

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday 21 November 2023
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Town Hall, High Street Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors Mrs Blackmore, Cannon, Clark, Cleator (Vice-Chairman), Conyard, Eagle, English (Chairman), Mrs Gooch, Hastie, Hinder, Round, S Thompson and Webb

The Chairman will assume that all Members will read the reports before attending the meeting. Officers are asked to assume the same when introducing reports.

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Issued on Monday 13 November 2023

Continued Over/:



Alison Broom, Chief Executive

INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

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MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

Attendees:

Committee Members:	Councillors English (Chairman), Mrs Blackmore, Cannon, Clark, Cleator, Conyard, Mrs Gooch, Hastie, Hinder, Jeffery, Round, S Thompson and Webb Councillor Jones, (Non-Voting Member, Item 14)
Cabinet Members:	Councillors Cooper, Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development, Parfitt-Reid, Cabinet Member for Housing and Health, and Perry, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

68. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Eagle.

69. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Jeffery was present as Substitute Member for Councillor Eagle.

70. URGENT ITEMS

The Chairman stated that he had accepted an urgent update to Item 14 – Receipt of ‘Call-In’ – Relevant Procedure (Kent Minerals and Waste Plan Review – MBC Response), as it was relevant to the consideration of that item.

71. CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairman stated that he intended to take Item 13 – Committee Work Programme, after Item 15 – Reference from Council – Notion of Motion – Rights of the River Medway and its Tributaries, given the public participation for Item 14 – Receipt of ‘Call-In’ – Relevant Procedure (Kent Minerals and Waste Plan Review) – MBC Response and to allow the Committee to review its work programme after having considered the motion from Council.

72. NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS

There were no Visiting Members.

73. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor Cleator disclosed that she was a Unison Branch Chair, representing staff at the County Council, in relation to Item 17 – Public consultation in relation to the Kent Community Warden Scheme.

74. DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING

Councillors English, Mrs Blackmore, Cannon, Clark, Cleator, Conyard, Gooch, Hastie, Jeffery, Round and S Thompson had been lobbied on Item 14 – Receipt of ‘Call-In’ – Relevant Procedure (Kent Minerals and Waste Plan Review – MBC Response).

Councillors English, Hastie and Jeffery had been lobbied on Item 15 – Reference from Council – Notice of Motion – Rights of the River Medway and its Tributaries.

Councillors English, Jeffery and Round had been lobbied on Item 17 – Public consultation in relation to the Kent Community Warden Scheme.

Councillor English had also been lobbied on Item 16 – Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Proposals.

75. EXEMPT ITEMS

RESOLVED: That all items be taken in public, unless any Member of the Committee wishes to discuss Item 18 – (Part II) Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 August 2023, in which case the Committee would enter into closed session due to the possible disclosure of exempt information, for the reasons specified having applied the public interest test.

76. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 AUGUST 2023

RESOLVED: That the Minutes (Parts I and II) of the meeting held on 15 August 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed.

77. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

78. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

There were no questions from Local Residents.

79. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions from Members.

80. CABINET FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED: That the Forward Plan be noted.

81. RECEIPT OF 'CALL-IN' - RELEVANT PROCEDURE (KENT MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN REVIEW - MBC RESPONSE)

Sandra Manser and Rachel Rodwell addressed the Committee as Local Residents.

The Principal Democratic Services Officer introduced the report, with the Committee asked to consider the call-in request received against the decision made by the Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development, shown respectively at Appendices 1 and 2 to the report. The

options available to the Committee were outlined, alongside the urgent update provided.

Councillors Jeffery and Jones outlined their reasoning for calling-in the decision. The issues raised were that:

- The matter had been debated at the Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee (PIED PAC), with a recommendation to withdraw the original draft submission, and re-submit a new letter, outlining that the proposal could not be supported; after having considered the irreplaceable loss of ancient woodland soil, the use of the quarried materials in construction and restoration, and the applicability of the exceptional circumstances as contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
- The additional information submitted by the Cabinet Member did not represent the PIED PAC's views on the matter, and requested that should the proposal proceed, evidence of its exceptional circumstances should be provided, alongside maximum mitigation and the site's restoration. It was stated that it was not possible to restore ancient woodland and soil;
- The submission of the additional information, as opposed to the actions recommended by the PIED PAC, created a negative impression of the Council's governance arrangements to the public, press and relevant organisations, such as the Woodland Trust;
- There were concerns that the effects of the proposal had not been understood by Kent County Council (KCC) Councillors; and
- The matter was an issue of national importance and involved a higher loss of ancient woodland than the HS2 and Lower Thames Crossing proposals combined.

The preferred option was to refer the matter to full Council for reconsideration.

The Cabinet Member was invited to address the Committee, and stated that:

- The consultation on the Kent Minerals and Waste Plan Review (KMWPR) had since closed, with the responses having been published and discussed by KCC's Environment Committee. Given the objections received, another call for sites process would take place to see if an alternative site was put forward. If none were put forward, the Council and individuals would be able to respond to the Regulation 19 consultation.

Any further responses submitted to the closed consultation to strengthen the Council's position would not be taken into consideration by KCC.

- The proposal was not to extend the overall mining capacity of the quarry, but to extend the area able to be quarried as the site's existing planning permission would expire; the conditions included that 1% of the material produced had to be directed to heritage buildings;
- A contributing factor to the original response's submission was the 180 jobs in the area, which would be impacted if the proposal was not taken forward.

The environmental harm that would be caused by transporting materials from an alternative site, or from permission being given to build another quarry elsewhere, was reiterated.

In response to questions, the Cabinet Member stated that:

- The KMWP would have to be approved by the full Council (at KCC), and that the KCC Cabinet Member had stated that they intended to proceed with a second call for sites process; and
- KCC had a duty to co-operate with the Council, and a Statement of Common Ground would be produced for the KMWP, with ongoing dialogue between Members and Officers at both authorities. Whilst the consultation had closed, the matter could still be discussed with KCC moving forwards.

The procedural considerations in submitting further representations to KCC were briefly discussed.

During the debate, support was expressed for referring the matter to full Council for further consideration. It was stated that the matter could still be influenced and that this should be taken forward, with the issue being of national importance and that Councillors were responsible for voicing residents' concerns; cross-party support had been given to the PIED PAC's recommendation and the views expressed should be represented within the consultation response; that KCC were the decision-maker and a final decision had not yet been made and the Council's position on the matter should be outlined for consideration; that alternative mines could be considered and that the second call for sites process demonstrated a lack of confidence in the existing proposal.

Some Members expressed that no further action should be taken, referencing that the consultation was now closed, with KCC being the decision maker on the matter, and that referring the matter for reconsideration by the full Council would be a waste of time. The topic could be debated at full council through other means, with it stated that the initial response could have been stronger in its sentiment. A second call for sites process was being carried out, which would provide another opportunity to submit a response taking into account the views expressed. KCC Members could be lobbied by the Council's Members and to express their views ahead of a decision being taken. The PIED PAC's recommendation was advisory only.

Reference was made to the impact of Climate Change.

Consideration was given to referring the matter to full Council to review the decision made, and the submission of further representations to the relevant bodies at KCC, including the Environment Committee, ahead of its November 2023 meeting as the original consultation had closed. Overall, it was agreed that no further action be taken.

RESOLVED: That option 1 of the report, to agree that no further action is required, be approved.

82. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

The Committee adjourned for a short break between 7.47 p.m. to 7.54 p.m.

83. REFERENCE FROM COUNCIL - NOTICE OF MOTION - RIGHTS OF THE RIVER MEDWAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

The Principal Democratic Services Officer introduced the motion.

Councillor Jeffery outlined his reasoning and views on the matter, having originally moved the motion at the July 2023 Council meeting.

During the discussion, the Council's previous and ongoing work on the topic and other related matters was highlighted, including work on biodiversity, green spaces and the first and second phase water management cycle reviews.

It was felt that whilst the Council could have some direct involvement in the matter, it was more suitable for a letter to be written to the relevant organisations, detailing the rights of rivers and outlining the Committee's support. The organisations would include the Environment Agency, Natural England, Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board and Southeast Rivers Trust, with the Council's Members encouraged to participate in the activities of the Outside Bodies working on the topic.

RESOLVED: That

1. A letter be sent to the Environment Agency, Natural England, Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board and Southeast Rivers Trust, detailing the rights of rivers as contained within the motion, with the Committee's support;
2. The contents of the letter be cross-referenced with the Council's ongoing work relating to the topic; and
3. Members be encouraged to partake in the relevant outside bodies.

84. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Principal Democratic Services Officer introduced the work programme and supporting agenda item list that outlined the list of agenda items for future Committee Meetings, following the Chairman's instruction that the work programme be reviewed by the Committee, to ensure that it was deliverable.

The document took account of the Water Management Cycle (Second Phase) having been paused, and the shift of the enforcement review's commencement to the October 2023 meeting given the number of agenda items for the current meeting; it did not reflect the additional work required to support the Committee's work, such as working group meetings and conversing with Officers and Stakeholders.

During the discussion, consideration was given to adding a review focused on the Council's Integrated Transport Strategy. Overall, it was felt that the work programme was full, and that further resources and time would be required to support an additional review. It was felt that if the external stakeholders to the Water Management Cycle (Second Phase) Review would not confirm their

participation in the review, then that item's inclusion in the work programme could be reviewed and another review topic considered.

RESOLVED: That

1. The Committee Work Programme be noted; and
2. The external stakeholders for the Water Management Cycle Review be contacted to confirm their participation, and that if they do not confirm their participation, the work programme be reviewed as necessary.

Note: Councillor Blackmore left the meeting at 8.23 p.m. after the conclusion of this item.

85. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND BUDGET PROPOSALS

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services introduce the report, stating that the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was being drafted earlier in the year than previously. There was an end of year projected revenue overspend of just over £250,000, with the projected budget gap for 2024/25 being just over £900,000, which would increase to £4.5 million by 2028/29.

The Cabinet Member outlined the two key assumptions in drafting the MTFS, which were that Council Tax would be increased up to the referendum limit, (currently 3%), given the significant risk of financial uncertainty faced by the Council, and that the income generated through fees and charges would increase by 5% overall. The proposed fees and charges and capital programme would be presented in early 2024, following the announcement of the Local Government Finance Settlement in 2024, as this would influence the proposals.

The reserves held by the Council, and recommendations made to the Cabinet by the Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee were outlined. It was reiterated that the Council could achieve a balanced budget in the short term, but that careful consideration would be required in future years.

In response to questions, the Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement stated that:

- The deficit was mainly due to an increased demand for temporary accommodation (TA), with the number of households in TA having increased to 250. It was a priority for the relevant Director and Head of Service to mitigate the effect to the Council. If demand continued increasing, the projected end of year deficit could increase, with it possible that alternative mitigation measures would have to be considered, such as not filling staff vacancies;
- The loss of a tenant at LoveFood Lockmeadow was disappointing, but the site was likely to have a high tenant turnover given the nature of the premises, with prospective tenants waiting for available units. The majority of the income generated at Lockmeadow was through the venues holding long-leases, such as Odeon and Hollywood Bowl. The site was now included within the recently expanded Business Improvement District (BID), and would benefit from its events calendar;

- The proposed park and ride saving would not affect whether the site could be brought back to use and was an administrative saving. The site remained within the Council's ownership;
- The savings relating to the proposed emergency planning partnership arose from having a well-resourced emergency planning team with a good emergency planning manager in post. The services' provision was explained, to include on-call staff and a council-wide rota of supporting staff. The saving could be delivered without affecting the ability to respond to emergencies and risks;
- The proposals would not impact staffing, involve redundancies or remove posts;
- The MTFS proposals had been considered by the Council's Policy Advisory Committees, with this Committee able to review the budget proposals in entirety. The capital programme could be presented in January 2024.

In response to concerns relating to proposed saving at the Park and Ride Site and the facilities general use, the Cabinet Member stated that the service had been underutilised and cost the Council a significant amount of money through subsidy. Commercialising the service having been unsuccessful, with significant investment needed to improve bus services, but that this was not realistic in the short-term. The Cabinet Member stated that freezing parking charges in the previous financial year focused on supporting the town and the use of its facilities, over sites such as Bluewater.

During the discussion, the projected increase in income generated through fees and charges were highlighted as part of the budget setting process overall, with references made to the provision of parking for residents in the town centre, parking fees, and the importance of a cautious approach to managing and having control of the Council's finances.

Support was expressed for the proposals, with it recommended that the Cabinet agree the draft MTFS and budget proposals contained within appendices A and B to the report.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to the CABINET: That

1. The draft Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2024/25 to 2028/29 as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved; and
2. The budget proposals as set out in Appendix B to the report, be approved.

Note: Councillor Hastie left the meeting at 9.04 p.m. after the item's conclusion.

86. **PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN RELATION TO THE KENT COMMUNITY WARDEN SCHEME**

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Health introduced the report, stating that Kent County Council (KCC) were consulting on proposed changes to the Kent Community Warden (KCW) Service, to save £1 million by 2024/25. The proposal aimed to retain the wide remit, objectives and community based approach of the

service, with a change in how the wardens were allocated across the County, with 32 fewer posts, and 2 less management posts.

The Cabinet Member stated that the proposal would likely cause a reduction in the wardens operating within the borough, with the service shared with the other Kent Local Authorities. There was concern on how the proposed changes would impact the support provided to residents that were vulnerable, isolated or had complex needs. The Wardens played a key role in building relationships with and providing support to local communities, with the reduction in service likely to place increased pressure on other bodies or organisation, such as the Community Sector and Kent Police, particularly with the withdrawal of Police Community Support Officers.

The Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee's consideration of the matter was outlined.

During the discussion, the Committee strongly emphasised the following points, including: that other services such as those provided by the Council, Social Services, Kent Police and the NHS, would be directly impacted through increased pressures and costs arising from the proposals, and that this would outweigh the financial savings achieved through the proposals; that the demands for the KCW service would not be able to be met, and that staff could be lost through redundancy or resignation due to the service changes; that the service provided support to, and had a positive impact on, vulnerable individuals, families, children and young adults, particularly in diverting those who might otherwise fall into criminal activity, and the service had already been affected by previous service changes and the increased likelihood of anti-social behaviour.

In response to the comments made, the Cabinet Member expressed support for strengthening the sentiments expressed in the responses, and that the questions' wording made it difficult to disagree with the proposals. The role of the KCW service in preventing issues from becoming more significant in the future was noted, with concern expressed that the proposed service changes would not work efficiently, leaving the Wardens frustrated and the pride in their work affected. Consideration had not been given to funding the service directly. It was noted that some parts of the borough did not have a KCW currently. The link to respond to the Youth Services Review would be circulated to the Committee.

In response to questions, the Community and Strategic Partnerships Manager stated that the KCW service supported his team and their work, were able to build relationships with the community in a way that other services were unable to and that a reduction in the service would be a loss. The Council, KCWs and Kent Police were encouraged to use the 'connect before correct' model to support relationship building with young adults.

It was further expressed that whilst the draft responses attached at Appendix 2 to the report were supported, these should be strengthened through the addition of a robust covering letter to the responses, a suggestion that KCC explore alternate sources of funding for the service given its importance and for question 7a to be amended to include the service's role in supporting young adults, particularly in diverting those who might otherwise fall into criminal activity.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to the CABINET MEMBER: That the draft responses at Appendix 2 to the report be approved, subject to:

- a. The addition of a robust covering letter;
- b. An amendment to the response to Question 7a, to reflect the specific role that Community Wardens have in supporting young adults; and
- c. A suggestion that KCC proactively secure alternative sources of funding, to maintain or improve the service.

87. (PART II) MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 AUGUST 2023

RESOLVED: That the Item be considered alongside Item 8 – Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 August 2023.

88. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 9.42 p.m.

Agenda Item 9

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2023

Attendees:

Committee Members:	Councillors English (Chairman), Mrs Blackmore, Clark, Cleator, Conyard, Eagle, English, Mrs Gooch, Hastie, Hinder and S Thompson
Witness to the Review:	Councillor Patrik Garten, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Cannon, Round and Webb.

2. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Springett was present as Substitute Member for Councillor Webb.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items, with it noted that the minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated separately.

4. NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS

Whilst not a Visiting Member, it was noted that Councillor Garten was present to speak as a witness for Item 14 – Environmental and Waste Crime Enforcement Review.

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. EXEMPT ITEMS

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

8. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

There was concern expressed that Minute 81 did not include the title of the response, that some Members thought the letter had already been sent to Kent County Council ahead of the call-in and that no further clarification was given at the meeting on the matter.

Consideration of the minutes would be deferred to the next meeting to allow the matter to be reviewed.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the minutes be deferred to the next meeting.

9. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

10. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

There were no questions from Local Residents.

11. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions from Members.

12. CABINET FORWARD PLAN

The Principal Democratic Service Officer outlined the changes made to the Cabinet Forward Plan following its republication in case the committee wished to conduct pre decision scrutiny on any of the items.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted.

13. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee was informed that there had been minimal engagement from the external stakeholders to the Water Management Cycle Review, with it felt that the review should be paused to focus on other items within the work programme.

During the discussion, support was expressed for adding a review of the Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) to the work programme, due to concerns over the non-delivery of the ITS Schemes, which were intended to support the Council's 2017 adopted Local Plan and the ongoing Local Plan Review process.

It was felt that a scope should be presented to the Committee for its consideration before a final decision was made. The scope would be discussed by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and relevant Officers.

RESOLVED: That a review into the Integrated Transport Strategy be agreed in principle, with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Officers to discuss a scope for circulation to the Committee ahead of the next meeting, before a final decision was made.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL AND WASTE CRIME ENFORCEMENT REVIEW

The Chairman welcomed the witnesses to the Environmental and Waste Crime Enforcement Review, who were identified as follows and provided an introductory statement on their roles and responsibilities:

- Councillor Garten, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services
- Jennifer Stevens, Head of Environmental Services and Public Realm

- John Edwards, Public Realm Operations Manager
- Carl McIvor, Waste Crime Manager

In response to questions on service provision:

- The Head of Environmental Services and Public Realm stated that the use of a private company to enforce litter fines was mutually discontinued, in part due to the negative public perception generated through the company being target driven in issuing fines. The service was then brought in-house;
- The Waste Crime Team's (the Team) focus had shifted from littering to fly-tipping, following consultation with the then relevant Service Committee. Littering continued to be monitored, with a focus on littering from vehicles onto the road network;
- The Public Realm Operations Manager emphasised that providing the service in-house provided greater benefits and flexibility to the service's provision. It was stated that the Waste Crime Manager had only recently joined the team, with it important to allow the officer to settle in before any decisions were made relating to service provision; and
- The Cabinet Member stated that it a recruitment process would be undertaken to appoint a street scene officer to deal with on-street littering and increase enforcement action.

Several Members of the Committee expressed concern on the prevalence of litter on the road network and in rural areas. In response, the Public Realm Operations Manager stated that:

- Cleansing litter from high speed roads carried competing considerations, such as the full lane road closures and verge cutting required by Kent County Council (KCC) as the highways authority, and that Council officers would be required to work night shifts, which would impact daytime resources. The verge cutting exercises had been reduced to thrice annually, but these prevented litter picking from taking place at that time as the waste was cut into smaller pieces. The amended Annual High Speed Road Cleaning Programme could be presented to the Committee in the future for review;
- Consideration could be given to how the Council could take the lead on high speed road cleaning. 12 new throwing bins would be installed on the A249 and A229 to allow drivers to dispose of their waste whilst moving and prevent littering on the road network and verges;
- Local Residents were able to submit dashcam footage online to support enforcement action against littering and fly-tipping, with the Waste Crime Manager confirming that action was recently taken against an individual disposing of a cigarette end.

The Cabinet Member emphasised that the increased fixed penalty notice fees agreed in October 2023 had been introduced to address the concerns also raised by the Committee; Any successes would be publicised.

In response to questions on the possible closure of Tovil Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) and the impact that this would have on the Borough:

- The Head of Environmental Services and Public Realm stated that the Council was in close discussions with KCC regarding the possible closure of the site. Mitigations had been considered and would involve significant capital investment, with the site likely to be sold if closed; the concern would be how that site would be replaced, as there were not many sites available for use as a HWRC;
- Fly-tipping would likely increase if the site closed. Purchasing an alternative site would be expensive, with the financial pressures faced by KCC briefly outlined;
- The Cabinet Member stated that if the closure was agreed, Members would be consulted on the Council's resulting proposals.

Several Committee Members expressed frustrations at the actions of other organisations in not voluntarily cleaning their sites, and questioned what action the Council could take. In response:

- The Public Realm Operations Manager outlined the enforcement powers available to the council, and that the reduced maintenance had been noticed. Private landlords received an email if action needed to be taken, and if no response was sent to the Council, enforcement action would begin. Councillors should inform the Team of any areas where enforcement action was required, so that this could be picked up by the Team which would also support new Staff Members training; and
- The Head of Environmental Services and Public Realm stated that the Team was proactive in issuing Section 46 Notices. The importance of educating Local Residents was strongly emphasised, as many moved into the borough and were not always aware of the Council's waste collection and disposal arrangements. The Waste Crime and Waste Collection teams worked closely to support this. Many residents were fly-tipping unknowingly, as services were increasingly being secured via social media, with those collecting the waste fly-tipping instead of properly disposing of the waste.

Making social media work for the Council was highlighted as an issue for the Committee to consider in the next stage of the review.

In response to questions on budgetary pressures, the Head of Environmental Services and Public Realm outlined that whilst the service was not a statutory service, the income generated through FPNs across the past five years had supported the team and funded officer posts. Officer positions were now funded through the Council's base budget, so there was no concern in losing those positions. The Waste Crime Manager highlighted that a further avenue to explore was the use of technology to identify fly-tippers, fly-tipping and the origin of the waste, to improve the service and Team's capability.

The Cabinet Member emphasised that the Environmental Services and Public Realm service area had a good track record of maintaining its budgets, was profitable and the income generated through FPNs was re-invested into the Team.

Support was expressed for the general work undertaken by the Team, with the importance of the service emphasised. The information contained within the papers was noted.

In preparation for the next stage of the review, the Committee suggested the following, that:

- An in-depth discussion take place at its next meeting concerning any budgetary pressures faced by the Team and possible opportunities for mitigation;
- Officers share their views on the resources available to the Team and how its responsibilities are prioritised, such as educating others;
- More communications should be produced to publicise successful enforcement action, including a spotlight on the Team in the next Borough Insight Magazine to outline householders' duty of care, the updated fixed penalty notice rates and the difficulties being experienced with litter picking;
- Borough and Parish Councillors should be given the contact details of Housing and Housing Management Associations, to assist them in reporting waste crime related concerns; and
- Officers should liaise with Medway Council to encourage that authority to assist voluntary litter picking groups.

RESOLVED: That the review be continued at the Committee's next meeting.

Note: Councillor Conyard left the meeting at 6.59 p.m. during the discussion.

15. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30pm to 7.43pm

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024

This Forward Plan sets out the details of the key and non-key decisions which the Cabinet or Cabinet Members expect to take during the next four-month period.

A Key Decision is defined as one which:

1. Results in the Council incurring expenditure, or making savings, of more than £250,000; or
2. Is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards in the Borough

The current Cabinet Members are:

15	 Councillor David Burton Leader of the Council DavidBurton@maidstone.gov.uk 07590 229910	 Councillor Paul Cooper Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development PaulCooper@Maidstone.gov.uk 01622 244070	 Councillor John Perry Cabinet Member for Corporate Services JohnPerry@Maidstone.gov.uk 07770 734741
	 Councillor Claudine Russell Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure and Arts ClaudineRussell@Maidstone.gov.uk	 Councillor Patrik Garten Cabinet Member for Environmental Services PatrikGarten@Maidstone.gov.uk 01622 807907	 Councillor Lottie Parfitt-Reid Cabinet Member for Housing and Health LottieParfittReid@Maidstone.gov.uk 07919 360000

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the matters listed below may do so by contacting the relevant officer listed against each decision, within the time period indicated.

Under the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution, a Key Decision or a Part II decision may not be taken, unless it has been published on the forward plan for 28 days or it is classified as urgent:

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key and part II decisions to be made, even though they have not been included in the Forward Plan.

Copies of the Council's constitution, forward plan, reports and decisions may be inspected at Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ or accessed from the [Council's website](#).

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Cabinet which are normally held at the Town Hall, High St, Maidstone, ME14 1SY. The dates and times of the meetings are published on the [Council's Website](#), or you may contact the Democratic Services Team on telephone number **01622 602899** for further details.

→
David Burton
Leader of the Council

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Cabinet Member	Expected Date of Decision	Key	Exempt	Proposed Consultees / Method of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated
Consideration of a proposal to extend and improvement works to Medway street carpark	Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development	Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development	9 Nov 2023	Yes	No Open	Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee 8 Nov 2023	Consideration of a proposal to extend and improvement works to Medway street carpark	Katie Exon Head of Property and Leisure katieexon@maidstone.gov.uk
Sutton Valence Conservation Area - Proposed Extension	Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development	Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development	9 Nov 2023	No	No	Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee 8 Nov 2023	Sutton Valence Conservation Area – Proposed Extension	Janice Gooch JaniceGooch@Maidstone.gov.uk
2nd Quarter Finance, Performance and Risk Monitoring Report	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.	22 Nov 2023	No	No Open	Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 15 Nov 2023	2nd Quarter Finance, Performance and Risk Monitoring Report	Paul Holland, Adrian Lovegrove Head of Finance paulholland@maidstone.gov.uk, adrianlovegrove@maidstone.gov.uk

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Lead Member	Expected Date of Decision	Key	Exempt	Proposed Consultees / Method(s) of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated
Maidstone Leisure Centre - Leisure Services Contract A report on Maidstone Leisure Centre	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure and Arts	22 Nov 2023	Yes	No Part exempt	Communities, Leisure and Arts Policy Advisory Committee 3 Oct 2023	Maidstone Leisure Centre	
18 Property Acquisition	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Housing and Health	22 Nov 2023	Yes	No Part exempt	Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 14 Nov 2023 Notification to Ward members and briefing to Executive and Lead Member to PAC	Property Acquisition	Rachael Bennett, Philip Morris RachaelBennett@Maidstone.gov.uk, philipmorris@maidstone.gov.uk
Proposed Private Sector Leasing Scheme (PSL) and changes to the current Landlord Incentive Scheme (LIS).	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Housing and Health	22 Nov 2023	No	No Open	Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 14 Nov 2023	Proposed Private Sector Leasing Scheme (PSL) and changes to the current Landlord Incentive Scheme (LIS).	William Cornall Director of Regeneration & Place williamcornall@maidstone.gov.uk

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Lead Member	Expected Date of Decision	Key	Exempt	Proposed Consultees / Method(s) of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated
<p>LGPS Pension Guarantee for Waste Contract</p> <p>Approval for providing a Guarantee to the pension fund as part of the Mid Kent Waste Contract to enable four eligible transferring employees to remain within the LGPS</p>	Cabinet Member for Environmental Services	Cabinet Member for Environmental Services	Before 30 Nov 2023	Yes	No	Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 14 Nov 2023	LGPS Pension Guarantee for Waste Contract	<p>Jennifer Stevens</p> <p>Head of Environmental Services & Public Realm</p> <p>jenniferstevens@maidstone.gov.uk</p>
<p>Statement of Common Ground - Lower Thames Crossing</p> <p>To formally agree a draft Statement of Common Ground between Maidstone Borough Council and National Highways regarding the Lower Thames Crossing</p>	Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development	Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development	Not before 7th Dec 2023	Yes	No	Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee 7 Dec 2023	Statement of Common Ground - Lower Thames Crossing	<p>Erik Nilsen</p> <p>ErikNilsen@Maidstone.gov.uk</p>

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<p>Cap on Safe and Legal Routes Government Consultation</p> <p>The Secretary of State for the Home Department is required consult local authorities on the introduction of an annual cap on the number of entrants using safe and legal routes to enter the UK. The cap is intended to provide a considered approach to the way the UK's safe and legal routes will function in the coming years for refugees and asylum seekers entering the UK. The deadline for responses is 15th December 2023.</p>	Leader of the Council	Leader of the Council	Before 15 Dec 2023	Yes	No	Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 12 Dec 2023	Cap on Safe and Legal Routes Government Consultation	<p>John Littlemore</p> <p>Head of Housing & Regulatory Services</p> <p>johnlittlemore@maidstone.gov.uk</p>
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - Annual Update	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure and Arts	20 Dec 2023	No	No Open	Communities, Leisure and Arts Policy Advisory Committee 5 Dec 2023	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - Annual Update	<p>Anna Collier, Orla Sweeney</p> <p>annacollier@maidstone.gov.uk, orlasweeney@maidstone.gov.uk</p>

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Lead Member	Expected Date of Decision	Key	Exempt	Proposed Consultees / Method(s) of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated
<p>Fees and Charges 2024/25</p> <p>F&Cs for the PAC that will be used to charge for services in 24/25</p> <p>21</p>	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.	20 Dec 2023	Yes	No Open	<p>Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 13 Dec 2023</p> <p>Communities, Leisure and Arts Policy Advisory Committee 5 Dec 2023</p> <p>Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 12 Dec 2023</p> <p>Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee 7 Dec 2023</p>	Fees and Charges 2024/25 CS PAC	<p>Adrian Lovegrove</p> <p>Head of Finance</p> <p>adrianlovegrove@m aidstone.gov.uk</p>

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Lead Member	Expected Date of Decision	Key	Exempt	Proposed Consultees / Method(s) of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated
<p>Procurement Strategy and Policy Changes</p> <p>Procurement Strategy for 2023 to 2026 and Policy Changes to amend the approval levels for procurement. The approval levels will need to be amended within the Constitution.</p>	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.	20 Dec 2023	No	No Open	Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 13 Dec 2023	Procurement Strategy and Policy Changes	<p>Adrian Lovegrove</p> <p>Head of Finance</p> <p>adrianlovegrove@m aidstone.gov.uk</p>
<p>Property Acquisition</p> <p>22</p>	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Housing and Health	20 Dec 2023	Yes	No Part exempt	<p>Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 12 Dec 2023</p> <p>Notification of ward members. Briefing to executive and lead member for PAC</p>	Property Acquisition	<p>Rachael Bennett, Philip Morris</p> <p>RachaelBennett@M aidstone.gov.uk, philipmorris@maidst one.gov.uk</p>
<p>Town Centre Strategy - Update Report</p> <p>A report on the next stage of the Town Centre Strategy</p>	Cabinet	Leader of the Council	20 Dec 2023	No	No Open	Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee 7 Dec 2023	Town Centre Strategy - Consultation Report	<p>Karen Britton, Alison Broom</p> <p>karenbritton@maidst one.gov.uk, alisonbroom@maids tone.gov.uk</p>

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Lead Member	Expected Date of Decision	Key	Exempt	Proposed Consultees / Method(s) of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated
<p>Over-arching Conservation Management Plan</p> <p>The over-arching Conservation Area Management Plan has been drafted to address concerns that there was limited guidance on conservation areas that do not have either a conservation area appraisal or management plan. area.</p>	Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development	Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development	Not before 7 Dec 2023	Yes	No	Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee 7 Dec 2023	Over-arching Conservation Management Plan	<p>Janice Gooch</p> <p>JaniceGooch@Maidstone.gov.uk</p>
Marden Conservation Appraisal and Management Plan	Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development	Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development	Not before 7 Dec 2023	Yes	No	Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee 7 Dec 2023	Marden Conservation Appraisal and Management Plan	<p>Jeremy Fazzalero</p> <p>Principle Conservation Officer</p> <p>jeremyfazzalero@m Maidstone.gov.uk</p>

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Staplehurst Conservation Appraisal and Management Plan	Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development	Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development	Not before 7 Dec 2023	Yes	No	Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee 7 Dec 2023	Staplehurst Conservation Appraisal and Management Plan	Janice Gooch JaniceGooch@Maidstone.gov.uk
Council Tax Base 2024/25 and Collection Fund Adjustment. Report setting what the 24/25 C/tax base and collection fund. Used to set the amount of Council Tax and is a statutory requirement.	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.	24 Jan 2024	Yes	No Open	Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 17 Jan 2024	Council Tax Base 2024/25 and Collection Fund Adjustment.	Adrian Lovegrove Head of Finance adrianlovegrove@maidstone.gov.uk
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 - Initial priorities and feedback. Delivering the new strategic priorities for the Council in relation to homelessness and rough sleeping. A review of the themes and priorities for	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Housing and Health	24 Jan 2024	Yes	No Open	Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 16 Jan 2024 Strategic process and needs assessment undertaken, including consultation	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 - Initial priorities and feedback	Hannah Gaston hannahgaston@maidstone.gov.uk

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Lead Member	Expected Date of Decision	Key	Exempt	Proposed Consultees / Method(s) of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated
the Council.						opportunities across the district for a wide range feedback. Feedback sought through formal consultation survey, local meetings and cost of living events.		
<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024 to 2029 - Funding Settlement and Final Saving Proposals</p> <p>Details of the proposed budget for 2024/25. Revenue budget including savings and updates on government financial settlements and C/Tax increases. Capital programme for 2024/2029</p>	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.	24 Jan 2024	Yes	No Open	Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 17 Jan 2024	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024 to 2029 - Funding Settlement and Final Saving Proposals	<p>Mark Green, Adrian Lovegrove</p> <p>Director of Finance, Resources & Business Improvement, Head of Finance</p> <p>markgreen@maidstone.gov.uk, adrianlovegrove@maidstone.gov.uk</p>

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Lead Member	Expected Date of Decision	Key	Exempt	Proposed Consultees / Method(s) of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated
<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024 to 2029 - Capital Programme</p> <p>Detail of the 10 year capital programme for inclusion in the budget for 2024/25 onwards.</p>	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.	24 Jan 2024	Yes	No Open	<p>Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 17 Jan 2024</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee 23 Jan 2024</p>	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024 to 2029 - Capital Programme</p>	<p>Paul Holland, Adrian Lovegrove</p> <p>Head of Finance</p> <p>paulholland@maidstone.gov.uk, adrianlovegrove@maidstone.gov.uk</p>
<p>Provision of Wheeled Bins</p> <p>Summary of the policy for charging for replacement and new wheeled bins and review of recent developments to the policy.</p>	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Environmental Services	24 Jan 2024	No	No Open	<p>Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 16 Jan 2024</p>	<p>Provision of Wheeled Bins</p>	<p>Jennifer Stevens</p> <p>Head of Environmental Services & Public Realm</p> <p>jenniferstevens@maidstone.gov.uk</p>
<p>Shared Revenues and Benefits Service - Consideration of expansion</p> <p>Report for the approval of Swale Borough Council joining the Mid Kent Revenues and Benefits Service</p>	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.	24 Jan 2024	No	No Part exempt	<p>Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 17 Jan 2024</p> <p>Consultation with the Revenues and Benefits staff</p>	<p>Shared Revenues and Benefits Service - Consideration of expansion</p>	<p>Zoe Kent</p> <p>Interim Head of Revenues & Benefits</p> <p>zoekent@swale.gov.uk</p>

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Lead Member	Expected Date of Decision	Key	Exempt	Proposed Consultees / Method(s) of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated
Parish Charter Review Review of Parish Charter	Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure and Arts	Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure and Arts	Not before 6 Feb 2024	Yes	No	Communities, Leisure and Arts Policy Advisory Committee 6 Feb 2024	Parish Charter Review	Anna Collier, Orla Sweeney annacollier@maidstone.gov.uk, orlasweeney@maidstone.gov.uk
3rd Quarter Finance, Performance and Risk Monitoring Report ✓	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.	7 Feb 2024	No	No Open	Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 5 Feb 2024	3rd Quarter Finance, Performance and Risk Monitoring Report	Paul Holland, Adrian Lovegrove Head of Finance paulholland@maidstone.gov.uk, adrianlovegrove@maidstone.gov.uk
Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan Update	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.	7 Feb 2024	No	No Open	Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 5 Feb 2024 Communities, Leisure and Arts Policy Advisory Committee 6 Feb 2024	Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan Update	James Wilderspin Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager jameswilderspin@maidstone.gov.uk

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Lead Member	Expected Date of Decision	Key	Exempt	Proposed Consultees / Method(s) of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated
28						Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 30 Jan 2024 Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy Advisory Committee 29 Jan 2024		
Housing Revenue Account The report sets out the options for management and financial accounting of the 1,000 new affordable homes.	Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.	7 Feb 2024	Yes	No Open	Housing, Health and Environment Policy Advisory Committee 30 Jan 2024	Housing Revenue Account	John Littlemore Head of Housing & Regulatory Services johnlittlemore@maidstone.gov.uk
Public Sector Led Garden Community Update To provide an update.	Cabinet	Leader of the Council	7 Feb 2024	Yes	No Open	Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 5 Feb 2024	Public Sector Led Garden Community Update	William Cornall Director of Regeneration & Place williamcornall@maidstone.gov.uk

Maidstone Borough Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme, 2023-24 Municipal Year

Review Title & Objectives	Expected Start Date	Issue Type	Relevant Officer/s	Timetable
<u>Enforcement</u> To focus on Environmental and Waste Crime Enforcement	October 2023	Committee Review	Jen Stevens, Head of Environment and Public Realm. Additional Officers to be identified.	From October 2023 – tbc (likely December 2023).
<u>Health Inequality</u> To: - focus on the impact of poor-quality housing on health inequality - increase understanding of health inequalities across the borough	To be confirmed.	Committee Review	Alison Broom, Chief Executive, John Littlemore, Head of Housing and Regulatory Services	To be confirmed.
<u>Review of the Integrated Transport Strategy</u> (Provisional inclusion to work programme – subject to further consideration during 21 Nov Meeting)	To be confirmed.	To be confirmed.	To be confirmed as dependent on scope, but likely: William Cornall, Director of Regeneration and Place, Karen Britton, Head of Spatial Planning and Economic Development	To be confirmed.
<u>Water Management Cycle – Second Stage Review</u> To review the remaining elements identified by the working group through its first review.	July 2023.	Committee Review	Mark Green, Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement, Uche Olufemi, Emergency Planning & Resilience Manager, Karen Britton, Head of Spatial Planning and Economic Development	PAUSED.

Review Title & Objectives	Expected Start Date	Issue Type	Relevant Officer/s	Timetable
<u>Annual Scrutiny Report</u>	January 2024	Constitutional Requirement and best practice	Oliviya Parfitt, Principal Democratic Services Officer	Draft – January 2023 Final – February 2023, followed by submission to Full Council.
<u>Receipt of Cabinet SCRAIP – Water Management Cycle Review</u>	November 2023	Constitutional Requirement and best practice	As applicable.	N/A
<u>Selection of an Operator (Archbishops Palace)</u>	TBC	Pre-decision Scrutiny	Mark Green, Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement Deborah Turner, Interim Strategic Property Consultant	N/A
<u>MTFS – Capital Programme</u>	End of 2023/Early 2024	Constitutional Requirement	Mark Green, Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement	N/A
<u>Forward Plan Monitoring</u>	2023/24 Municipal Year	Pre-decision Scrutiny	As applicable.	N/A
<u>Call-Ins</u>	2023/24 Municipal Year	Post-decision Scrutiny	As applicable.	N/A

Maidstone Borough Council - Overview & Scrutiny Scoping Paper

Proposer Name	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Proposed Topic (What?)	Review of the Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS)
Description and Reason for Review (Why?)	<p>Concern was expressed at the lack of progress to the schemes within the ITS, particularly the Wheatsheaf Junction and that the schemes were put forward to support the Council 2017 Adopted Local Plan and had still not been delivered.</p> <p>It was felt that the ITS's delivery required further scrutiny.</p>
Link to: Council's Strategic Plan National/Regional priorities Executive Priorities	The delivery of the ITS is linked to both the 2017 Adopted Local Plan, and the ongoing Local Plan Review (LPR) process ahead of the LPRs adoption as the new Local Plan.
Desired Outcome(s) (Outcome)	<p style="color: red;">To be decided by the Committee at November Meeting.</p> <p>E.g., more transparency and understanding of ITS delivery.</p>
Approach (How, When and Who)	<p style="color: red;">To be decided by the Committee at November Meeting.</p> <p><i>Such as:</i></p> <p><u>Type of research</u> (desk based?) Site Visits</p> <p><u>Sources of Information Required</u> Previous Council Reports</p> <p><u>Possible Participants</u> Evidence collection – written and/or verbal – and from which individuals/bodies Council Teams i.e. officer interviews</p>
Review Timescale (When)	<p style="color: red;">To be decided by the Committee at November Meeting.</p>

<p>Link to CfPS effective scrutiny principles</p>	<p><i>Select which CfPS effective scrutiny principles would be met through conducting the review:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Provides a constructive 'critical friend' challenge</i>• <i>Amplifies public voices and concerns</i>• <i>Is Independently led by Councillors</i>• <i>Drives Improvement in Public Services</i>
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Things to Consider before a decision is made:

- CABINET REVIEW - TIMELINE
 - The Cabinet will be reviewing the Integrated Transport Strategy in the future. The Committee could contribute through pre-decision scrutiny on the matter.
 - The ITS review was mentioned in points 6.2-6.7 of the report concerning the [Council's response to Kent County Councils Local Transport Plan Consultation](#).
 - The Committee could call the Cabinet to attend meetings and provide updates and hold the Cabinet to account as part of its 'Check and Balance' function (as opposed to starting the review imminently).
- TIMELINE & APPROACH
 - Will the review be conducted this year? The Committee has four meetings remaining in the Municipal Year.
 - Could the review be conducted in the next municipal year? This could allow for greater time if the review runs over and more flexibility in approach.
 - How will the review be conducted? Via the Committee, a working group or sub-committee?
- BREADTH OF THE REVIEW

Such as:

 - Will the whole ITS be reviewed?
 - Will it be focused on delivery/non-delivery of the ITS?
 - Will it focus on the next iteration of the ITS?
 - Are there particular schemes in the ITS to be reviewed?

- POINTS HIGHLIGHTED BY OFFICERS
 - The review would need to take into account the following work streams, to prevent confusion and/or duplication between that work and the Committee's review:
 - The Council's response to the Kent County Council (KCC) Local Transport Plan which is at consultation stage;
 - The Council's response to the KCC Kent Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan which is also at Consultation stage, or any work MBC undertakes to prepare a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan;
 - The Council's current work on the Movement Strategy evidence document produced by Steers for the Town Centre Strategy.
 - The Council's forthcoming work on a new Integrated Transport Strategy. For example, reviewing the existing ITS whilst concurrently creating the new one in another could be challenging.
 - An option would be for the Committee to focus upon the deliverability (or not) of the current ITS. Such as, should the future ITS focus on changes that are more directly within the control of the Council's decision making and be aligned to realistic budget constraints and availability of external funding?

The Committee could consider prioritising actions, and also creating further categories for short, medium and long term actions, and classify them by whether they are in the Council's direct control, partial control or not within our control at all. For those that are only in our partial control or not in our control at all, they should have realistic strategies as to how the Council can influence their timely delivery.

- The Committee could really focus on a set of particular actions where the chances of excellent outcomes should have been good. For example, this might be cycling enhancements, and critically evaluate what has been achieved to date, and then so bring renewed focus to improving upon this area in the relatively short term.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Recommended Action and Implementation Plan (SCRAIP)

The following recommended actions have arisen from the review into the Water Management Cycle This SCRAIP provides comments on the recommendations from the relevant Lead Officer/s such as its feasibility and possible method and timeline for implementation.

Recommendation & Intended Outcomes	Relevant Cabinet Member	Financial impacts (<i>'None' or explanation provided</i>)	Cabinet Response Includes Officer Comments	Lead Officer
<p>1. That £100,000 be allocated to developing feasibility studies, to be matched by external providers, to support the progression of schemes designed to improve the water management cycle.</p> <p>This would ensure that schemes were readily available for implementation, taking a proactive approach to managing the effects of the water management cycle, as much of the council's work had been reactive. Historically the Council had been successful in obtaining funding where a scheme's need had been demonstrated.¹</p> <p>Feasibility studies would need to respond to an agreed set of</p>	<p>Cabinet Member Environmental Services and/or Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development dependent on scheme design.</p>		<p>Agreed</p> <p>The Finance Director has confirmed that there are already adequate monies set aside within the existing Capital Programme (for flood alleviation), that has previously been used in implementing such schemes. The funding available would not be additional funding, with the Council to continue its 'Business as Usual' approach in identifying opportunities and working with partners to deliver flood mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Director of Finance, Resources & Business Improvement</p>

¹ See 15 December 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Appendix 2 - Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Action and Implementation Plan (SCRAIP)

<p>objectives. These might include some or all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that places and infrastructure are resilient and can adapt to future flooding and coastal risks in a changing climate. Traditionally this has been quantified by assessing whether a scheme gives projection to (eg) a flood event likely to occur every 50 years. - Support the Council’s carbon and sustainability ambitions. - Enhance the environment, e.g. by creating and improving habitat and rivers. - Meet statutory requirements, e.g. complying with Reservoir Act duties. <p>The Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement had advised that feasibility studies would assist in creating suitable schemes, and that there was a source of capital funding available within the Council’s MTFS for such works.²</p>				
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² See 5 December 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Appendix 2 - Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Action and Implementation Plan (SCRAIP)

<p>Further, conducting feasibility studies could lead to the progression of the joint working and other actions put forward by the Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board, Southeast Rivers Trust and Kent County Council. Please see relevant meeting minutes for further information.³</p>				
<p>2.To increase the number of open spaces in the Borough that enhance wetland biodiversity, flood storage and surface water infiltration.</p> <p>To bring benefits to the borough, as similar schemes had elsewhere, and build upon the Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager’s work in producing business cases for numerous schemes to be implemented on single pieces of land. If the work could be linked to the biodiversity net gain, significant biodiversity improvements could be achieved.</p>	<p>(Primary) Cabinet Member for Environmental Services for Council owned estate, and (Secondary) Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development for planning policy work.</p>		<p>Agreed</p> <p>There is an opportunity to do this at the Heathlands Garden Community, and this requirement will be incorporated into the SPD for Heathlands. More generally, this action can also routinely be taken forward through subsequent local plan reviews.</p>	<p>Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager</p>

³ Above minutes and 27 January 2023 (external stakeholder consultation) Meeting Minutes.

Appendix 2 - Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Action and Implementation Plan (SCRAIP)

<p>3.To further explore the creation of managed wetlands, including through the D&S DPD.</p> <p>This would provide increased natural flood mitigation measures, reducing surface water run-off, and slowing water flow.</p>	<p>(Primary) Cabinet Member for Environmental Services for Council owned estate, and (Secondary) Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development for planning policy work.</p>		<p>Agreed</p> <p>There is an opportunity to do this at the Heathlands Garden Community, and this requirement will be incorporated into the SPD for Heathlands. More generally, this action can also routinely be taken forward through subsequent local plan reviews.</p>	<p>Head of Spatial Planning and Economic Development</p>
<p>4.That a proposals map outlining the areas within the borough where the biodiversity net gain could be used to secure schemes that deliver holistic improvements to the Water Management Cycle, be attached to the D&S DPD.</p> <p>This would support the creation and delivery of improvements to the water management cycle, so that the biodiversity net gain received through new developments could be maximised quickly.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development</p>		<p>Not Agreed, with possible future suggestion noted</p> <p>A proposals map is not appropriate as the Local Plan Review provides the strategic approach to BNG – it contains the Biodiversity Net Gain policy which requires any BNG to first be achieved on the development site itself, where this is possible. It also refers to the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, for example, which reflect the Kent Biodiversity Strategy – this identifies the areas for focus.</p> <p>The D&S DPD then contains BNG detail, to include Heathlands, Invicta, and Lidsing potentially.</p> <p>There could however be a “call for sites” in the next LPR for BNG receptor sites, that could be the starting point for assessing and then formulating a proposals map.</p>	<p>Head of Spatial Planning and Economic Development</p>

<p>5.To promote the separation of roof water from the sewer systems in new build properties and property conversion and extensions, including through the D&S DPD.</p> <p>To reduce the burden placed on combined sewer systems and the likelihood of sewerage flooding. Through its review, the Group were informed that in some cases, the majority of liquid within the combined sewer systems is rain and surface water.⁴</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development</p>		<p>Not Agreed, with possible future suggestion note</p> <p>This matter is dealt with in Building Regulations. Realistically, the Council does not have the resources or technical expertise to start to design and then enforce its own suite of enhanced local regulations, nor the evidence suite to support making such changes. The matter could be included in theory within the Design and Sustainability DPD in theory, but realistically, the bar for technical evidence will be the same. Ultimately there should be much more engagement with the local water companies before deciding upon a course of action in this regard.</p>	<p>Head of Spatial Planning and Economic Development</p>
<p>6.To encourage developers to consider water usage reductions across development sites and within homes, such as water saving technologies and the use of 'grey water', including through the D&S DPD.</p> <p>To promote mechanisms that reduce water consumption and increase water recycling from the point of development as opposed to retrofitting.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development</p>		<p>Not Agreed</p> <p>The LPR imposes the lower quantum of water usage at 110 litres per day per head, in the new LPR policy. This is already below the standard Building Regulations requirement. Anything beyond this, say in terms of grey water, would just be option for developers.</p>	<p>Head of Spatial Planning and Economic Development</p>

⁴ See 7 February 2023 Meeting Minutes.

Appendix 2 - Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Action and Implementation Plan (SCRAIP)

<p>The importance of making developments more water efficient was specifically raised by the Water companies consulted on the 7 February 2023.⁵</p>				
<p>7. That the policies informing the D&S DPD would be usefully informed if Kent Flood Risk Maps were made available to the Planning and Policy service areas in developing policy documents.</p> <p>To ensure that the recorded flood risk areas (as included within the maps) are considered when developing policy documents applicable to development.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development</p>		<p>Not Agreed</p> <p>The Council prepares strategic plans in accordance with the national planning requirements which are set out for flood risk in the NPPF and NPPG and planning have access to the Environment Agency Flood Zone Maps, in order to do this.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review also sets out the flood risk assessments that planning applicants are required to undertake.</p> <p>KCC are the Lead Local Flood Authority and they are consulted on strategic plans, as they are prepared i.e. Local Plan Review.</p>	<p>Head of Spatial Planning and Economic Development</p>

⁵ As Above.

<p>8.To explore further the use and range of policy mechanisms to promote recycling of water and reduce water usage, both in newly built houses and as retrofit in existing properties.</p> <p>To promote these mechanisms for use across small- and large-scale developments; At the 22 December 2022 group meeting, the group were informed that further information on water recycling would likely be provided in the D&S DPD, with the group expressing that promoting these mechanisms would prevent costly, time-consuming retrofitting measures (where possible).⁶</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development</p>		<p>Not Agreed, with possible suggestion noted</p> <p>Is this really the role of the Council, and would it be an effective use of our finite resources, especially given that the various water companies are required to perform this task.</p> <p>This could be promoted through the Council’s various media channels, but all we could do is signpost to the other agencies.</p>	<p>Head of Spatial Planning and Economic Development & Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager</p>
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⁶ See 22 December 2022 Meeting Minutes.

<p>9.To increase the Council’s control over the implementation of planning conditions relating to Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SuDS), through the spatial policy and development management service areas.</p> <p>Through the review, the mismanagement of SuD schemes was highlighted, and this action would support the ongoing discussions being had between the Head of Development Management and the Chairman and Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee on how this could be addressed.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development</p>		<p>Agreed</p> <p>Management of SuD schemes can be further reviewed and considered through future local plan reviews.</p>	<p>Head of Spatial Planning and Economic Development & Head of Development Management</p>
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<p>10. That the following requests be made to the Development Management Service area, via the Head of Development Management</p> <p>a) To review how water companies can be consulted and/or more effectively involved in the planning process.</p> <p>To involve water companies in the planning process for a range of reasons including; to promote water efficiency, water recycling and reduced water usage within new developments, as developers may not prioritise this themselves, to improve the water management cycle generally.</p> <p>The group recognised that any comments would carry less weight than those of statutory consultees. The water companies spoke of having greater involvement in the planning process at the 7 February 2023 meeting.⁷</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development</p>		<p>B & C – Agreed A & D – Not Agreed</p> <p>A) The water companies are consulted during preparation of strategic plans e.g. Local Plan Review at each consultation stage and can comment on any planning applications that they wish to review. The responses tend to be rather generic rather than site specific, and are quite limited.</p> <p>B) The Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board (UMIDB) is a non-statutory consultee on water and flood related planning applications within Maidstone. The Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board (UMIDB) can comment on any planning application they wish to review – members can be circulated with a weblink to the UMIDB website which provides their area map if they wish to review the UMIDB’s information. It is not appropriate to provide other bodies maps alongside a planning application. UMIDB’s role should not be confused with the main statutory consultees like Kent County Council or the Environment Agency. When a new development will be discharging into or affecting UMIDB adopted watercourses, they will need to apply for IDB’s Land Drainage Consent.</p> <p>C) Yes</p>	<p>Head of Development Management</p>
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⁷ See 7 February 2023 Meeting Minutes.

<p>b) To include the Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board (UMIDB) district area within the maps provided with major planning applications.</p> <p>To highlight if the UMIDB district area overlapped with a proposed development, and if it is in a sensitive area for drainage, as Members have greater knowledge of their ward and any water management cycle related concerns, e.g., flooding.</p> <p> c) To advise on whether Surface Water Management Plans can be used as material planning considerations.</p> <p>To inform Members of the document's weight, if any, when considering planning applications.</p> <p>d) To review opportunities to the building regulations for water saving, in a similar way to recent updates on</p>			<p>D) Building Regulations are required to undertake their work in line with the national requirements.</p> <p>General point for information:</p> <p>KCC are the Lead Local Flood Authority and they are consulted on surface water drainage on the following:</p> <p>10 or more houses Site is over 0.5ha and the number of houses isn't known Floorspace over 1000m2 Site is over 1ha (whatever the development)</p>	
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<p>the conservation of fuel and power.</p> <p>The group felt that the opportunities available should be reviewed as part of best practice, with any gaps to be actioned as and when they arise through the building control service. In part, this can be linked to the feedback given by the water companies on the 7 February 2023.⁸</p>				
<p>11. That when developments come forward in the town centre and adjoining areas, obstacles should either be removed or alleviated, to remove unnecessary restrictions on water courses, which reduce the flow rate, nutrient enrichment and wildlife corridors.</p> <p>As outlined in the recommendation, to remove unnecessary restrictions on water courses, which reduce the flow rate, nutrient enrichment and wildlife corridors that may impact the area local to the development.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development</p>		<p>Not Agreed</p> <p>This is a matter for the Environment Agency, and they can make these points through their role as a statutory consultee on such applications, if they are in agreement with them. The Council could in theory explore a pilot project at a relevant site where we have an interest, for example the Mill Pond in the town centre.</p>	<p>Head of Development Management</p>

⁸ See 7 February 2023 Meeting Minutes.

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<p>12. That an annual 'roundtable' meeting be established between Parish, District and County Members and Officers (from both authorities), to discuss local issues and knowledge relating to the Water Management Cycle, by geographical area (North, Central & Southern Maidstone)</p> <p>To ensure that local knowledge is maintained and 'passed down' to prevent negative impacts to the area, such as flooding and property damage, through the water management cycle. This knowledge is often lost over time, particularly when there are no written records of historic mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development and Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure and Arts.</p>		<p>Agreed</p> <p>To be led by the Planning Policy team.</p>	<p>Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement; Emergency Planning and Resilience Manager Head of Spatial Planning and Economic Development Head of Development Management Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager</p>
<p>13. That local 'highway and surface water flooding hotspots' be identified with the Borough and County Members, and meetings organised with Kent County Council, National Highways, and the relevant Water Companies as applicable.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development and Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure and Arts.</p>		<p>Agreed</p> <p>This is already occurring through the work undertaken by Mark Green, who leads on flood resilience for MBC.</p>	<p>Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement; Emergency Planning and Resilience Manager Head of Spatial</p>

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<p>To proactively manage any impacts from flooding and/or water management cycle related matters, by consulting the relevant parties to seek improvements.</p>				<p>Planning and Economic Development Head of Development Management Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager</p>
<p>14. That the Community Protection Team contact local care home providers to remind them of the ability to register as 'priority customers' with the relevant water utilities.</p> <p>To ensure that local care homes are able to access water supplies during times of disruption, and that vulnerable residents are suitably supported and prioritised.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing and Health</p>		<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Community and Strategic Partnerships Manager</p>
<p>15. That the Council proactively identify water management cycle related matters for inclusion at events such as the Local Government Association Conference and Rural Urban Commission</p>	<p>(Primary) Cabinet Member for Environmental Services for Council owned estate, and (Secondary) Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic</p>		<p>Agreed</p>	

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<p>To increase the attention given to the Water Management Cycle nationally as well as locally.</p>	<p>Development for planning policy work.</p>			
<p>16. That the contents of the documents provided by Southern Water be endorsed, with the synergy between the company and the group noted.</p> <p>To formally note and draw attention to the synergy between Southern Water and the Group during the review.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development</p>		<p>Agreed</p>	
<p>17. That the support expressed from both Southeast and Southern Water to use the Heathlands Garden Community, if agreed, as a showcase to demonstrate innovative and efficient water usage, be supported and noted.</p> <p>The group felt that this was important to note formally as part of the review, arising from the group's ambitions to introduce new and innovative measures in the future.</p>	<p>Leader of the Council</p>		<p>Agreed</p>	

<p>18. That any development and/or improvement schemes to the Former Royal Mail Sorting Office demonstrate innovative and efficient water usage mechanisms, be noted.</p> <p>As above, particularly as the site is a brownfield site which could lead to alternative mechanisms being used to demonstrate innovative and efficient water usage mechanisms.</p>	<p>To the Cabinet (relevant Cabinet Member would be identified depending on the type of development and/or improvement scheme being implemented)</p> <p>Kent County Council</p>		<p>Noted, further action to take place</p> <p>The planning application for this site has been submitted prior to Cabinet approving this SCRAIP. However, the application does contain a water strategy document that will be considered by the Planning Committee in due course.</p>	
<p>19. That Kent County Council be requested to update the Surface Water Management Plans for Maidstone, including local plans where these have been produced for wards, as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>Surface Water Management Plans (SWMP) are studies that aim to understand flood risks arising from local flooding. As this has likely changed since 2013 when the existing Maidstone SWMP was produced, the group felt it was imperative for an updated version to be produced.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development.</p>		<p>Agreed</p> <p>To be taken forward by Mark Green through his ongoing lead role on this topic.</p>	

<p>20. That the Water Companies (Southeast and Southern Water) be consulted on:</p> <p>a. Whether they would conduct an information campaign, and provide funding for commercial and household schemes, to minimise roof run-off into the sewer system; and</p> <p>b. Obtaining accurate information on [commercial and household] water consumption, to be linked to educational campaigns to reduce water usage.</p> <p>c. Investigation of the potential for creation of a new reedbed/wetland at Harrietsham Water Treatment Works to reduce ingress of Phosphates and Nitrates into the River Len.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development.</p>		<p>Agreed</p>	
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<p>d. Reconsidering the emerging proposal to increase abstraction rates, for example at Hockers Lane Detling and other sites within the borough, to mitigate likely resultant harm to downstream wetlands and to water courses. Where this does take place, monitoring the abstraction increase to take place to ensure the effects are properly understood and can be mitigated if necessary.</p> <p>51</p> <p>The provision of funding would encourage individual households to implement schemes to minimise roof run-off and reduce the likelihood of combined sewer flooding. The use of accurate water usage data would enable educational campaigns to be better targeted to achieve results. This was discussed by those companies during the 7 February 2023 meeting, and with Council Officers at the 22 December 2022 meeting.</p>				
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Agenda Item 16

Briefing Note – Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Environmental and Waste Crime Enforcement

Background

At its meeting on the [17 October 2023](#), the Committee started the review into Environmental and Waste Crime Enforcement.

The scope is attached to this briefing note.

During the discussion, the below suggestions and/or requests were made by the Committee and/or Officers.

- A. To liaise with Medway Council to encourage assistance to voluntary litter picking groups
- B. To review an amended work programme for the annual high speed road cleaning programme
- C. The Provision of contact details (including for housing and housing management associations) to Council Members and Parish Council, to report concerns
- D. Increased Communications on successful enforcement measures
- E. To have an in-depth discussion with the Committee concerning budget pressures and possible opportunities for mitigation
- F. Officer views on the above (see section for further details), and how responsibilities are prioritised
- G. To look at how to make Social Media work for the Council, as part of educating residents about fly-tipping.

In response, the Head of Environmental Services and Public Realm was consulted to provide further information for consideration within each point.

Where further information needed, a **REQUEST** has been included in each section.

A. To liaise with Medway Council to encourage assistance to voluntary litter picking groups

This could be expressed directly by Members, such as through a letter written by the Committee to the relevant Cabinet Member at Medway Council.

B. To review an amended work programme for the annual high speed road cleaning programme

This could be provided in the future, after the work programme is reviewed for the next year.

There is an expense to be considered in undertaking street cleaning, particularly on high speed roads, such as staff time including shift patterns, prioritisation of

tasks, cost and communication with Kent County Council as the highway authority.

C. The Provision of contact details (including housing and housing management associations) to Council Members and Parish Council, to report concerns

These details can be re-circulated to Borough and Parish Councillors, and the Waste Crime team will continue building working relationships with Housing Associations and Management Companies.

REQUEST: For the Committee to highlight any particular areas of concern to the team, such as the DVLA Site on Albion Place?

D. Increased Communications on successful enforcement measures

Requested by the Committee, to include a spotlight on waste crime in the next borough insight magazine, covering litter picking difficulties, households duty of care to the local environment and the updated fixed penalty notice fines.

This could be possible but is dependent in part on the Communications team's availability, as the next Borough Insight Magazine will be sent out in around 5 months.

E. To have an in-depth discussion with the Committee concerning budget pressures and possible opportunities for mitigation

The Waste Crime Team has recently expanded and has strong officers in place. The impetus moving forward will be on how to support that structure efficiently and sustainably, as opposed to solely increasing the budget and/or number of officers (including specific grades) available.

REQUEST: To review the suggestions below.

Areas of support could include:

- Increased presence and coverage on social media, to reach out and educate residents alongside information gathering to identify fly-tippers, and continual improvement of working relationships with relevant organisations (such as HAs).

These could be supported through an additional post, offered on a part-time position, fixed term position, as a secondment opportunity, additional working hours and/or weekend shifts. The other officers within the team could then prioritise their time and resources into other areas, such as enforcement, which should be intelligence based.

- Capital funding to support technology provision

The use of technology supports enforcement activity, but opposing technology is also being developed which impacts the effectiveness of the technology in use.

The Street Cleansing Team have a consistent fund available to support equipment purchases, could a similar fund for the Waste Crime Team be considered?

F. Officer views on the above (see section for further details), and how responsibilities are prioritised

REQUEST: For the Committee to give feedback on

1. How the service prioritises tasks, such as:
 - Engagement
 - Proactive enforcement
 - Fly-tipping (in town centre & rural areas)
 - Communication and Education
 - Individuals Duty of Care to the local environment
2. Improvements to the website on Waste Crime information provided – what would the Committee like to be provided?

Information currently provided includes:

- Reporting Fly Tipping, Litter or an issue in a Park or Open Space

This can be accessed by visiting the MBC Website Street Care and Cleaning page and then choose the relevant webpage from those displayed:

[Street care and cleaning | Maidstone Borough Council](#)

G. To look at how to make Social Media work for the Council, as part of educating residents about fly-tipping.

The Waste Crime Team is currently putting together a case for external funding to support an officer in promoting the Council's Waste Crime presence of social media. This would include engagement with local groups to promote the service generally (such as collection of goods) and the requirements.

There has also been an increase in fly-tippers unknowingly hired by members of the public through social media, particularly for scrap metal, which is a cause of concern. Reviewing how the Council increases its social media presence could reduce fly-tipping.

REQUEST: How does the Committee think its Social Media usage could be improved?

Example of the online reporting function on the Council's Website (littering).

[Home](#) > [Street care and cleaning](#) > Litter, bins and street sweeping > Report Litter

Report Litter

Depending on where the litter is, specific actions will be taken:

Public or our own land:

- We'll try to clear the litter within 48 hours of it being reported.
- Larger litter or those needing specialist equipment to clear will take longer.

Golding Homes or Kent County Council owned lands:

We'll send your report on to them anonymously to clear.

Network Rail owned land:

We'll phone your report through to them anonymously to clear.

Privately owned land:

We'll send to our Waste Crime Team to investigate further.

[Start >](#)

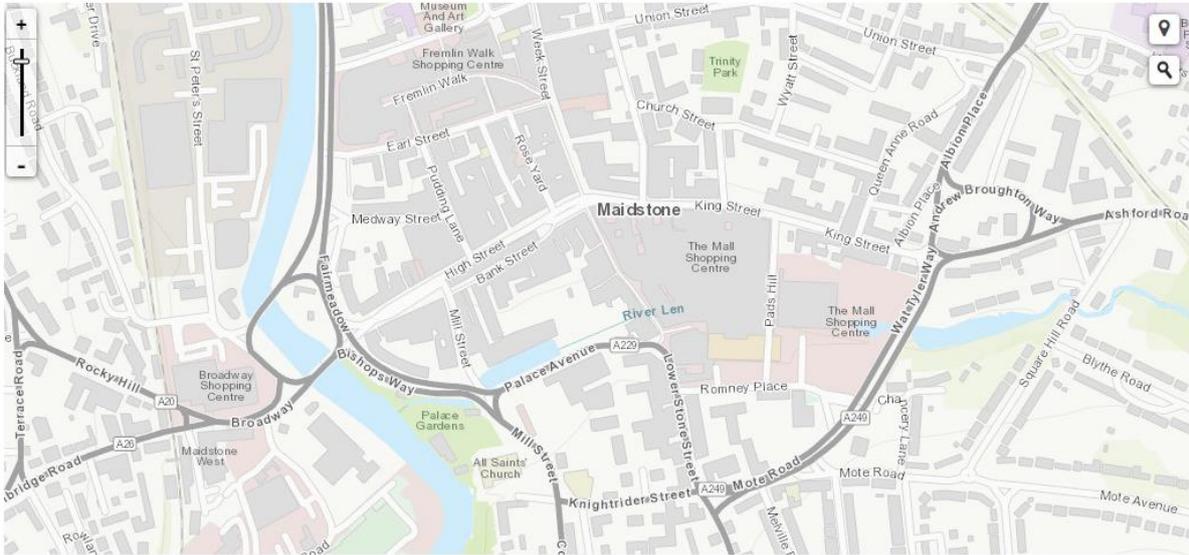
[Back to top ↑](#)

The screenshot shows the 'Report Some Litter' form on the Maidstone Borough Council website. At the top, there is a blue header with the council's logo and a 'Register' link. Below the header are 'Home' and 'Services' navigation buttons. The main heading is 'Report Some Litter'. There is a 'Where' input field. Below it, the question 'Where's the litter?' is followed by a dropdown menu with the following options: 'On public land', 'On Golding Homes or Kent County Council owned land', 'On Network Rail owned land', 'On privately owned land', and 'I don't know'. To the right of the dropdown is a green 'Submit' button with a checkmark icon.

Depending on the option chosen, different information will be displayed, but all options offer the option to select the location on a map before submission.

Using the map

- Pinpoint the litter by tapping or clicking its location
- You can report anywhere within the area outlined in red
- Allowing your device to use your location should make it easier to find



✕ Cancel

✓ Submit