

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTING AS THE CRIME AND
DISORDER COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2023

Attendees:

Committee Members:	Councillors English (Chairman), Cannon, Brice, Cleator, Conyard, Garten, Hinder, Jeffery, Knatchbull, McKenna, T Wilkinson, Brindle and Joy
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86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Blackmore and Hastie.

87. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Brindle was present as substitute for Councillor Blackmore.

Councillor Joy was present as substitute for Councillor Hastie.

88. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

89. NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS

There were no visiting members.

90. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor Brice stated that she was a Council Representative on the One Maidstone BID Advisory Board.

91. DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING

There were no disclosures of lobbying.

92. EXEMPT ITEMS

RESOLVED: That all items be taken in public as proposed.

93. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 DECEMBER 2022

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 December 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed.

94. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

95. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

There were no questions from Local Residents.

96. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There was one question from a Member to the Chairman.

Question from Councillor Brice to the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

'Does the Council know how many, if any, local businesses or organisations stock Emergency Bleed Control Kits in the Town Centre Area?'

The Chairman responded to the question.

Councillor Brice asked the following supplementary question:

'If there are any, where are they, and also to ensure that the information is obvious not only to potentially first responders but members of the public because I think that's what they're intended to be for and then any training that is being provided or could be provided with somewhere like the town hall as a centre, to make sure that staff are up to date on how these could be used if appropriate and would be welcomed?'

The Chairman responded to the supplementary question.

Before the conclusion of the question-and-answer session, the purpose of Bleed Kits was briefly explained and discussed.

To listen to the answers to these questions, please use the below link to access the meeting recording:

[Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 21 February 2023 - YouTube](#)

97. BRIEFING NOTE - SAFETY IN THE TOWN CENTRE REVIEW

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the briefing note which had been produced to support the Committee in concluding its Safety in the Town Centre Review. The appendices to the report were outlined and included suggested actions from the Communications and Community Protection Teams, for the Committee to consider in formulating its recommendations from the review.

During the discussion, several Committee Members stated that they had received feedback from the public that it was sometimes difficult to sign-up to receive online updates relating to safety. The importance of ensuring that the public were able to provide feedback on town centre safety, and that the progress and completion of any of the review's recommendations were monitored, was strongly emphasised. This would ensure that the Council was taking on board any comments made, and that the Committee were kept informed; in response it was requested that a rapporteur be appointed to conduct a post-review evaluation and to review the town centre safety focused questions within the annual resident's survey, to ensure that these allowed for year-on-year benchmarking exercises.

To greater publicise the Committee's review, a request would be made to include information on the review within the next iteration of the Borough Insight Magazine. In response to a question, the Democratic Services Officer confirmed that as part of the new governance arrangements, an annual report on the Committee's work would be presented to Council.

It was suggested that the stakeholders consulted through the review could be asked to attend a future Committee meeting and provide an update on the work undertaken to improve town centre safety generally.

RESOLVED: That the points included within Appendix 1 to the briefing note be put forward to the Executive as part of the review, in addition to the following requests that:

- a. A rapporteur be appointed to conduct a post-review evaluation;
- b. The questions contained within the annual survey on town centre safety be reviewed, to ensure that the questioned contained can be used to conduct a benchmarking exercise; and
- c. Information on the Committee's review be included within the next borough insight magazine.

98. DURATION OF MEETING

7.00 p.m. to 7.25 p.m.