent examination and referendum. The plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted local plan and should have regard to any emerging Local Plan. A neighbourhood area has to be designated for a Neighbourhood Development Plan to be produced. In total, 15 Parish Councils and 1 Neighbourhood Forum have designated Neighbourhood Areas. **To date, six Neighbourhood Development** Plans have been made and a number of Neighbourhood Development Plans are at various stages of preparation.

**1.8 The Kent Mineral Sites Plan and the Early Partial Review of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan and** was produced by Kent County Council and covers the whole county. Both plans were adopted in September 2020 and describes:

- 'The overarching strategy and planning policies for mineral extraction, importation and recycling, and the waste management for all waste streams that are generated or managed in Kent, and
- The spatial implications of economic, social and environmental change in relation to strategic minerals and waste planning.'

## **Planning Documents**

1.9 In addition to the above components of the Development Plan, there are other key planning documents that the Council produces. These include:

- **Supplementary Planning Documents** – these set out further information, interpretation or clarification regarding existing planning policies and are produced and adopted by the Council in accordance with government legislative requirements
- **Planning policy guidance** documents – these set out further information, interpretation or clarification regarding existing planning policies but have not been produced to meet government Supplementary Planning Document requirements
- **Statement of Community Involvement** – a procedural document that sets out the methods for consultation and engagement with the public and stakeholders. This includes consultation and engagement during the production of Local Plans, the production of Neighbourhood Development Plans, and the Development Management process.
- **Authority Monitoring Reports** – a procedural document, produced on an annual basis that monitors the performance of Maidstone's Local Plan and its policies.

## **Maidstone Community Infrastructure Levy**

1.10 The **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** is a charge on specific new developments towards the provision of infrastructure. The Maidstone CIL **Charging Schedule** was adopted by Full Council on 25 October 2017, following examination in June 2017. The Maidstone CIL took effect on 1 October 2018.

1.11 The Charging Schedule sets out the charging rates for development in Maidstone Borough, including the types of development that are required to pay the Levy and where the proposed rates will apply. The CIL Charging Schedule was developed alongside the Maidstone Borough Local Plan, and the evidence base for infrastructure, planning, affordable housing requirements and development viability supported both the Maidstone CIL and Maidstone Borough Local Plan.

1.12 The infrastructure schemes and/or types of infrastructure to be funded by Maidstone CIL are set out in a Regulation 123 List. In December 2020, the Council published an Infrastructure Funding Statement on the website which replaced the current Regulation 123 List. In addition, Section 106 planning agreements, which are negotiated with developers to secure infrastructure funding, will continue to play a significant role in securing site related infrastructure.

## **2. The Local Development Scheme**

### **Review of the Local Development Scheme 2020-2022 (September 2020 edition)**

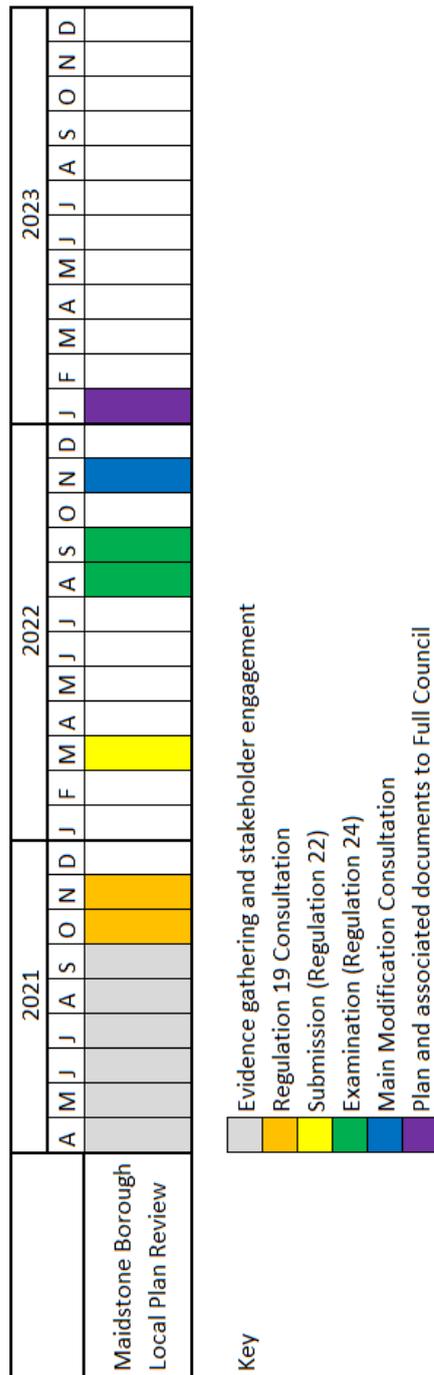
2.1 The Local Development Scheme 2020-2022 (September 2020 edition) was produced in response to government proposals to amend the planning system and included changes to the standard methodology used to calculate housing need. The proposals included interim arrangements for this to take effect. The changes in methodology would have significantly increased the number of houses the Borough would be required to provide.

2.2 It was likely that under the Local Development Scheme 2020-2022 (July 2020 edition), the Council would have to accommodate a higher housing need figure. The Local Development Scheme 2020-2022 (September 2020 edition) sought to bring the production of the Local Plan Review forward.

2.3 In the event, the government did not continue with the update to the standard methodology and reverted to the original standard methodology, meaning that the Council is required to build in the region of 1200 houses per year (updated annually).

2.4 A revised timetable for the implementation of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan review follows.

**Local Development Scheme 2020-2022**



**Monitoring and Review**

2.5 The Council are creating an evidence base to ensure it has sufficient social, environmental, economic and physical information to inform the review of the local plan. The adopted local plan explains how its policies will be delivered and implemented, and identifies performance indicators against which the success of policies is monitored. The performance indicators will be monitored through annual Authority Monitoring Reports, and the Council will monitor and review progress against the LDS programme in this document.

### 3. Document Project Plan

#### Maidstone Borough Local Plan Review

<b>Maidstone Borough Local Plan Review</b>	
<b>Subject/content</b>	<p>Matters to be reviewed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A review of housing of needs</li> <li>• The allocation of land at the Invicta Park Barracks broad location and at the Lenham broad location if the latter has not been achieved through a Lenham Neighbourhood Plan in the interim</li> <li>• Identification of additional housing land to maintain supply towards the end of the plan period and, if required as a result, consideration of whether the spatial strategy needs to be amended to accommodate such development</li> <li>• A review of employment land provision and how to accommodate any additional employment land needed as a result</li> <li>• Whether the case for a Leeds-Langley Relief Road is made, how it could be funded and whether additional development would be associated with the road</li> <li>• Alternatives to such a relief road</li> <li>• The need for further sustainable transport measures aimed at encouraging modal shift to reduce congestion and air pollution</li> <li>• Reconsideration of the approach to the Syngenta and Baltic Wharf sites if these have not been resolved in the interim</li> <li>• Extension of the local plan period</li> </ul>
<b>Status</b>	Local Plan
<b>Coverage</b>	Maidstone Borough
<b>Chain of Conformity – national</b>	Central government policy and guidance, including the National Planning Policy Framework, National Planning Practice Guidance and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
<b>Chain of Conformity – local</b>	<p>Regard to the Council's Plans and Strategies, including the Strategic Plan, Economic Development Strategy and Housing Strategy. Also have regard to the <b>Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.</b></p> <p><b>The LPR will need to take into account the policies within neighbourhood plans:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>North Loose Neighbourhood Plan 2015 – 2031 (2016)</b></li> <li>• <b>Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan 2016 – 2031 (2020)</b></li> <li>• <b>Loose Neighbourhood Plan 2018 – 2031 (2019)</b></li> <li>• <b>Marden Neighbourhood Plan 2017 – 2031 (2020)</b></li> <li>• <b>Lenham Neighbourhood Plan 2017 – 2031 (2021)</b></li> <li>• <b>Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan (2021)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Policies Map</b>	To be amended to reflect the policy content of the Local Plan Review
<b>Timetable</b>	
Sustainability Appraisal	Relevant appraisals and assessment will be carried out throughout the review of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan
Evidence gathering	June 2018 to September 2021
Draft DPD consultation (Regulation 19)	October – November 2021
Submission (Regulation 22)	March 2022

Examination hearing sessions (Regulation 24)	August – September 2022
Main Modification Consultation	November 2022
Adoption – Full Council (Regulation 26)	January 2023
<b>Arrangements for Production</b>	
Internal Partners	Key internal partners include relevant service areas within the Council, Chief Executive; Corporate Leadership Team; and Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee.
External Partners	Key external partners include specific and general consultation bodies (including parish councils and neighbourhood forums), local stakeholder groups, hard to reach groups and the local community.
External Resources	Kent County Council, Highways England, infrastructure providers, the Homes England, and use of external consultants to provide evidence (as required).

Table 3.1 Project Plan for the Maidstone Borough Local Plan Review

#### 4. Appendix

##### Glossary of terms

Acronym	Term	Description
AMR	Authority Monitoring Report	A report which is produced annually and monitors the performance against monitoring indicators in the Maidstone Borough Local Plan.
	Development Plan	The Development Plan includes adopted local plans/Development Plan Documents and made Neighbourhood Development Plans, and sets a framework for the local decision making process.
DPD	Development Plan Documents/Local Plans	A DPD/Local Plan is a spatial planning document which sets out the plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by a local authority in consultation with the community. Once adopted, the local plan becomes part of the Development Plan. The Local Plan does not include SPDs or local Planning Guidance, although these documents are material considerations in the decision making process.
KCC	Kent County Council	The county planning authority, responsible for producing the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plans, and are the highways authority.
LDS	Local Development Scheme	The LDS is a summary business programme and timetable for the production of the local plan.
MBC	Maidstone Borough Council	The local planning authority responsible for producing the Borough Local Plan.
NDP	Neighbourhood Development Plan	Neighbourhood Development Plans (also known as neighbourhood plans) are prepared by a parish council or neighbourhood forum for a particular neighbourhood area. Neighbourhood plans must be in conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and, once made, form part of the Council's Development Plan.
	Planning Policy Guidance	Additional guidance which provides further detail to policies set out in local plans and is a material consideration in planning decisions but is not part of the local plan or the development plan. If subject to adequate stakeholder and public consultation, guidance can carry commensurate weight with SPDs in the decision making process.
	Policies Map	The Policies Map uses an on-line ordnance survey map base to show the spatial extent of all land use policies and proposals, and is updated with each new Local Plan so that it reflects the up-to-date planning strategy for the borough.
SA	Sustainability Appraisal	The SA is a tool for appraising policies and proposals to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives, including social, economic and environmental objectives. An SA must be undertaken for all local plans and incorporates a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

SCI	Statement of Community Involvement	The SCI specifies how the community and stakeholders will be involved in the process of preparing local planning documents, Neighbourhood Development Plans and the Development Management process.
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment	SEA is a generic term used to describe the environmental assessment of policies, plans and programmes. The European SEA Directive requires a formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use.
SoS	Secretary of State	Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document	An SPD provides further detail to policies set out in local plans. SPDs are a material consideration in the decision making process but are not part of the Development Plan or the Local Plan. They follow a statutory production and consultation process.

Table 4.1 Glossary of terms

