

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL



Date: Wednesday 22 April 2015

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Town Hall, High Street,
Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors Thick (The Mayor), Ash, Black, Mrs Blackmore, Burton, Butler, Chittenden, Collins, Cox, Cuming, Daley, Ells, English, Fissenden, Garland, Mrs Gooch, Greer, Mrs Grigg, Harper, Harwood, Mrs Hinder, Hogg, Mrs Joy, Long, McKay, McLoughlin, Moriarty, B Mortimer, D Mortimer, Munford, Naghi, Newton, Paine, Mrs Parvin, Paterson, Perry, Pickett, Powell, Mrs Ring, Mrs Robertson, Ross, Round, Sams, Sargeant, Springett, Mrs Stockell, Vizzard, B Watson, P Watson, de Wiggondene, Willis, J.A. Wilson and Mrs Wilson

Continued Over/:

Issued on 14 April 2015

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in **alternative formats**. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, **please contact DEBBIE SNOOK on 01622 602030**. To find out more about the work of the Council, please visit www.maidstone.gov.uk

Alison Broom

**Alison Broom, Chief Executive, Maidstone Borough Council,
Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ**

AGENDA

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1. Prayers
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Dispensations (if any)
4. Disclosures by Members and Officers
5. Disclosures of Lobbying
6. To consider whether any items should be taken in private because of the possible disclosure of exempt information.
7. Minutes of the meeting of the Borough Council held on 25 February 2015 1 - 18
8. Mayor's Announcements
9. Petitions
10. Question and Answer Session for Members of the Public
11. Questions from Members of the Council to the
 - (a) Leader of the Council
 - (b) Cabinet Members
 - (c) Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committees
 - (d) Chairmen of other Committees
12. Current Issues - Report of the Leader of the Council, Response of the Group Leaders and Questions from Council Members
13. Report of the Cabinet held on 14 April 2015 - Maidstone Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-2018 - Annual Refresh 2015-2016 19 - 93
14. Report of the Councillor Working Group - New Constitution for Maidstone Borough Council 94 - 99
15. Oral Report of the Community, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny to be held on 14 April 2015 (if any)
16. Oral Report of the Planning, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 21 April 2015 (if any)
17. Notice of Motion - Gatland Park
Notice of the following motion has been given by Councillor Harper:

This Council notes that Gatland Park is a public open space and is subject to the regulations and by-laws governing public open spaces and parks. This is a valuable and popular local park, well used by the local community. There are concerns however

over the plans by the Jubilee Free School to use it as an adjunct to the school to provide outdoor space. As a public open space, it is not possible to enclose an area for private use except for one off events following a particular application route. Therefore it is inappropriate for the school to be looking to use a park on a regular basis.

This Council resolves:

1. To continue to demonstrate its long term support to maintain Gatland Park as a well used public open space; and
2. Not to support any proposals in the future which would reduce the ability of the local community to continue to have free access to the park during normal opening hours.

18. Notice of Motion - Cycling Infrastructure

Notice of the following motion has been given by Councillor Harper:

This Council recognises that cycling is an excellent carbon free form of transport. However, Maidstone currently has very low levels of cycling compared to similar communities elsewhere. The Council will work with the recently established Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum to promote cycling.

In particular it will work with Kent County Council and the Campaign Forum to get in place as quickly as possible a cycle path along the Medway from Allington Lock to either Barming or Teston Bridge. This will provide a safe and pleasant route through the middle of the town and a safe artery for cycling into the town avoiding in particular Tonbridge Road, a notoriously difficult road for cycling along.

The Council reconfirms that it has currently allocated £1m towards this project and that Kent County Council has an allocation of £2m. If the scheme can be delivered under budget the Council will give consideration to use any balance (of its, MBC's, earmarked funds) towards further infrastructure for Cycling in the Borough.

19. Notice of Motion - Four Yearly Elections

Notice of the following motion has been given by Councillors Hogg, Black and Paine:

That the Council agrees to hold a referendum after the 2015 elections to allow the residents of the Borough of Maidstone to give their views on changing the way that the Council holds Borough elections.

Residents would be given the opportunity to show if they are in favour of having four yearly elections, and if more than 50% of the residents within the Borough are in favour, then the Council

should honour their wishes and vote conclusively to start the process for changeover.

Furthermore this will show the taxpaying residents in the Borough that the Council is trying to save money and staff time on the carrying out of the election process freeing staff up so to provide the services our residents deserve.

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| 20. | Report of the Head of Finance and Resources - Members' Allowance Scheme | 100 - 128 |
| 21. | Report of the Head of Finance and Resources - Calendar of Meetings 2015-2016 | 129 - 131 |
| 22. | Report of the Head of Finance and Resources - Urgent Decision Taken by the Executive | 132 - 133 |

PLEASE NOTE:

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO BRING WITH THEM TO THE MEETING THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT WHICH HAS BEEN CIRCULATED SEPARATELY:

APPENDIX TO THE REPORT OF THE COUNCILLOR WORKING GROUP RELATING TO A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE ON 25 FEBRUARY 2015

Present: Councillor Thick (The Mayor) and Councillors Ash, Black, Mrs Blackmore, Burton, Butler, Chittenden, Collins, Cox, Cuming, Daley, Ells, English, Garland, Mrs Gooch, Greer, Mrs Grigg, Harper, Harwood, Mrs Hinder, Hogg, Mrs Joy, Long, McKay, McLoughlin, Moriarty, B Mortimer, D Mortimer, Naghi, Newton, Paine, Mrs Parvin, Paterson, Perry, Pickett, Powell, Mrs Ring, Mrs Robertson, Ross, Round, Sams, Sargeant, Mrs Stockell, Vizzard, B Watson, de Wiggondene, Willis, J.A. Wilson and Mrs Wilson

110. COUNCILLOR PETER PARVIN

The Council stood in silence for one minute in memory of Councillor Peter Parvin who died on 27 January 2015.

111. PRAYERS

Prayers were said by Andrew Royal, United Reformed Church Minister.

112. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Fissenden, Munford, Springett and P Watson.

113. DISPENSATIONS

There were no applications for dispensations.

114. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

The Chief Executive, on behalf of herself and all other members of staff present, disclosed an interest in the report of the Member and Employment and Development Panel relating to the Pay Policy Statement.

115. DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING

All Members present stated that they had been lobbied regarding the question to be asked of the Leader of the Council by Mr Dave Witcher.

116. EXEMPT ITEMS

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

117. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2014

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Borough Council held on 10 December 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed.

118. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor and representatives of the five political groups paid tribute to Councillor Peter Parvin who passed away in January.

The Mayor then updated Members on recent/forthcoming events.

Following the announcements, Councillor Brian Mortimer presented a shield to the Mayor from the village of Montauban de Picardie which was adopted by the Borough after the First World War.

Note: Councillor Garland entered the meeting during the Mayor's announcements.

119. PETITIONS

Mrs Susan Hogg presented a petition in the following terms:

We, the undersigned, wish our park at Bridge Mill play area to remain with the bark surfacing, and not to be replaced with rubber surfacing, and do not want this play area to close.

In presenting the petition, Mrs Hogg said that:

- When the Bridge Mill play area was replaced a few years ago, it was designed so that the equipment enhanced the natural woodland setting by having a chip bark surface surrounded by wooden edges. The play area was well used by residents of Tovil and adjoining Wards. The purpose of the petition was to inform the Maidstone Borough Council Parks and Open Spaces Team that residents did not wish the bark surfacing to be replaced with rubber surfacing and did not want the play area to close.
- Local residents first heard about the proposal to replace the bark surfacing and the possibility of the play area being closed at a meeting of the Parish Council in January 2015 and through a local newspaper. The estimate which had been obtained was only to replace some of the surfacing and did not include the cost of taking away the old surfacing. The use of rubber surfacing elsewhere had resulted in the need for ongoing repairs due to the surfacing lifting up and breaking. There had been no official complaints about the use of bark surfacing at the Bridge Mill play area.

During the discussion on the petition, Members made a number of points, including:

- Funding for the renewal of the play area was raised by Councillor Derek Mortimer in conjunction with Tovil Parish Council some four years ago and included a Government grant obtained through Kent County Council and Section 106 monies from the Borough Council. Bark surfacing was chosen at that time as it was in keeping with the woodland surroundings. Also at that time there was a discussion about the possibility of ownership of the play area being transferred, in due course, from the Borough Council to the Parish Council. Since then, there had been a considerable reduction in the funding made available by the Borough Council to the Parish Council.
- A meeting was held recently between the Borough Council and the Parish Council to discuss the maintenance and future ownership of the play area. At that meeting, the Borough Council asked the Parish Council to consider supporting and helping to finance the change from bark surfacing to rubber surfacing which was considered to be more economic from a maintenance point of view. The view locally was that this change would be unacceptable.
- The play area was probably unique in design and style and one of the best medium sized play areas in Maidstone. The petition demonstrated the value placed on the excellent facility by parents and children.
- There were no plans to close this play area, which was classified as a strategic play area. The equipment was in good condition having been replaced some four years ago. The main issue related to the surfacing. The Borough Council maintained approximately 70 play areas with a total annual maintenance budget of around £28,000. The maintenance budget was not only for safety surfacing, but also for repairing the equipment and replacing items such as swing seats, fencing and gates. The petitioners wanted to see the bark surfacing retained, but it was very expensive to maintain and the cost of maintaining it formed a significant part of the overall maintenance budget. Discussions were taking place with the Parish Council and it was hoped that agreement could be reached regarding a cost effective solution.
- The information provided about the annual cost of maintaining the bark surface at Bridge Mill Way was different from that held by the Parish Council and should be checked by the local Members. It was necessary to ensure that the estimates obtained were accurate and comparable given experience to date about the expected life span of the alternative surface.
- The Parish Council spent approximately £800 last year topping up the bark surfacing and keeping the play area safe. The estimated cost of the new surfacing was £30k-£40k.
- A way forward might be the setting up of a Trust which would be able to use its charitable status to apply for funding for the upkeep of the play area and new equipment.

- It was anticipated that the Maidstone Play Strategy – A Strategy for Outdoor Equipped Play Areas would be submitted to the Cabinet Member for approval next month. It would cover two areas; a long term strategy and an immediate improvement programme, and had been the subject of extensive consultation.

RESOLVED: That the petition and the points raised in the debate be referred to the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services for consideration.

120. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Questions to the Leader of the Council

Mr Fergus Wilson asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

Should adverse reports about Maidstone Borough Council be reported to Members to be debated or should they be buried?

The Leader of the Council responded to the question.

Councillor Mrs Wilson, the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Mrs Gooch, the Leader of the Independent Group, Councillor Powell, the Leader of the UKIP Group, and Councillor McKay, the Leader of the Labour Group, then responded to the question.

Mr Wilson asked the following supplementary question of the Leader of the Council:

Is it the intention to report CHI/29UH/HIN/20124/0005 (24 Hedley Street) to Members?

The Leader of the Council responded to the question.

Councillor Mrs Wilson, the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Mrs Gooch, the Leader of the Independent Group, Councillor Powell, the Leader of the UKIP Group, and Councillor McKay, the Leader of the Labour Group, then responded to the question.

Mr Elliot Dean asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

The Local Plan is a document which I have heard described as key, vital and "should have been done yesterday". The Council's failure to deliver this key document has left the local economy, employment and the environment (to name a few) in a disastrous state. Can you explain why you have failed to deliver a Local Plan?

The Leader of the Council responded to the question.

Councillor Mrs Wilson, the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Mrs Gooch, the Leader of the Independent Group, Councillor Powell, the Leader of the

UKIP Group, and Councillor Harper, on behalf of the Leader of the Labour Group, then responded to the question.

Mr Elliot asked the following supplementary question of the Leader of the Council:

Bearing in mind this Council must demonstrate best value at all times, can you explain why external mediators are being used to deliver the Local Plan?

The Leader of the Council responded to the question and provided a further response having clarified the issue raised.

Councillor Mrs Wilson, the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Mrs Gooch, the Leader of the Independent Group, Councillor Powell, the Leader of the UKIP Group, and Councillor Harper, on behalf of the Leader of the Labour Group, responded to the question.

Mr Dave Witcher asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

Anyone who is taken to court for an alleged debt would expect to receive an original court sealed and signed liability order from a magistrates court and NOT just a notification sent from the Council.

It goes without saying that this matter clearly affects an increasing number of people who are becoming aware that a transparent due process operating between the Council and the magistrates courts does not appear to exist; resembling an in-house system.

When one approaches the Council they are directed to the magistrates court for the liability order and vice versa, nor do the civil procedure rules seem to apply, yet the criminal procedure rules are applied in their place to obtain a un-court sealed summons by the Council when it is in fact a civil matter NOT criminal matter; the summons are also not sealed by the magistrates court.

Is the Council aware that Section (3) of The Council Tax Administration and Enforcement Act states the following 'The amount in respect of which a liability order is made is enforceable in accordance with this Part; and accordingly for the purposes of any of the provisions of Part III of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (satisfaction and enforcement) it is NOT to be treated as a sum adjudged to be paid by order of the court.'

Does the Council have a transparency policy on Council Tax enforcement and do they follow due process to obtain and provide a properly constituted magistrates court sealed liability order for the people who the Council allege owe Council Tax and is this a sum adjudged to be by order of the magistrates court?

The Leader of the Council responded to the question.

Councillor Mrs Wilson, the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Mrs Gooch, the Leader of the Independent Group, Councillor Powell, the Leader of the UKIP Group, and Councillor McKay, the Leader of the Labour Group, then responded to the question.

Question to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transport and Development

Ms Geraldine Brown asked the following question of the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transport and Development:

Leaving to one side the development requirements for 963 new care home places, will the Borough's current residents welcome another 18,600 homes, implying another 30,000 or so residents?

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Transport and Development responded to the question.

Councillor Harwood, on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Mrs Gooch, the Leader of the Independent Group, Councillor Powell, the Leader of the UKIP Group, and Councillor McKay, the Leader of the Labour Group, then responded to the question.

The time allowed within the Council's Procedure Rules for questions by members of the public having expired, the Mayor announced that the remaining questions would be dealt with by written answers.

Note: To listen to the responses to these questions, please follow this link:

<http://live.webcasts.unique-media.tv/mbc243/interface>

121. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Question to the Leader of the Council

Councillor Sargeant asked the following question of the Leader of the Council:

In view of recent revelations from other authorities can we ensure that the interactions of Maidstone Borough Council with vulnerable residents and children are handled appropriately?

The Leader of the Council responded to the question.

Note: To listen to the response to this question, please follow this link:

<http://live.webcasts.unique-media.tv/mbc243/interface>

122. CURRENT ISSUES - REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, RESPONSE OF THE GROUP LEADERS AND QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

There was no report from the Leader of the Council on this occasion.

123. REPORT OF THE CABINET HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2014 - UPDATE ON MOTION REFERRED TO THE CABINET BY COUNCIL

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Mrs Ring, that the recommendation of the Cabinet relating to a motion referred to it by the Council be approved.

RESOLVED: That the action taken by the Cabinet in respect of the motion referred to it by the Council relating to the Waterside Park at Junction 8 decision and the update by Officers be noted.

124. REPORT OF THE CABINET HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2015 - DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2020

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Greer, that the recommendations of the Cabinet relating to the draft Strategic Plan 2015-2020 be approved.

RESOLVED:

1. That the draft Strategic Plan 2015-2020, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Cabinet, be approved.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to make minor amendments to the document as required.

Voting: 29 – For 1 – Against 19 - Abstentions

125. REPORT OF THE CABINET HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2015 - BUDGET STRATEGY 2015/16 ONWARDS

Before calling upon Councillor Mrs Blackmore to move the recommendations of the Cabinet relating to the Budget Strategy 2015/16 onwards, the Mayor reminded Members that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.4, each Group Leader could speak for up to ten minutes when moving his/her Group's budget proposals.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Blackmore, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin, that the recommendations of the Cabinet relating to the Budget Strategy 2015/16 onwards be approved.

Amendment moved by Councillor Mrs Wilson, seconded by Councillor Harwood:

That the recommendations of the Cabinet to the Council relating to the Budget Strategy 2015/16 onwards be approved subject to the amendment of recommendation 5 to read:

That the revenue estimates for 2015/16 incorporating the growth and savings items, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Cabinet, be agreed with the following amendments:

- a) That recognition of the service growth required to provide new housing is set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy through the provision of a budget of £40,000 to support the new service. For the budget year 2015/16 funding will be provided from the set aside of the projected under spend for 2014/15 that Cabinet has already approved for such use. For future budget years 2016/17 onwards this would be resourced from the income generated by the service.
- b) That a sum of £50,000 is set aside from the business rates growth identified in the 2015/16 budget to enable survey and feasibility work to be completed on one or more areas of the town centre that would benefit from regeneration and would provide a catalyst for further regeneration activity in the town.
- c) That 50% of the surplus generated from the litter enforcement activity of the Council be directed into new litter awareness work through a joint arrangement between the waste team and the community development team and that this work be focused on campaigns with school age children and young adults.

As a consequence of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a named vote was taken on the amendment as follows:

FOR (22)

Councillors Chittenden, Cox, Daley, English, Mrs Gooch, Mrs Grigg, Harwood, Mrs Joy, Long, Moriarty, B Mortimer, D Mortimer, Naghi, Newton, Paterson, Pickett, Mrs Robertson, Sams, Vizzard, B Watson, Willis and Mrs Wilson

AGAINST (19)

Councillors Mrs Blackmore, Burton, Butler, Collins, Cuming, Garland, Greer, Mrs Hinder, Hogg, Paine, Mrs Parvin, Perry, Mrs Ring, Ross, Round, Mrs Stockell, Thick, de Wiggondene and J.A. Wilson

ABSTAINED (8)

Councillors Ash, Black, Ells, Harper, McKay, McLoughlin, Powell and Sargeant

AMENDMENT CARRIED

The substantive motion was then put to the vote.

As a consequence of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a named vote was taken on the substantive motion as follows:

FOR (45)

Councillors Ash, Black, Mrs Blackmore, Burton, Butler, Chittenden, Collins, Cox, Cuming, Daley, Ells, English, Mrs Gooch, Greer, Mrs Grigg, Harper, Mrs Hinder, Mrs Joy, Long, McKay, McLoughlin, Moriarty, B Mortimer, D Mortimer, Naghi, Newton, Paine, Mrs Parvin, Paterson, Perry, Pickett, Powell, Mrs Ring, Mrs Robertson, Ross, Round, Sams, Sargeant, Mrs Stockell, Thick, Vizzard, B Watson, de Wiggondene, Willis and Mrs Wilson

AGAINST (3)

Councillors Garland, Hogg and J.A. Wilson

ABSTAINED (1)

Councillor Harwood

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION CARRIED

RESOLVED:

1. That the future production of the budget book should be linked to the Council's priorities as detailed in the Strategic Plan and as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Cabinet (circulated separately).
2. That the revised revenue estimates for 2014/15, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Cabinet, be agreed.
3. That the minimum level of General Fund Balances be set at £2m for 2015/16.
4. That the proposed Council Tax of £235.71 at Band D for 2015/16 be agreed.
5. That the revenue estimates for 2015/16 incorporating the growth and savings items, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Cabinet, be agreed with the following amendments:
 - a) That recognition of the service growth required to provide new housing is set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy through the provision of a budget of £40,000 to support the new service. For the budget year 2015/16 funding will be provided from the set aside of the projected under spend for 2014/15 that Cabinet has already approved for such use. For future budget years 2016/17 onwards this would be resourced from the income generated by the service.

- b) That a sum of £50,000 is set aside from the business rates growth identified in the 2015/16 budget to enable survey and feasibility work to be completed on one or more areas of the town centre that would benefit from regeneration and would provide a catalyst for further regeneration activity in the town.
 - c) That 50% of the surplus generated from the litter enforcement activity of the Council be directed into new litter awareness work through a joint arrangement between the waste team and the community development team and that this work be focused on campaigns with school age children and young adults.
6. That the Statement of Earmarked Reserves and General Fund Balances, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Cabinet, be agreed.
 7. That the Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Cabinet, be agreed.
 8. That the funding of the Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Cabinet, be agreed.
 9. That the Medium Term Financial Strategy, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Cabinet, be agreed.
 10. That the Strategic Revenue Projection, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Cabinet, be endorsed as the basis for future financial planning.
 11. That it be noted that the Council's Council Tax Base for the year 2015/16 has been calculated as 56974.3 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992.
 12. That it be noted that in accordance with Government guidance the yield from business rates has been calculated as £58,252,075.
 13. That it be noted that the individual Parish Area Tax Bases set out in Appendix B are calculated in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, and are the amounts of the Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of the Council's area to which a special item relates.
 14. That the distribution of Local Council Tax Support funding to Parish Councils, as set out in Appendix C, be approved.
 15. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2015/16 (excluding Parish precepts) is £13,429,412.
 16. That the following amounts now be calculated by the Council for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34-36 of the

Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011:

- (a) £80,506,490 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
- (b) £65,683,120 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £14,823,370 being the amount by which the aggregate at 16(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 16(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).
- (d) £260.18 being the amount at 16(c) above (Item R), all divided by the figure stated at 11 above (Item T in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- (e) £1,393,958 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix B).
- (f) £235.71 being the amount at 16(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 16(e) above by the Tax Base given in 11 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

17. That it be noted that for the year 2015/16 Kent County Council, the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner and the Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

<u>Valuation Bands</u>	<u>KCC</u> <u>£</u>	<u>KPCC</u> <u>£</u>	<u>KMFRA</u> <u>£</u>
A	726.66	98.10	47.10
B	847.77	114.45	54.95
C	968.88	130.80	62.80
D	1,089.99	147.15	70.65
E	1,332.21	179.85	86.35
F	1,574.43	212.55	102.05
G	1,816.65	245.25	117.75
H	2,179.98	294.30	141.30

18. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 16 (d), and 17 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets out in Appendix D, the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2015/16 for each of the categories of dwellings shown.

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

126. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was adjourned from 8.55 p.m. to 9.05 p.m.

127. REPORT OF THE CABINET HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2015 - TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2015/16

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Black, that the recommendation of the Cabinet relating to the Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16 be approved.

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16 and related Appendices, all attached to the report of the Cabinet, be adopted.

128. REPORT OF THE MEMBER AND EMPLOYMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2015 - PAY POLICY STATEMENT

It was moved by Councillor McLoughlin, seconded by Councillor Black, that the recommendations of the Member and Employment and Development Panel relating to the Pay Policy Statement be approved.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Pay Policy Statement, attached as Appendix B to the report of the Member and Employment and Development Panel, be approved for publication on the Council's website after 31 March 2015.

2. That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to update the Pay Policy Statement with the pay figures at the end of the financial year, prior to publication.

129. ORAL REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2015

It was noted that there was no report arising from the meeting of the Economic and Commercial Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24 February 2015.

130. NOTICE OF MOTION - LIVING WAGE

The following motion was moved by Councillor Harper, seconded by Councillor McKay:

As a result of the cost of living crises since 2010, wage levels have not generally kept pace with prices. This is more exacerbated for lower earners.

The independently verified Living Wage represents the minimum hourly wage someone can live on at a basic level and ensures that those in full-time work are guaranteed a decent standard of living.

The Maidstone economy has a large element of lower paid unskilled jobs.

To demonstrate THIS Council's commitment to the Living Wage, the Council agrees the following:

1. To note that the Council employs all its staff above the level of the Living Wage and to advertise the fact to encourage other employers as a good example;
2. To investigate with the Living Wage Foundation the implications of being an accredited Living Wage Employer and to receive a report back to a future Council Meeting on this;
3. To ask the Council's Officers to undertake an audit of all Council contractors and sub-contractors to establish if they pay any staff below the Living Wage;
4. If any contractor/sub-contractor is paying below the Living Wage, to review the impact of bringing their lowest paid staff to the Living Wage;
5. To investigate the policy of the Royal Borough of Greenwich to offer discounted business rates to local companies who commit to paying their workers the Living Wage. This is aimed to encourage local businesses looking at making the change to the Living Wage, to supporting local communities and the local economy in general;

6. To apply the Living Wage to apprentices in its employment (as the young should not be discriminated against); and, where they are paid less currently, to prepare an action plan on how this will be remedied and also to undertake a similar exercise with its contractors and sub-contractors; and
7. To recommend that Kent County Council and other members of the Mid-Kent Consortium take similar measures.

RESOLVED: That the motion, having been moved and seconded, be referred to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, as the Cabinet Member responsible, for consideration.

131. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES - MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Black, that the recommendations contained in the report of the Head of Finance and Resources relating to Members' Allowances be approved.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Group Leaders' Allowance (other than the Leaders' Allowance) be determined based upon how many Members there are in their respective parties as set out in the report of the Head of Finance and Resources.
2. That Members be eligible to receive the same percentage increase in their allowances as the Council's members of staff receive each year and that this should include Dependant Carer's Allowance and Non-Councillors' Allowances.
3. That the issue relating to a Special Responsibility Allowance for Vice-Chairmen be deferred for further consideration by the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel at the full review in March 2015.

132. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES - HARRIETSHAM PARISH COUNCIL - INCREASE IN NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor English, that the recommendation contained in the report of the Head of Finance and Resources relating to the proposed increase in the number of Parish Councillors on Harrietsham Parish Council be approved.

RESOLVED: That an Order be made under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to increase the number of Parish Councillors on Harrietsham Parish Council from nine to eleven.

133. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES - COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Hogg, that the recommendation contained in the report of the Head of Finance and Resources relating to the membership of Committees be approved.

RESOLVED: That the following changes be approved to reflect the wishes of the Leader of the Independent Group:

Community, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Members

Delete Councillor Munford. Insert Councillor Newton.

Substitute Members

Delete Councillor Newton. Insert Councillor Munford.

Planning, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Members

Delete Councillor Munford. Insert Councillor Mrs Gooch.

Substitute Members

Delete Councillor Mrs Gooch. Insert Councillor Munford.

134. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR SELECT 2015/16

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Gooch, seconded by Councillor B Mortimer, supported by Councillors Sargeant, McKay and Collins and:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Daniel Moriarty be appointed as Mayor Select for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

135. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR SELECT 2015/16

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Naghi, supported by Councillors Mrs Gooch, Sargeant and McKay and:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Derek Butler be appointed as Deputy Mayor Select for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

136. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCILCOUNCIL TAX 2015/2016Schedule of Council Tax Base and Additional Basic Amounts ofCouncil Tax in parts of the area with Parish Precepts

PARISH	TAX BASE	PRECEPT £	BAND 'D' TAX £
Parish	Tax Base	Precept	Band 'D' Tax
Barming	719.9	24,175	33.58
Bearsted	3,572.3	96,800	27.10
Boughton Malherbe	213.8	5,131	24.00
Boughton Monchelsea	1,241.6	51,600	41.56
Boxley	3,822.0	98,481	25.77
Bredhurst	173.2	8,808	50.85
Broomfield & Kingswood	697.0	55,500	79.63
Chart Sutton	409.3	20,500	50.09
Collier Street	346.2	13,163	38.02
Coxheath	1,480.0	60,350	40.78
Detling	367.0	20,603	56.14
Downswood	814.3	26,500	32.54
East Sutton	141.2	6,300	44.62
Farleigh East	646.5	31,514	48.75
Farleigh West	213.6	16,000	74.91
Harrietsham	925.3	50,892	55.00
Headcorn	1,471.5	119,028	80.89
Hollingbourne	431.9	22,600	52.33
Hunton	307.5	20,000	65.04
Langley	483.4	16,958	35.08
Leeds	318.4	28,851	90.61
Lenham	1,363.8	55,765	40.89
Linton	242.9	11,658	48.00
Loose	1,080.8	62,324	57.66
Marden	1,492.3	94,015	63.00
Nettlestead	299.8	13,769	45.93
Otham	213.4	9,180	43.02
Staplehurst	2,247.1	123,552	54.98
Stockbury	313.1	13,342	42.61
Sutton Valence	640.6	42,542	66.41
Teston	311.6	21,425	68.76
Thurnham	540.3	16,692	30.89
Tovil	1,209.0	64,000	52.94
Ulcombe	374.2	19,217	51.35
Yalding	904.1	52,723	58.32

BUDGET 2015/16

PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING FOR LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT FUNDING

Name	LCTS in Tax		Loss of CT due to LCTS	Proposed Grant	Grant	
	Base	Band D			2014/15	Difference
Barming	27.4	32.94	903	724	902	- 178
Bearsted	155.3	27.12	4,212	3,376	4,463	- 1,087
Boughton Malherbe	12.8	23.56	302	242	305	- 63
Boughton Monchelsea	77.7	40.74	3,165	2,537	2,899	- 362
Boxley	125.6	24.34	3,057	2,450	3,425	- 975
Bredhurst	12.3	51.83	638	511	735	- 224
Broomfield & Kingswood	37.7	80.1	3,020	2,420	2,587	- 167
Chart Sutton	29	50.8	1,473	1,181	1,695	- 514
Collier Street	13.7	37.82	518	415	377	38
Coxheath	146.5	41.08	6,018	4,823	5,895	- 1,072
Detling	33.9	56.56	1,917	1,537	1,905	- 368
Downswood	55	30.04	1,652	1,324	1,629	- 305
East Sutton	3.5	43.86	154	123	101	22
Farleigh East	54.6	47.45	2,591	2,076	2,570	- 494
Farleigh West	18.8	65.35	1,229	985	1,032	- 47
Harrietsham	70.1	51.65	3,621	2,902	2,820	82
Headcorn	133.8	64.92	8,686	6,962	7,308	- 346
Hollingbourne	34.5	36.15	1,247	999	1,302	- 303
Hunton	18.4	57.1	1,051	842	1,061	- 219
Langley	54.8	35.08	1,922	1,541	2,085	- 544
Leeds	42.2	84.09	3,549	2,844	3,255	- 411
Lenham	118.2	40.89	4,833	3,873	5,148	- 1,275
Linton	20.6	44.12	909	728	736	- 8
Loose	66.8	55.02	3,675	2,945	3,328	- 383
Marden	162.3	52.74	8,560	6,860	8,854	- 1,994
Nettlestead	52.4	45.36	2,377	1,905	2,117	- 212
Otham	16.9	39.88	674	540	721	- 181
Staplehurst	156.3	54.93	8,586	6,880	6,846	34
Stockbury	32.6	39.5	1,288	1,032	1,260	- 228
Sutton Valence	47.1	47.45	2,235	1,791	1,960	- 169
Teston	19.6	67.41	1,321	1,059	1,223	- 164
Thurnham	9.4	30.08	283	227	337	- 110
Tovil	163.3	57.9	9,455	7,576	9,417	- 1,841
Ulcombe	24	47.5	1,140	914	901	13
Yalding	107.8	56.48	6,089	4,880	5,603	- 723
	2154.9	£1,662	£102,350	£82,024	£96,802	-£14,778

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL TAX 2015/2016

Schedule of Council Tax Levels for all Bands

and all Parts of the Area including District Spending and all Precepts.

	Band A Total £	Band B Total £	Band C Total £	Band D Total £	Band E Total £	Band F Total £	Band G Total £	Band H Total £
Parish	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Barming	1,051.39	1,226.62	1,401.85	1,577.08	1,927.54	2,278.01	2,628.47	3,154.16
Bearsted	1,047.06	1,221.58	1,396.09	1,570.60	1,919.62	2,268.64	2,617.66	3,141.19
Boughton Malherbe	1,045.00	1,219.17	1,393.33	1,567.50	1,915.83	2,264.16	2,612.50	3,135.00
Boughton Monchelsea	1,056.71	1,232.82	1,408.94	1,585.06	1,937.29	2,289.53	2,641.77	3,170.12
Boxley	1,046.18	1,220.54	1,394.90	1,569.27	1,917.99	2,266.72	2,615.44	3,138.53
Bredhurst	1,062.90	1,240.05	1,417.20	1,594.35	1,948.65	2,302.96	2,657.26	3,188.71
Broomfield & Kingswood	1,082.08	1,262.43	1,442.78	1,623.13	1,983.82	2,344.52	2,705.21	3,246.25
Chart Sutton	1,062.39	1,239.46	1,416.52	1,593.59	1,947.72	2,301.85	2,655.98	3,187.17
Collier Street	1,054.35	1,230.07	1,405.80	1,581.52	1,932.97	2,284.42	2,635.87	3,163.04
Coxheath	1,056.18	1,232.22	1,408.25	1,584.28	1,936.34	2,288.40	2,640.46	3,168.55
Detling	1,066.43	1,244.16	1,421.90	1,599.64	1,955.11	2,310.59	2,666.06	3,199.28
Downswood	1,050.70	1,225.81	1,400.93	1,576.04	1,926.28	2,276.51	2,626.74	3,152.09
East Sutton	1,058.75	1,235.20	1,411.66	1,588.12	1,941.03	2,293.95	2,646.86	3,176.24
Farleigh East	1,061.50	1,238.41	1,415.33	1,592.25	1,946.08	2,299.91	2,653.74	3,184.49
Farleigh West	1,078.94	1,258.76	1,438.58	1,618.41	1,978.05	2,337.70	2,697.34	3,236.81
Harrietsham	1,065.67	1,243.28	1,420.89	1,598.50	1,953.72	2,308.95	2,664.17	3,197.00
Headcorn	1,082.93	1,263.41	1,443.90	1,624.39	1,985.36	2,346.34	2,707.31	3,248.78
Hollingbourne	1,063.88	1,241.20	1,418.51	1,595.83	1,950.46	2,305.08	2,659.71	3,191.65
Hunton	1,072.36	1,251.09	1,429.81	1,608.54	1,965.99	2,323.45	2,680.90	3,217.08
Langley	1,052.39	1,227.78	1,403.18	1,578.58	1,929.38	2,280.17	2,630.97	3,157.16
Leeds	1,089.41	1,270.98	1,452.54	1,634.11	1,997.25	2,360.38	2,723.52	3,268.22
Lenham	1,056.26	1,232.30	1,408.35	1,584.39	1,936.48	2,288.56	2,640.65	3,168.78
Linton	1,061.00	1,237.83	1,414.66	1,591.50	1,945.16	2,298.83	2,652.49	3,182.99
Loose	1,067.44	1,245.35	1,423.26	1,601.16	1,956.98	2,312.79	2,668.61	3,202.33
Marden	1,071.00	1,249.50	1,428.00	1,606.50	1,963.50	2,320.50	2,677.50	3,213.00
Nettlestead	1,059.62	1,236.22	1,412.82	1,589.43	1,942.63	2,295.84	2,649.05	3,178.86
Otham	1,057.68	1,233.96	1,410.24	1,586.52	1,939.08	2,291.64	2,644.20	3,173.04
Staplehurst	1,065.66	1,243.26	1,420.87	1,598.48	1,953.70	2,308.92	2,664.14	3,196.97
Stockbury	1,057.41	1,233.64	1,409.88	1,586.11	1,938.58	2,291.05	2,643.52	3,172.23
Sutton Valence	1,073.27	1,252.15	1,431.03	1,609.91	1,967.67	2,325.43	2,683.18	3,219.82
Teston	1,074.84	1,253.98	1,433.12	1,612.26	1,970.54	2,328.82	2,687.10	3,224.52
Thurnham	1,049.60	1,224.53	1,399.46	1,574.39	1,924.26	2,274.12	2,623.99	3,148.79
Tovil	1,064.29	1,241.67	1,419.05	1,596.44	1,951.20	2,305.96	2,660.73	3,192.87
Ulcombe	1,063.24	1,240.44	1,417.65	1,594.85	1,949.27	2,303.68	2,658.09	3,189.71
Yalding	1,067.88	1,245.86	1,423.84	1,601.82	1,957.77	2,313.73	2,669.69	3,203.63
Basic Level of Tax	1,029.00	1,200.50	1,372.00	1,543.50	1,886.50	2,229.50	2,572.50	3,087.00

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

22 APRIL 2015

REPORT OF THE CABINET HELD ON 14 APRIL 2015

MAIDSTONE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2013 – 2018 ANNUAL REFRESH 2015-16

Issue for Decision

The Council is asked to approve the refreshed Community Safety Partnership Plan 2015-16.

Recommendation Made

That the refreshed Community Safety Partnership Plan 2015-16 attached at Appendix A, be approved.

Reasons for Recommendation

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Housing and Community Services setting out the refreshed Community Safety Partnership Plan 2015-16. In accordance with the Borough Council's Constitution, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy, 'Maidstone Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013 – 2018' must be put before full Council for approval.

Feedback from the public consultation undertaken between December 2014 to February 2015 and recommendations from the Community, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Communities Committee in March 2015 have been incorporated into the Maidstone Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013 – 2018 to provide a strategic framework to deliver the priorities, which have been reviewed and determined using evidenced based information, including comparative county-wide performance, through the annual Strategic Assessment. Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee included a request for more detailed Foreword and Background and Context sections explaining the purpose of the Community Safety Plan, a brief profile of the Maidstone Borough and clarification that the Town Centre is part of the wider High Street Ward.

The Cabinet also wished to make clear that the current PCC for Kent, Ann Barnes, was appointed in November 2012 and will remain in office for a period of 3½ years.

Alternative Action and Why not Recommended

The alternative would be not to approve the refreshed Community Safety Partnership Plan. However, the Partnership Plan contributes towards the Council's statutory requirement to reduce crime under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act. It is a statutory legal requirement for the Plan to be

approved by full Council.

Background Papers
Strategic Assessment 2014-15



Safer Maidstone Partnership

Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013–2018

'Delivering Safer Communities'

DRAFT - Refreshed April 2015

1. Foreword

- 1.1 Welcome to the annual refresh of the Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP) Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2015-16, which outlines how we are going to collectively tackle community safety issues in the Maidstone borough. This Plan sets out our performance over the last 12 months, identifies priority areas for the next year and outlines what we are going to do to improve them.
- 1.2 The SMP brings together a number of agencies and organisations concerned with tackling and reducing crime and antisocial behaviour in the Maidstone borough. Some organisations, like the Borough Council and the police, are statutory members, but voluntary groups and businesses are also represented and play an important role.
- 1.3 Our key role is to understand the kind of community safety issues Maidstone is experiencing; decide which of these are the most important to deal with; and then decide what actions we can take collectively, adding value to the day-to-day work undertaken by our individual agencies and organisations.
- 1.4 We detail these actions in our Community Safety Plan. It is now time to look at everything afresh to make sure we are on track and working on the priorities that are relevant to the different communities within Maidstone. To help us do this we commissioned a Strategic Assessment in October 2014. This Strategic Assessment looked at the range of detailed information that exists about crime, disorder, substance abuse and other community safety matters affecting Maidstone. In the light of this information the assessment makes recommendations about how best to keep the Community Safety Plan priorities on track for the next year. In producing our plan we have been mindful of the pledges and priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner in her crime plan.
- 1.5 The Plan considers not only the Strategic Assessment, but also consults with partners who share a local knowledge of the borough's wealth of urban and rural places, a relatively robust economy, including the largest night-time economy offer in Kent, alongside growing and diverse communities.
- 1.6 Given the success of the partnership over several years, with year on year reductions in overall crime, now was a good time to concentrate on some

longer term strategic issues. Given the evidence presented in the Strategic Assessment and the response from partners, we decided on a set of 5 strategic priorities, 4 subsidiary priorities and tactical issues such as alcohol-related violent crime with the town centre, embedding new ways of work around the new antisocial behaviour legislation and continuing to track and track and support County led work on domestic abuse (with local work around awareness raising and training).

- 1.7 Crime data collated for this year's Plan has been affected by changes to how crime is recorded. The Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime were revised last year to address a lack of consistency in recording practices across police services. From 1 April 2013, the Home Office split 'All Crime' into 2 main groups: Victim-Based Crime and Crimes Against Society.
- 1.8 In 2013, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent commissioned Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to conduct an inspection "to determine whether the people of Kent can have confidence in Kent Police's crime figures". As a result, recorded crime totals have been 'added back', resulting in increased crime levels in Kent since recording practices were revised. Published data is no longer compared to the same time period as the previous year, but instead compared against anticipated volumes which have been calculated using the seasonality of crimes during the past 5 year period.
- 1.9 The Kent Crime and Victimization Survey, a telephone survey of randomly selected households across Kent, has also been subject to change. The survey no longer reviews perceptions of crime and ASB, but instead asks how well Kent Police has responded and measures public confidence in the Police and Criminal Justice System.
- 1.10 In Maidstone, the overall pattern of increased volume of reported crime follows the trend identified for the six months April to September 2013 in last year's Plan. Total crime over the last year (October 2013 to September 2014) has seen a rise of 5.8% (equating to 513 more offences being equated across the borough), whilst recorded victim-based crime has increased by 5.3% (424) ranking Maidstone in 4th place out of 12 districts in crimes per 1,000 population.
- 1.11 During 2013-14, the biggest increases were in reported incidents of; assaults resulting in hospital admissions +35.4% (an increase from 48 in 65 admissions); violence against the person +24.4% (an increase from 1889 in 2012/13 to 2349 in 2013/14; domestic abuse incidents +14.5% (an increase from 1784 in 2012/13 to 2043 in 2013/14), number of repeat domestic abuse victims +23.1% (an increase from 416 in 2012/13 to 512 in 2013/14) and sexual offences +20.9% (an increase from 168 in 2012/13 to 203 in 2013/14).
- 1.12 Against this background of an overall increase in reported crime, certain crime categories experienced a fall in reported incidents, notably Anti-Social Behaviour which experienced a fall of 8.6% (347 incidents), this in addition to a fall the previous year of 18.2% (897 incidents). Other crime categories which experienced reductions during 2013-14 include Burglary Dwelling (-5.6%, equating to 28 fewer incidents), Burglary Other (-6.4%), Drug Offences (-8.7%, equating to 41 fewer incidents), Theft from a Motor

Vehicle (-20.1% or 121 fewer incidents) and Metal Theft (-53.5% or 91 fewer incidents).

1.13 Over the past three years 2011-12 to 2013-14 crime in Maidstone has risen from a low of 7,372 to 8,457 per year, although the caveats set out in paragraph must be noted. The Partnership has achieved this by delivering actions contained within last year's plan.

1.14 Data analysis however identifies that we continue to face challenges across our district. The Plan is informed by a Strategic Assessment that looks at current data and trends to identify the priorities for the Borough in reducing and tackling crime and disorder. This year the SMP has agreed to focus on five key issues and these are:

- Antisocial Behaviour
- Reducing Re-offending
- Road Safety (killed or seriously injured)
- Substance Misuse
- Violent Crime - domestic abuse
- Violent Crime - night-time economy

1.15 Additionally the strategic assessment process has identified four subsidiary priorities:

- Safeguarding, educating and engaging young people
- Hoarding and Self Neglect
- Legal Highs
- Victim Support and Restorative Justice

1.16 Each priority is led by an agency which is responsible for championing positive outcomes based on an agreed action plan. The plans are included in this document (see Action Plan). We are working to ensure that the SMP adds value to the crime and disorder agenda, improving engagement of partners and how they contribute to the priority outcomes agreed for the partnership.

2. Background and Context

- 2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, changed the way crime and antisocial behaviour was to be tackled, as it recognised that in order to be effective, agencies needed to work together to address the issues collectively. Each local area formed a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) which are now called Community Safety Partnerships.
- 2.2 The Safer Maidstone Partnership is made up of Responsible Authorities (those bodies for whom membership of the CSP is a statutory obligation) and voluntary members. Our statutory partners are: Maidstone Borough Council, Kent County Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Probation services and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (which have the responsibility for health services locally). We also work with a large number of public and private sector partners as well as voluntary and community groups to collectively implement and deliver initiatives that will help all areas of the Maidstone borough become a safe place to live, work and visit.
- 2.3 The Maidstone Community Safety Plan 2013-18 is a rolling five year document, which highlights how the CSP plans to tackle community safety issues that matter to the local community. This plan is revised annually through reviewing information provided from a wide range of organisations in a strategic assessment, to ensure that current issues can be taken into account into the activities undertaken by the CSP. The Plan seeks to promote a more holistic approach, with a greater emphasis on prevention and harm reduction. For example, the harm done by alcohol has far reaching consequences that go beyond potential disorder and violence in the night-time economy; the implications for health and wellbeing have also to be taken into account; with their longer term implications.

3. Organisational changes – a local overview

3.1 Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP)

The SMP brings together people from local government, the NHS, the police, the fire service, probation, local businesses, housing providers and voluntary and community organisations to work as a team to tackle issues such as crime, education, health, housing, unemployment and the environment in Maidstone Borough. SMP membership is made up of the public sector agencies including Kent County Council, Maidstone Borough Council, Kent Police, Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, NHS Health Trusts, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and Probation services and also incorporates members from other key partners including Maidstone Mediation, CRI, Golding Homes and Town Centre Management. The SMP is currently chaired by Alison Broom, Chief Executive of Maidstone Borough Council.

3.2 Community Safety Unit

The Maidstone Community Safety Unit (CSU) continues to grow. In recent years, existing Borough Council and Kent Police staff have been joined by partners from Kent Community Wardens, Trading Standards and local housing Registered Providers, such as Golding Homes. In 2014, the Borough Council's licensing team relocated to the CSU. Increasing the range of partners working as part of the CSU is a key priority to ensure community safety related issues are tackled holistically.

3.3 Kent Police

Three policing divisions, **East**, **West** and **North** ensure local policing is at the heart of the new Policing model and there has been a significant increase in neighbourhood constables and sergeants to provide strong local leadership across the county. In line with Central Government's cycle of budget reviews, Kent Police's next Comprehensive Spending Review is due to take place in 2015 and will see budgets reduced further, supported by a focus to commit to maximising the number of officers in frontline roles and continuous improvement through innovation and technology.

3.4 Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

PCC's are responsible for the appointment of Chief Constables, holding them to account for the running of the force, setting out a Police and Crime Plan based on local priorities, setting the local precept and force budget and making grants to external organisations. The current PCC for Kent, Ann Barnes, was appointed in November 2012 and will remain in office for a period of 3½ years.

The PCC has pledged to continue to support a number of agencies through the main policing grant and has announced her commitment to her wider duties around crime and community safety. Funding for Community Safety Partnerships has been confirmed for 2015/16 and will be used to address our local priorities. The PCC has announced that there will be no in year targets and that there will be a focus on encouraging sustainable improvements in performance.

The Kent Police & Crime Plan is a four year plan from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2017 and is refreshed annually. The plan sets out the Commissioner's vision and priorities for policing in the county which includes placing victims first, focusing on reducing crime and anti-social

behaviour and protecting the public from harm. To achieve the aims set out in the plan the following strategic priorities are set out:

- Cutting crime & catching criminals
- Ensuring visible community policing is at the heart of Kent’s Policing model
- Putting victims and witnesses first
- Protecting the public from serious harm
- Meeting national commitments for policing
- Delivering value for money

The plan also references a commitment to working closely with community safety and criminal justice agencies across the county to ensure that a seamless service is provided to victims of crime and anti-social behaviour, with a particular focus on:

- Tackling the root causes of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reducing re-offending and repeat victimisation
- Improving joined up working between agencies

3.5 New powers to deal with Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)

The Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 came into force in September 2014. The Act brings a number of changes to the tools and powers available to organisations, agencies and practitioners who tackle Anti-Social Behaviour. The overarching aim of the Act is to provide more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB), protect victims and communities and treat the underlying behaviour of perpetrators. The intended practical effect of the Act is to:

- Give victims and communities more power to define and respond to ASB, and impose positive requirements on perpetrators to address the causes of their behaviour.
- The Act also focuses on giving better witness satisfaction and making agencies more accountable to witnesses and communities when they fail to act.

The Act replaces 19 existing powers dealing with anti-social behaviour with 6 broader powers, streamlining procedures to allow a quicker response to ASB. The table below summarises the changes:

Tools with People	
Existing	To be replaced by
ASBO	Criminal Behaviour Order
ASBO on conviction	
Drink Banning Order	
Drink Banning Order on Conviction	Injunction
ASB Injunction	
Individual Support Order	
Intervention Order	
Tools for Places	
Existing	To be replaced by
Litter Clearing Notice	Community Protection Notice
Street Litter Clearing Notice	
Graffiti/Defacement Removal Notice	
Designated Public Places Order	Public Spaces Protection Order
Gating Order	

Dog Control Order	
Premises Closure Order	Closure of Premises
Crack House Closure Order	
Noisy Premises Closure Order	
s161 Closure Order	
Police Powers	
Existing	To be replaced by
s30 Dispersal Order	Dispersal Powers
s27 Direction to Leave	

The Act has also made available two new measures to make agencies more accountable to witnesses and communities when agencies fail to act, and to give victims better outcomes:

- The 'Community Trigger' which will impose a duty on the statutory partners in a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to take action in cases where victims or communities have complained about ASB on a number of occasions or when a number of people report the same ASB and it is perceived that local agencies have failed to respond.
- A 'Community Remedy' which uses a restorative justice approach to deal with low level crime and antisocial behaviour.

3.6 Maidstone Families Matter

The Government has placed a significant focus on tackling the 'Troubled Families' agenda. The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) defines a troubled family as one that has multiple and complex needs, including parents not working and children not in school, and causes serious problems, such as youth crime and anti-social behaviour. Any family that meets the first three criteria (crime/anti-social behaviour, education and work) will automatically be part of the programme (there is also a fourth filter, 'local discretion' – in Maidstone the additional criteria is domestic abuse and substance misuse). The programme involves:

- Getting children back into school
- Reducing youth crime and anti-social behaviour
- Putting adults on a path back to work
- Reducing the estimated £9 billion these families cost the public sector each year

The Maidstone Troubled Families programme has been named 'Maidstone Families Matter' and is being led through a Locality Programme Manager, with dedicated Family Intervention Project Managers being provided through KCA.

3.7 West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group

Since 1 April 2013, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) have become 'responsible authorities' on CSP's. Schedule 5, Paragraph 84 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 replaces primary care trusts with clinical commissioning groups as responsible authorities on CSP's from April 2013. This means that the CCG's now have a statutory responsibility to work in partnership with other responsible authorities to tackle crime and disorder. The act places a duty on CCG's to:

- Participate in a strategic assessment of crime and disorder, anti social behaviour, and drug and alcohol misuse for the CSP area or areas in which they fall.

- Contribute to the development of local strategies that effectively deal with the issues identified.

Joining their local CSP's gives CCG's more influence in shaping local action to tackle crime and the causes of crime, for example the delivery of action on drugs, alcohol, crime and disorder.

3.8 Health and Wellbeing Board

The West Kent Health and Wellbeing Board brings together key organisations and representatives of the public to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of West Kent. It has been set up in West Kent as part of the recent national health and social care reforms. Kent Public Health alongside the four West Kent authorities (Maidstone Borough Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council), West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group, (who are responsible under the reforms for commissioning health services locally) and patient and public representatives are all part of this Board. The key themes for health and wellbeing are drawn from the West Kent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

3.9 Care Act 2014 - Safeguarding

The Act will reform the law relating to care and support for adults and support for carers. It will make provision about safeguarding adults from abuse or neglect; care standards and; establish and make provision about Health Education England and the Health Research Authority. The new legislation will affect safeguarding investigations, governance and information sharing.

In relation to safeguarding, the Care Act will do the following:

- Make safeguarding adults boards statutory;
- Make safeguarding enquiries a corporate duty for councils;
- Make serious case reviews mandatory when certain triggering situations have occurred and the parties believe that safeguarding failures have had a part to play;
- Place duties to co-operate over the supply of information on relevant agencies;
- Place a duty on councils to fund advocacy for assessment and safeguarding for people who do not have anyone else to speak up for them;
- Abolish, on human rights grounds, councils' power to remove people from insanitary conditions under section 47 of the National Assistance Act, albeit with recourse to the Public Health Act still possible for nearly the same outcome;
- Re-enact existing duties to protect people's property when in residential care or hospital;
- Place a duty of candour on providers about failings in hospital and care settings, and create a new offence for providers of supplying false or misleading information, in the case of information they are legally obliged to provide.

Detailed guidance is promised as to all the steps that can be taken in law, by government, in time for the coming into force of the Care Act 2014 (April 2015 for the safeguarding measures), but not necessarily for the training period that will precede it.

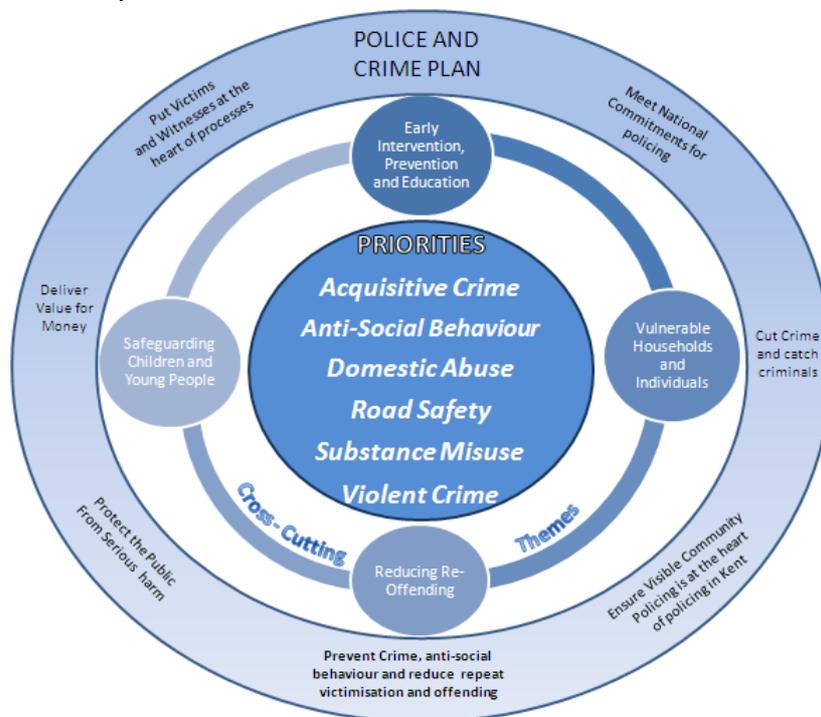
3.10 Probation Services

Throughout 2014, the Ministry of Justice has been working with Probation Trusts to prepare for the implementation of new structures under the Transforming Rehabilitation Programme. The programme sees the creation of a new National Probation Service (NPS) working with high risk offenders and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) managing medium and low risk offenders. The preferred bidder for the Kent, Surrey and Sussex CRC has been announced as Seetec Business Technology Centre. The Transforming Rehabilitation reforms include a number of sentencing changes, which may impact on CSP re-offending data in the future. The changes that have been enacted in the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 include most importantly, the extension of supervision of Licence after release to all offenders who receive a custodial sentence of less than 12 months; extending probation supervision to the 50,000 offenders sentenced each year to less than 12 months. This is a cohort of offenders with whom Probation Trusts have never worked with, as this cohort of offenders has never before been subject to statutory supervision.

4. The Kent County Perspective

4.1 The Community Safety Agreement (CSA) for 2014-17 outlines the key community safety priorities for Kent and replaces the previous agreement which expired on 31st March 2014. Data analysis, partnership consultation and examination of the most recent local strategic assessments indicated that the priorities and most of the cross-cutting themes identified in the 2011-14 Agreement should remain, and would continue to benefit from support at a county level.

The common issues and priorities from the District-level strategic assessments have been identified and key stakeholders consulted to identify any potential gaps and cross-cutting themes for inclusion in the agreement. Thus, the diagram below not only includes the priorities and cross-cutting themes for the CSA but also shows the strategic priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan, illustrating the importance of integrating the work of all partners:



5. 2015 Strategic Assessment summary

- 5.1 Each year the Safer Maidstone Partnership has to produce a Strategic Assessment of the district to identify any crime and disorder trends, which can then be used to inform the priority planning for the coming year. It basically ensures we are focusing our efforts collectively on the areas that are most in need. This is done by analysing data and intelligence reports from the previous year, which is usually 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014 to produce recommended priority areas the data is telling us are a concern or that residents have highlighted.
- 5.2 The priorities are then compared with other areas and ranked against a number of factors, including volume, trend over time, resident's perception and how much it is felt the partnership can influence. This is then reviewed by our stakeholders and finally the top ranked priorities are analysed in depth, to help guide practitioners in formulating actions that they feel will have an impact on each priority. The following areas were identified by this process and recommended as emerging priorities for the 2015-16 Partnership Plan:

5.3 **Anti-Social Behaviour**

ASB has continued to decrease. Over the last three years there has been a decrease in the number of reports of ASB by just over 25%. However, Maidstone still has the 5th highest number of reported incidents in the County (after Thanet, Canterbury, Swale and Dover). Analysis of ASB including environmental nuisances across Maidstone, highlights that High Street, Fant, Park Wood, North and Shepway North wards experienced the highest volumes.

Due to the high volumes of anti-social behaviour in parts of the borough, and the impact ASB has on residents, recommendation is made that ASB continues as a priority for the Partnership.

Current projects:

- Identified repeat and vulnerable victims through the Weekly Partnership ASB Briefing.
- Sought ASB/Injunction orders where appropriate.
- 14 action days have been held with multiple agencies visiting targeted areas as part of Operation Civic.
- Provided community based outreach in conjunction with Switch.
- Engaged young people in projects, such as Zeroth Gym and Challenger Troop.
- Identified NEET's (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and referred them to Maidstone Engage programme.
- Engaged young people via the Power Project (YISP).
- Identified troubled families and referred to the Maidstone Families Matter programme.
- Worked with partners to maximise environmental protection.
- Carried out targeted substance misuse work with offenders.

5.4 **Substance Misuse – including alcohol and Lethal ('legal') Highs**

Overall drug offences have reduced 8.7% or 41 incidents, but are still 20% higher than the level of three years ago. There are no identified seasonal trends. For alcohol related conditions, Maidstone is ranked 10th out of the 12 districts for hospital admissions due to alcohol in the county, and has

the 9th worst rate of alcohol related deaths. Alcohol drives much crime. In Maidstone nearly 800 crimes were recorded as directly alcohol related in 2012/13, out of a total of 8,457 victim based crimes (9.5%).

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), or legal highs, are substances designed to produce similar effects to controlled drugs, such as cannabis, cocaine or ecstasy, but are structured differently in an attempt to avoid being controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Legal highs are not safe. In England in 2012 some 68 deaths were linked to legal highs. NPS use in Maidstone is on the increase, driven by the number of highly visible retail legal high outlets. In fact, Kent has more 'head shops' than anywhere outside of London, and Maidstone more than anywhere else in Kent. In addition, NPS users tend to be those who are more vulnerable.

Due to the high level of drug offences in certain wards, and the increasing prevalence of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), recommendation is made that substance misuse including alcohol and NPS remains as a priority.

Current projects

- Targeted multi-agency evening operations have been delivered with Trading Standards, Kent Police and Borough Council teams to tackle underage sales and licensed premises as a result a premises license has subsequently been reviewed and information gathered on a number of other premises.
- Partners launched a Legal Highs awareness campaign aligned with national campaigns.
- Over 1,800 young people attended 'SNAP' disco, where targeted messages were delivered regarding the misuse of drugs and alcohol.
- All Maidstone-based secondary schools and one PRU engaged in the Don't Abuse the Booze programme.
- Increased number of street population referred and engaged in CRI support services as a result the Maidstone Assertive Outreach programme.
- Service provision provided by CRI has been integrated into the partnership. Outreach workers have delivered additional sessions to engage with hard to reach individuals (e.g. street population) misusing substances.

5.5 Reducing Reoffending

Reducing re-offending across the age range is a Government target for all CSP's. This is particularly important when those who have already been through the criminal justice system commit over half of all crime. It will enable a more strategic engagement between CSP's and other local partners, such as the third sector and Local Criminal Justice Boards, in planning and commissioning services for offenders. Maidstone data shows that in the period 1 January to 31 December 2013 the actual re-offending rate was 1.40% higher than the predicted re-offending rate, which is the 4th best among Kent districts. As at 31 May Maidstone has the 4th highest caseload (348), or some 10.2% of the total Kent caseload.

The actual re-offending rate has fallen from the 2nd lowest to the 3rd lowest in Kent, so recommendation is made that Reducing Re-offending remains as a priority, being a cross cutting theme across all priorities.

Current projects

- A steering group was established involving all key agencies to provide strategic direction to the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) and Deter Young Offenders (DYO) groups.
- Restorative Justice has become an embedded process within IOM. All offender managers have been briefed in relation to the process and benefits of these approaches.
- Community Payback scheme used by Maidstone Borough Council and some parish councils.
- Electronic 'Buddy' tracking is being piloted in partnership between Kent Police and Probation. At present this can only be undertaken with the agreement of the offender.
- Yes Plus and Challenger Troop commissioned to provide diversionary and personal development programmes at Kings Reach Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).

5.6 Road Safety (killed or seriously injured - KSI)

Based on the current data, Maidstone has seen an increase in 3.1% increase (or 21 incidents) for all casualties, recording a total 693 casualties in 2013/14, compared to 672 in 2012/13. Kent-wide saw an increase of 9% (512 incidents), recording a total of 6,180 casualties in 2013/14, compared to 5668 in 2012/13.

Maidstone saw an increase of 40.7% in KSI casualties, recording a total 76 casualties in 2013/14, compared to 54 in 2012/13. Kent-wide saw an increase of 26.3% (139 incidents), recording a total of 667 casualties in 2013/14, compared to 528 in 2012/13. However, although KSI casualties for under-16 yrs have decreased, Maidstone continues to experience the most road casualties in Kent.

The focus on the year has been on three user groups, young drivers aged 17–24, powered two-wheelers (p2w) riders, and teenage pedestrians (secondary school age).

Due to killed and seriously injured figures increasing faster against the county wide increase, recommendation is made that Road Safety remains as a priority.

Current projects:

- Identified hotspots of concern.
- Identified repeat offenders for speeding and promoted Speedwatch.
- Held multi-agency events around speed enforcement and safety.
- Delivered Safety in Action programme to all primary school children transitioning to secondary school, providing road safety education and pedestrian awareness.
- Promoted walking buses and 20 MPH zones around schools.
- Promoted bus safety driver and pedestrian awareness.
- Signposted to bicycle and marking events.

5.7 Violent Crime (domestic abuse)

Incidents of domestic abuse have increased in Maidstone borough by 14.5% or 258 incidents, compared to a county-wide increase of 11.6%. Per 1,000 population, Maidstone has the 5th lowest rate of domestic abuse incidents and 5th lowest percentage of repeat victims in the county. Of the total reports, 25.1% are repeat incidents.

It is widely recognized that increased recorded incidents of domestic abuse are not necessary indicators of a worsening situation. Domestic abuse is an under-reported crime so that increased reports indicate that DA victims are coming forward to report the abuse they are suffering. Further analysis of local postcode data, the highest volumes or hotspots can be seen primarily in the Park Wood, Shepway North, High Street, East and Fant wards.

Due to the high levels of domestic abuse and repeat incidents, recommendation is made that Violent Crime (domestic abuse) remains as a priority for the partnership, focusing on those areas with frequent reports of domestic abuse.

Current projects:

- Partners have continued to run regular seasonal awareness campaigns aligned with national campaigns.
- Work Place Health employee awareness campaign launched.
- Supported the Freedom programme and Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service.
Facilitated support for Specialist Domestic Violence Court workers.
- Promoted and supported the Community Domestic Abuse Programme (CDAP).
- Referred all High Risk cases to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).
- Provided support to male and female victims of DA through Choices
- Promoted the DA Schools Project (SAFE).
- Provided support for male offenders wishing to rehabilitate.
- Helped facilitate the Sanctuary Scheme.
- Increased referrals for domestic abuse victims who are street homeless.
- Assisted in providing a domestic abuse One Stop Shop in the borough.

5.8 Violent Crime (night-time economy)

Violent crime covers a wide range of crimes, from assault by beating through to grievous bodily harm, and murder, but please note, the crime types which have been most affected by changes to recording practices are violence related offences, including Assault and Violence Against the Person (VAP). This has resulted in significant number of crimes added back during the year, which means that it is not safe to directly compare the current year with previous years.

Given the changes in crime recording, the real increase in violent crime is estimated to be between 4 to 8%, rather than the actual year on year increase of 23% the data now indicates. A county-wide comparison shows Maidstone is middle ranked (6th) for violent crime per 1,000 population, and 4th amongst our West-Kent neighbours. In terms of the absolute number of violent crimes recorded, Maidstone's total of 2,612 is surpassed only by Swale (2,657) and Thanet (3,750).

Looking at hospital admission for related to violent crimes, Maidstone Hospital recorded 65 admissions of Maidstone residents, for assault in 2013/14, compared to 48 the year before. Approximately 85% of all admissions to Maidstone Hospital were male and 15% female. Of those recorded, the majority of males reported to have been assaulted in the street, bar/pub or at school / college, where as the majority of females reported to have been assaulted in the street or at home.

Looking specifically at violence against the person offences, in the period October 2013 to September 2014, crimes in this category have seen a county-wide increase of 30.9% (5,468 additional offences), but note the crime recording caveat above. In Maidstone, violence against the person increased from 1,889 offences in 2012/13 to 2,349 offences in 2013/14 (+24.4%). This rate of increase is below the county increase and shows a peak during the summer months. Maidstone is ranked 6th in the county, the same ranking as 2012/13.

At ward level, in the 12 month period January to December 2014, the Town Centre (located in High Street ward) experienced the highest number of violent crimes in the County (574), an increase of 10.6% from the previous year, and 28% of all violent crime in Maidstone. However, consideration must be given to Maidstone town centre having the largest spread of late night retail and leisure in Kent. Other wards with high levels of violent crime include Park Wood, Fant and Shepway North.

Partners have continued to crack down firmly on violence especially in Maidstone town centre with successful initiatives such as the purple flag scheme. However, we are conscious that the violent crime category has shown increases, notably violence against the person from alcohol and drug related violence as part of the night time economy.

Due to the continuing rise in violent crime in the night-time economy, recommendation is made for drug and alcohol related violence in the night time economy to remain a priority for the partnership.

Current projects

- In conjunction with Pubwatch, excluded violent individuals from the Town Centre premises.
- Shared information proactively from CCTV control room and Kent Police via MaidSafe network radios provided to door staff of key premises.
- Supported the town centre Street Pastors initiative.
- Used CCTV to protect and prevent crime.
- Enforced Alcohol Control Zones.
- Supported the county-wide Hate Crime Reporting Line.
- Provided school based work (Don't Abuse the Booze project) with high risk individuals around violence and drugs.

5.9 Cross Cutting Themes

Data analysis also acknowledged that the priorities are often inter-related and has identified three distinct cross cutting themes that run through all of the priority focus areas.

Actions contained within this plan are therefore built around the five identified priorities and three cross cutting themes, as shown in the chart below:

Cross cutting themes				
Antisocial Behaviour	Domestic Abuse	Violent Crime	Road safety (KSI)	Substance Misuse (including alcohol)
Targeting prolific offenders / repeat locations				
Safeguarding vulnerable and young people				
Prevention and early intervention				

5.10 **How we are going to tackle these issues**

The CSP has created an action plan detailing how each priority will be addressed, which is shown in the action plan (see section 7). These activities range from revising current processes to ensuring that services are delivered as effectively as possible, creating value for money and also commissioning new services and projects in areas of need. The CSP is committed to achieving these priorities and has set targets against what we are planning to achieve, shown in item 8.

5.11 **Priority leads**

Lead officers for each of the priorities have been identified as set out below and have the responsibility for developing and delivering, with partners, the action plans to deliver the Maidstone borough priorities.

The leads will also act as a champion for the designated priority and provide regular progress updates for the Safer Maidstone Partnership and the borough council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (moving to a Committee system from 1 April 2015) as required.

Priority sub-groups	Lead Officer/Agency
Antisocial behaviour	Inspector Jody Gagan-Cook, Kent Police
Substance misuse	Mark Gilbert, Kent Commissioning Team
Reducing re-offending	John Littlemore, Maidstone Borough Council
Road safety (killed or seriously injured)	Stephen Horton, Kent Road Safety Team
Violent Crime (domestic abuse)	Ian Park, Maidstone Domestic Violence Forum
Violent Crime (night- time economy)	Inspector Jody Gagan-Cook, Kent Police

6. Maidstone Community Safety Partnership Action Plan and Targets

The Action Plan sets out a series of actions and performance targets through which the priorities supporting the CSP Plan will be delivered for the period 2013–2018. The Action Plan makes clear arguments for building stronger and safer communities in Maidstone, with the actions identified against each priority supporting the overarching aim to reduce crime and disorder and its impacts. The plan will be reviewed annually to allow for new projects and priorities to be added.

Priority 1: Antisocial behavior

Aim	Action	Anticipated Outcomes		Lead Agency
<p>To work in partnership to reduce incidents of ASB towards repeat or vulnerable victims / locations, targeting rowdy nuisance behaviour, fly-tipping and noise.</p> <p>To reduce the perception of the local community that believe ASB is a large problem in their local area, with emphasis on noisy neighbours and increase the satisfaction of those that we deal with.</p>	<p>Identification of ASB hotspots and multi-agency tasking through the weekly CSP Partnership Tasking and Action Group meeting and monthly ASB meeting.</p> <p>Promote the Community Trigger, ensuring an effective customer response to incidents of ASB (contact, treatment, actions and follow up)</p>	<p>Reduction in reported ASB across the borough. Quicker targeted response to priorities for CSP.</p> <p>Reduced percentage of community who consider there is a high level of ASB. Increased awareness of work undertaken to tackle ASB. Increase in customer satisfaction</p>		<p>Maidstone Community Safety Unit (CSU)</p> <p>Maidstone CSU</p>
		<p>Baseline 1 Oct 2013 to 30 Sept 2014</p>	<p>Kent-wide comparison</p>	<p>Target (by 2018)</p>
<p>ASB incidents per 1,000 population</p>		<p>23.39</p>	<p>27.39</p>	<p>Reduce to average of best 4 Kent Districts (19/1,000 population) in the Kent-wide comparison by 2018</p>

Priority 2: Reducing reoffending

Aim	Action	Anticipated Outcomes		Lead Agency
<p>To work to embed the responsibility of reducing re-offending across all agencies for all age groups, including awareness raising of existing services and activities. Work will be targeted around known reasons for people to offend, included education, training and employment as well as addressing housing needs.</p>	<p>Undertake awareness raising activities to highlight statutory agencies responsibilities to tackle reducing re-offending and to raise awareness of existing work to tackle offending.</p> <p>Support the development of a transition pathway for short term prisoners.</p> <p>Support the transition pathway for prisoners on release into suitable accommodation.</p> <p>Support young people from re-offending within 6 months of their intervention and divert young people into suitable diversionary programmes.</p>	<p>Reduced re-offending across all groups.</p> <p>Increased number of project suggestions for unpaid work schemes through Probation, YOS and HMPS.</p> <p>Reduced number of offenders registered as homeless, unemployed, with mental and physical health problems or financial problems.</p> <p>Increase the proportion of offenders in suitable accommodation at termination. Reduce number of offenders</p> <p>Reduce percentage of YOT cohort that re-offend</p>		<p>SMP Reducing Re-offending sub-group</p> <p>SMP Reducing Re-offending sub-group</p> <p>CRC</p> <p>Maidstone IOM group</p>
Indicator		Baseline 1 Oct 2013 to 30 Sept 2014	Kent-wide comparison	Target (by 2018)
Offending population as a % of the total population aged 10-17 yrs		0.7%	0.98%	Maintain under KCC value
Proportion of adult and juvenile offenders who re-offend		7.8%	8.9%	Maintain under KCC value
Overall reoffending rate – % difference between the predicted and actual rates		Predicted = 7.86% Actual = 9.97% Diff= 1.4%	Predicted = 8.43% Actual = 8.94% Diff= 6.1%	Maintain % difference between actual and predicted to near zero

Priority 3: Road safety - killed or seriously injured (KSI)

Aim	Action	Anticipated Outcomes		Lead Agency
<p>To continue multi-agency work promoting road safety awareness to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads.</p>	<p>Deliver road safety education programmes (e.g. RUSH, Car'n'age, Licensed to Kill) delivered in schools, colleges and community groups in the borough.</p>	<p>Reduced road fatalities and serious injury caused by young drivers and drivers of two-wheeled vehicles.</p>		<p>Kent Fire and Rescue Service</p>
	<p>Engage with Kent Public Health to promote driving under the influence (alcohol and drug awareness).</p>	<p>Reduced road fatalities and serious injury caused as a result of alcohol</p>		<p>Kent Road Safety team and Kent Public Health</p>
	<p>Develop a Pedestrian Awards Scheme (PAWS) for 4-14 year olds.</p>	<p>Demonstrable practical road safety knowledge and abilities</p>		<p>SMP Road Safety (KSI) sub-group</p>
Indicator		Baseline 1 Oct 2013 to 30 Sept 2014	Kent-wide comparison	Target (by 2018)
<p>Total casualties per 1,000 population – all ages</p>		<p>4.41</p>	<p>4.18</p>	<p>Reduce to KCC av.</p>
<p>Total casualties per 10,000 population – (under 16 yrs)</p>		<p>3.24</p>	<p>3.72</p>	<p>Reduce to KCC av.</p>
<p>Road users Killed or Seriously Injured per 10,000 pop – (all ages)</p>		<p>4.83</p>	<p>4.51</p>	<p>Reduce to KCC av.</p>
<p>Road users Killed or Seriously Injured per 10,000 pop – (under 16 yrs)</p>		<p>0.13</p>	<p>0.36</p>	<p>Maintain under KCC av.</p>
<p>Delivery of RUSH education programme to Year 11 students</p>		<p>3,000</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>RUSH delivered to 3,000 Year 11 students annually</p>

Priority 4: Substance misuse

Aim	Action	Anticipated Outcomes		Lead Agency
<p>To continue multi-agency work to reduce the impact of drug and alcohol misuse on individuals and the local community, including drunken behaviour, binge and underage drinking.</p>	<p>Support Kent Alcohol Strategy, developing local, targeted projects with young people.</p>	<p>Reduction in underage drinking across Maidstone. Raised young people’s awareness of the dangers of drugs and alcohol.</p>		<p>SMP Substance Misuse sub-group</p>
	<p>Assess needle finds and needle drop locations in Maidstone and develop a targeted partnership action plan to increase outreach support and services.</p>	<p>Reduce needle finds and increase use and provision of needle drop locations.</p>		<p>SMP Substance Misuse sub-group</p>
	<p>Implementation of multi-agency street outreach to support street population through CRI, GPs and other providers.</p>	<p>Increased referrals to targeted interventions against these individuals and reduce the impact on the community</p>		<p>SMP Substance Misuse sub-group</p>
	<p>Take direct action against Maidstone’s ‘head shops’</p>	<p>Fewer reports of ASB, fewer admissions to hospital</p>		<p>CSP and Trading Standards</p>
Indicator		Baseline 1 Oct 2013 to 30 Sept 2014	Kent-wide comparison	Target (by 2018)
<p>Number of drug offences per 1,000 population</p>		<p>2.74</p>	<p>2.02</p>	<p>2.38 (half the difference)</p>
<p>Alcohol related hospital admissions per 10,000 population</p>		<p>4.58</p>	<p>5.83</p>	<p>Maintain under KCC av</p>
<p>Number of discarded needles picked up</p>		<p>1,610</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Reduce to 1,200pa</p>

Priority 4: Violent Crime (domestic abuse)

Aim	Action	Anticipated Outcomes		Lead Agency
<p>To work to reduce repeat victimisation of domestic abuse victims and to ensure effective services are in place to support and meet the needs of victims.</p>	<p>Support the delivery of the Maidstone Domestic Abuse Action Plan to support the CSP Plan.</p> <p>Support the Specialist Domestic Violence Court and the work of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors.</p> <p>Continuation of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in Maidstone.</p>	<p>Increased access to information for agencies, victims, families and friends; improvement of agency links to DV Forum; improved referral routes; improved awareness and access to services for adults, children and teenage victims.</p>	<p>Increased number of domestic abuse cases seen at Court.</p> <p>Increased referrals from wider range of agencies. Support to high risk victims of domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Maidstone Domestic Violence Forum</p> <p>HM Court Services</p> <p>Maidstone Domestic Violence Forum</p>
Indicator		Baseline 1 Oct 2013 to 30 Sept 2014	Kent-wide comparison	Target (by 2018)
Number of DA incidents per 1,000 population		16.08	18.19	Encourage reporting to match the Kent-wide comparison
% who are repeat victims		25.1%	25.2%	Maintain under the Kent-wide comparison
Number of visitors to DA One Stop Shop		97	1,835	Increase to 140
(a) Actual		6.17	12.40	Increase to 9/10,000 pop
(b) Per 10,000 population		18%	25%	Maintain current levels
% of repeat MARAC cases				

Priority 5: Violent Crime (Night-Time Economy)

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Aim	Action	Anticipated Outcomes		Lead Agency
<p>To ensure Maidstone continues to be a safe place to socialise</p>	<p>Review police enforcement of the NTE</p>	<p>Targeted police resources to reduce impact on the local community and individuals as a result of alcohol misuse.</p>		<p>Kent Police</p>
	<p>Engage with the media to inform and educate visitors and business owners</p>	<p>Improved promotion of responsible drinking messages to members of the public and within licensed premises.</p>		<p>MBC/Kent Police/TCM</p>
	<p>Provide effective treatment for offenders whose offending is alcohol related</p>	<p>Increased referrals into CRI treatment services.</p>		<p>MBC Licensing/Trading Standards</p>
	<p>Directed operations and supervision to be undertaken to ensure that licensed premises are well run.</p>	<p>Reduced impact on the local community and individuals as a result of alcohol misuse. Reduced underage sales through licensed premises.</p>		<p>MBC Licensing</p>
	<p>Provide a reassuring presence in the night-time economy</p>	<p>Improved perceptions around safety in the night-time economy.</p>		<p>MBC Licensing/Trading Standards Urban Blue/Street Pastors</p>
	<p>Review the implementation of an Alcohol/Drug Test on Arrest scheme</p>	<p>Increased number of people accessing and completing treatment for substance misuse.</p>		<p>Kent Police/CRI</p>
Indicator		Baseline 1 Oct 2013 to 30 Sept 2014	Kent-wide comparison	Target (by 2018)
<p>Maidstone Hospital admissions (assault) per 10,000 population</p>		<p>4.13</p>	<p>3.59</p>	<p>3.86 (half the difference)</p>
<p>Violence against the Person per 1,000 population</p>		<p>14.93</p>	<p>15.66</p>	<p>Maintain under KCC av</p>

8. Prevent

8.1 The national Prevent Strategy has recently been updated to reflect the 'broader scope, tighter focus' approach that the Government wants to adopt within Prevent. In practice this means that whilst al-Qaeda remains the biggest threat to national security, and most effort will likely be directed towards the risk they pose, any groups or individuals that present a risk (of violent extremism or terrorism) should be dealt with proportionately, regardless of their motivation. The Strategy has three overriding objectives which are to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.

Maidstone CSP is a member of the Kent Prevent Steering Board which meets on a quarterly basis and sets the direction for Prevent activity across the county.

9. Consultation on Priorities and Partnership Plan

Maidstone has some clearly defined urban as well as rural areas, often with competing demands on resources and emphasis on what local priorities should be. Through the annual Strategic Assessment and future consultation events, stakeholders will be informed of progress against the Partnership Plan to ensure there are no other compelling issues that should be included in the Plan.

10. Further information

Maidstone Community Safety Unit

Tel: 01634 602000

Maidstone Police Station

Non-emergency Tel: 101

Emergency Tel: 999

Kent Fire and Rescue Service

Tel: 01622 692121

One-Stop Shop

Maidstone Gateway reception, Maidstone Borough Council, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6GY

Tel: 01622 761146

Domestic Abuse Hotline Domestic Abuse Support and Services in Kent

Tel: 0808 2000247

www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk

Kent Hate Incident Reporting Line

Tel: 0800 1381624

Anti-Terrorist Hotline

Tel: In confidence on 0800 789321

Mental Health

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

Tel: 01622 724100

www.kmpt.nhs.uk

Maidstone Mind

Tel: 01622 692383

www.maidstonemind.org

Restorative Justice

Maidstone Mediation

Tel: 01622 692843

Project Salus

Tel: 01303 817470

Text service for the deaf or speech-impaired

If you're deaf or speech-impaired, you can text Kent Police. Start the message with the word 'police' then leave a space and write your message including what and where the problem is. Send your text to 60066 (the Kent Police communications centre) and they will reply with a message.



Att 2: **Draft Strategic Assessment
2015-16**

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- Appendix 6 – Statistical Process Charts explained

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Overview

1.1.1 Victim-Based Crime in Kent October 2013 to September 2014

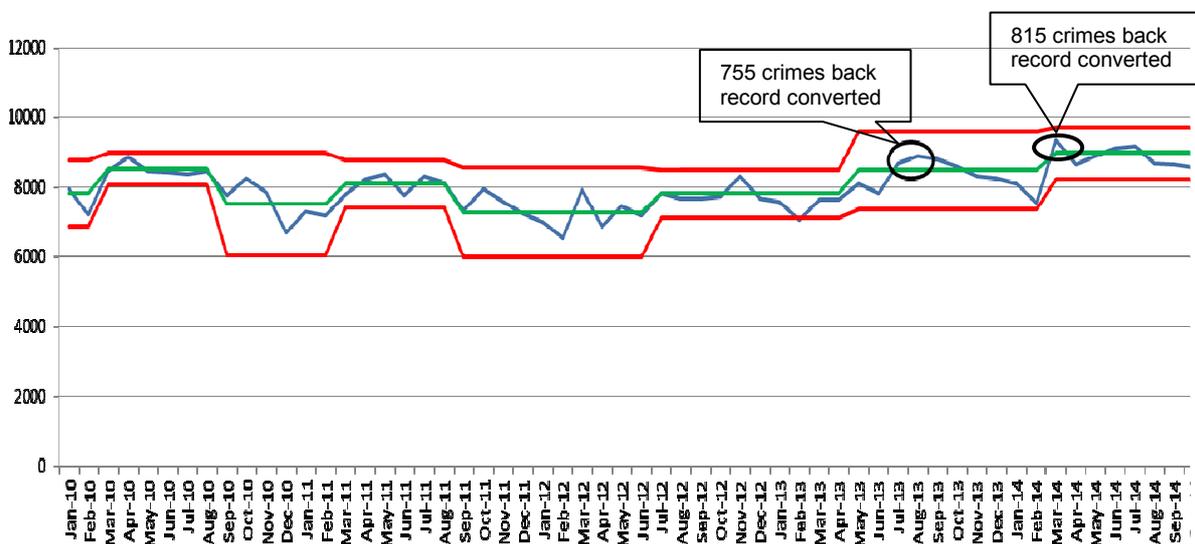
Please note: Due to changes in crime recording practices in Kent as a result of the HMIC inspection of Kent Police crime recording practice, current data is not directly comparable to previous years and should only be used as a guide.

The crime types which have been most affected by changes to recording practices are violence related offences, including both Violence Against the Person (VAP) and Violent Crime. These violence offences form part of Victim Based Crime. The changes to recording practices are evident in some of the Kent Police SPC charts such as VAP which shows a significant step change in the number of recorded incidents. The Statistical Process Control (SPC) chart¹ below reflects these changes. Due to these changes it is not possible to compare the current year with previous years.

Thanet recorded the highest number of victim based crimes between October 2013 and September 2014 as well as the highest rate per 1,000 population of 85.5 crimes. This was followed by Dartford and Swale with the next highest rates of victim based crime during that 12-month period, with Swale also have the second highest number of recorded crimes. The lowest levels of victim-based crime per 1,000 pop were recorded in Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge and Malling, whilst Maidstone enjoys the fourth lowest

Between April to September 2014, Margate Central ward in Thanet saw the highest rate of Victim Based Crime, followed by Town ward in Dartford. In the same period, Maidstone High Street ward saw the highest volume of victim-based incidents (1,140).

SPC Chart for Victim-Based Crime in Kent (excl. Medway) January 2010 to September 2014



Given the limitations on the comparability of data between years noted above, 9 out of 12 Kent district experienced year on year increases in victim-based crime. Overall, Kent districts (excluding Medway) experienced a 7.76% increase in victim-based crime in 2013/14 compared to the same period in 2012/13, with 6,230 more reports.

1.1.2 Crime in Maidstone October 2013 to September 2014

¹ See Appendix 5 for guidance in understanding SPC Charts

All crime in Maidstone rose by 5.8% in the period October 2013 to September 2014. This compares with a rise 8.9% in the previous year, and fall of 12.9% the year before that. There were relatively small increases in reported incidences of shoplifting (+2.0%), motor vehicle thefts (+3.2%) and road traffic collisions (+3.1%), but much larger increases in assaults resulting in hospital admissions (+35.4%), sexual offences (+20.9%), violent crime (+23.1%) and the number of persons experiencing repeat instances of domestic abuse (+23.1%). Set against these rises were reductions in reported anti-social behaviour (-8.6%), drug offences (-8.7%), robbery (-7.7%), dwelling burglary (-5.6%), and metal theft (-53.5%).

Despite the increase in recorded crime, Maidstone improved its position relative to other Kent districts from 5th place in 2012/13 (53.3 crimes per 1,000 population) to 4th place county-wide (59.8) crimes per 1,000 population). (See Section 3 for further details).

1.1.3 Kent Police and Crime Commissioner

Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). The newly elected PCC took over from Kent Police Authority on 22 November 2012 and now determines:

- The policing strategy for Kent & Medway
- The force budget
- The police element (or precept) of the Council Tax
- The appointment (and if necessary dismissal) of the Chief Constable.

The legislation requires the PCC to issue a Police & Crime Plan. The Kent Police & Crime Plan is a four year plan from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2017 and is refreshed annually. The plan sets out the Commissioner's vision and priorities for policing in the county which includes placing victims first, focusing on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and protecting the public from harm. To achieve the aims set out in the plan the following strategic priorities are identified:

- Cutting crime & catching criminals
- Ensuring visible community policing is at the heart of Kent's Policing model
- Putting victims and witnesses first
- Protecting the public from serious harm
- Meeting national commitments for policing
- Delivering value for money

The plan also references a commitment to working closely with community safety and criminal justice agencies across the county to ensure that a seamless service is provided to victims of crime and anti-social behaviour, with a particular focus on:

- Tackling the root causes of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reducing re-offending and repeat victimisation
- Improving joined up working between agencies

Annual Refresh of the Police and Crime Plan 2014/15

The PCC reviewed the current plan in Autumn 2014, and asked for feedback from partners and the public in response to a consultation document entitled '*Have your say on Policing in Kent*':

Following the consultation, three new policing priorities have been included in the revised plan:

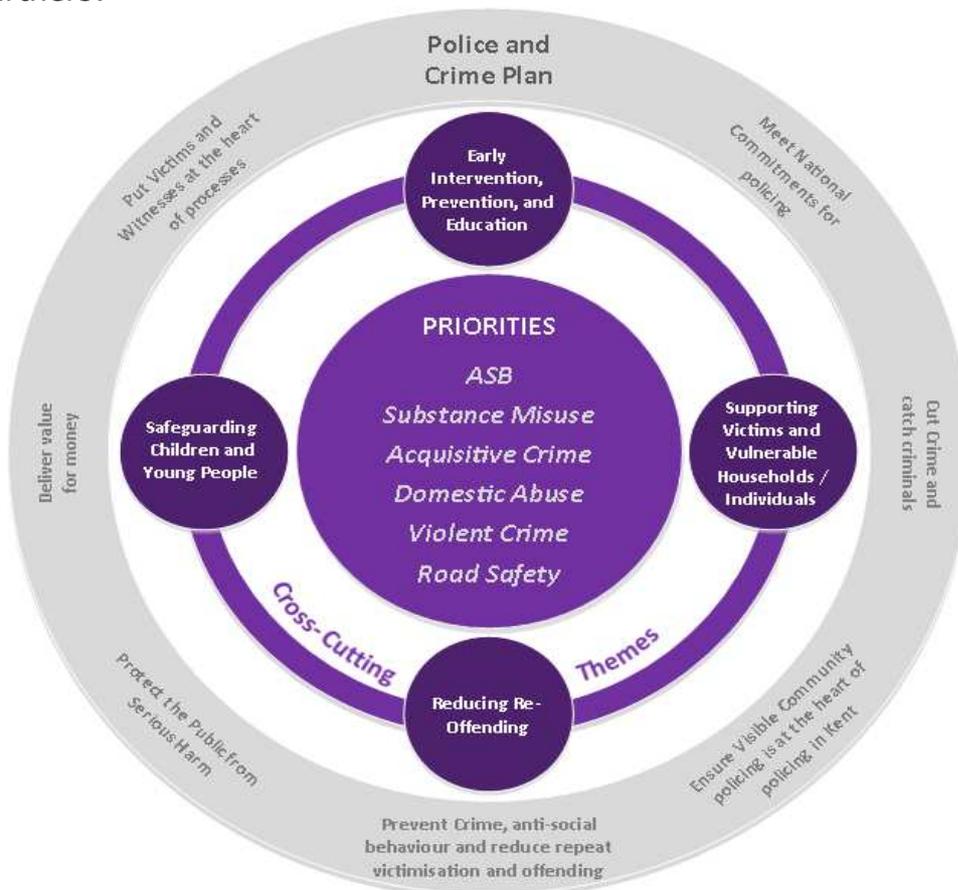
- £200,000 each year for the next three years to work with partner agencies to help reduce child sexual exploitation;
- a renewed emphasis on supporting victims and witnesses, including the establishment of a new Victims and Witness Unit in Ashford.

- The PCC has pledged to work closer with district community safety units to work together to drive and deliver crime reduction.

1.1.1.4 Kent Community Safety Agreement 2014-17

The Community Safety Agreement (CSA) for 2014-17 outlines the key community safety priorities for Kent and replaces the previous agreement which expired on 31st March 2014. There have been many changes since the last agreement was developed, including a mutual duty on the PCC and CSPs to cooperate to reduce crime, disorder and re-offending. As a result, the development of the new agreement has been aligned with the annual review of the Police and Crime Plan, as well as future developments in relation to commissioning by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and all budget setting processes. These changes will help to ensure a dovetailing of priorities and a greater likelihood of crossover between partners providing opportunities for joint working and more opportunity for investment in community safety generally.

Data analysis, partnership consultation and the most recent local strategic assessments indicated that the priorities and most of the cross-cutting themes identified in the 2011-14 Agreement should remain, and would continue to benefit from support at a county level. The diagram below not only includes the priorities and cross-cutting themes for the CSA but also shows the strategic priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan, illustrating the importance of integrating the work of all partners:



Whilst the above diagram sets out the existing priorities, this will be subject to annual review and may be amended during the three year period of the agreement if appropriate. The review will take into consideration the outcome of the local assessments as well as any emerging issues or changes to legislation that may need to be implemented.

Kent County Community Safety Agreement Suggested Priorities:

Datasets from partner agencies have been sourced and analysed to look at volume and trends as well as comparing them to national datasets where possible. The outcome of this initial analysis are the following emerging county-wide priorities:

- Substance Misuse
- Domestic Abuse
- Acquisitive Crime
- Violent Crime
- Road Safety

Other Local Community Safety Priorities:

Although these issues are not identified as one of the current priorities (with the exception of legal highs which is covered within Substance Misuse), they can be incorporated into the broader cross-cutting themes, for example 'supporting victims and vulnerable households/individuals' and 'safeguarding children and young people'. Some of the issues that have become a focus either to partners or the public over the last year include:

- Mental health
- Preventing violent extremism
- Child sexual exploitation
- E-safety
- Legal highs (*also known as New Psychoactive Substances or 'Lethal Highs'*)

1.2 Key Facts April 2013 to March 2014

Key crime statistics are summarised in this section; they should not be read out of context and are a guide to key crime highlights in 2013-14. In addition, the 'health warning' on Page 3 must be kept in mind.

In Maidstone 2013-14 all crime increased by 513 from 8,897 crimes in 2012-13 to 9,410 in 2013-14. Over the five years 2009-10 to 2013-14 crime in Maidstone fell some 14%, only to rise over the last two years so that overall the crime level is the same as it was in 2009/10.

Despite the overall increase in recorded crime noted above, out of 28 crime categories analysed in detail in Section 3, Maidstone improved or maintained its position relative to the other 11 district councils in Kent in 14 categories, including all three measures of domestic abuse, assaults, theft and handling and violent crime.

Anti-Social Behaviour: The success in tackling ASB across the county is shown through a continuous reduction over the last few years. Compared to 2012/13 ASB incidents in Kent (excluding Medway) have fallen by 3,670 (8.3%), from 44,210 to 40,540. Most of the 12 districts saw a decrease in the incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour, with Ashford seeing the largest decrease of 1,341 incidents (-42%), followed by Shepway with a reduction of 632 incidents (-16.7%). Thanet had the highest volume and rate (per 1,000 population) of ASB whilst Ashford had the lowest volume with 1,850 incidents and a rate of 15.40 incidents per 1,000 people. ASB reduced in Maidstone for the third consecutive year by nearly 6% or over 500 fewer instances. The number of ASB incidents per 1,000 population has reduced from 27.7 to 23.4, although Maidstone's county ranking has slipped from 4th to 5th.

At ward level High Street, Fant and East wards recorded the highest volumes of ASB with 666, 246 and 222 recorded incidents respectively for the 9 month period April to December 2014. These three wards account for 38% of all ASB incidents in

Maidstone. Reducing ASB is the top priority of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and will remain a priority for the SMP.

The recorded number of incidents of **Domestic Abuse** increased in the period October 2013 to September 2014 by 258 incidents (14.5%) from 1,784 to 2,042. There was a proportionally larger increase in the number of repeat victims (from 416 to 512), leading to a slight increase in the percentage of repeat victims from 23.3% to 25.1%. Across Kent there was an 11.6% rise in the number of incidents of DA. Given the well researched evidence that domestic abuse is one of the most underreported crimes, with an estimated 35 occurrences before a victim feels able to report, increases in reports are to be welcomed and this is an area that should remain a focus for the Partnership.

Drug offences in Maidstone decreased from 472 in 2012-13 to 431 in 2013-14, a fall of 41 offences (8.7%). Maidstone is now ranked 11th in the County, (compared with 10th place county-wide in 2012-13). Our rate per 1,000 population of 2.74 is above the County level of 2.02.

Road Safety: Maidstone continues to record the highest number of RTC casualties in the county.

Casualties from road traffic accidents increased by 21 (3.1%) from 672 in 2012-13 to 693 in 2013-14, although this is still a reduction from 726 in 2008. The rate of increase is a third of the county-wide increase of 9.0%. However, the number of KSI casualties has risen 54 to 76, a 40.7% rise, but remains below the 2008 total of 89. In Kent, only Dover district saw a decrease in casualties.

The A26 remains as the road with the highest number of collisions per km (just under 12) in the Borough. At ward level, High Street had the highest count of RTC casualties (8 KSI; 56 slight) in Maidstone, followed by Boxley (1 KSI, 44 slight) and North Downs (6 KSI, 32 slight). The 17-24 age group continues to be over-represented in RTC's and thus will remain an SMP priority.

Reducing Re-Offending: In 2009 a National Audit Office report estimated that re-offending by young ex-prisoners costs between £8.5 to £11 billion per year. <https://www.nao.org.uk/report/the-youth-justice-system-in-england-and-wales-reducing-offending-by-young-people/>. Reducing re-offending has been a statutory duty of community safety partnerships since 1st April 2010, and is one of the cross-cutting themes of the Kent Community Safety Agreement 2014-17. Preventing further offences reduces the number of victims, and the damage done to local families and communities. Reducing re-offending cuts across other SMP priorities, especially Substance Misuse and Domestic Abuse.

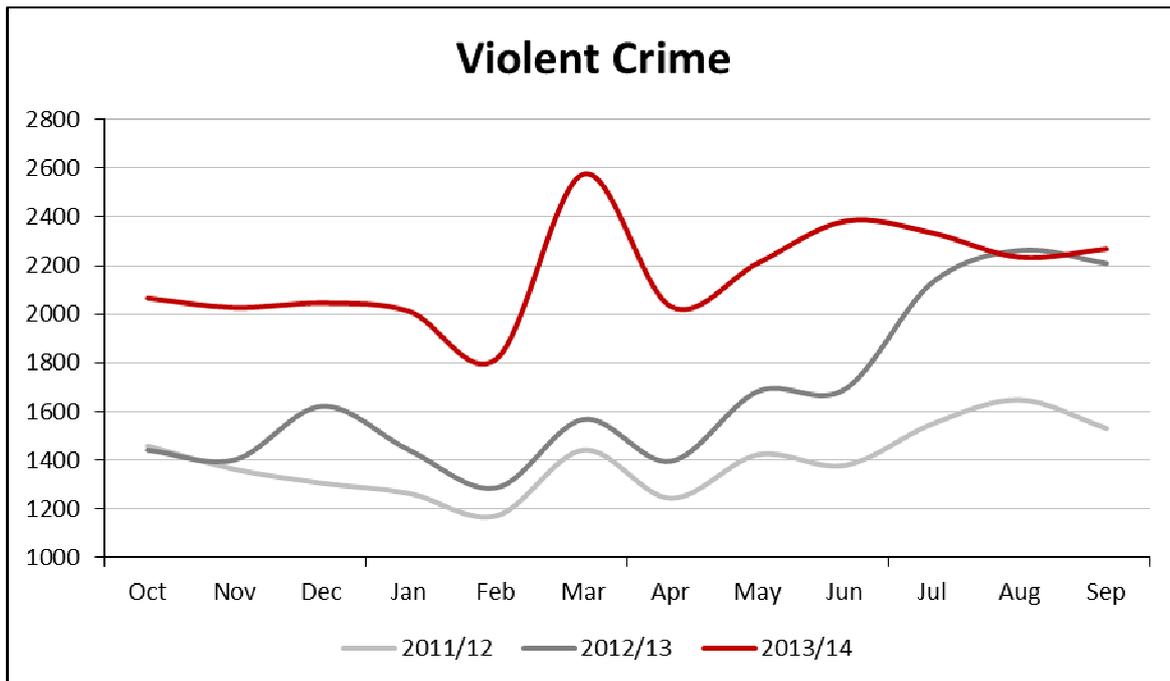
Each quarter the Ministry of Justice publish local re-offending rates. In 2010 it was identified that Kent's overall performance and Maidstone's local performance was not as good as it should be. Across the period January to December 2013 the actual re-offending rate for Maidstone was just 1.4% higher than the predicted rate, which places Maidstone 4th when compared to the other 11 districts in Kent. The Reducing Re-offending Sub-Group will continue to drive forward multi-agency work across the 7 Resettlement Pathways and to add value to each others work in terms of effectiveness and impact on offenders and victims.

Theft and handling stolen goods increased slightly by 4.3% (113 more offences) although, Maidstone's County-wide ranking improved two places 9th to 7th.

Shoplifting offences have seen a small rise from 1,086 to 1,108 offences (+2.0%), which maintains Maidstone in 10th place in the county.

Vehicle crime: Whilst theft of a motor vehicle increased by 160 incidents (+3.2%), theft from motor vehicles decreased by 121 to 482 incidents in 2013/14. Despite these mixed results, Maidstone improved its county-wide ranking from 7th to 4th (theft of) and maintained its ranking (4th) for theft from.

Violent Crime: The crime types which have been most affected by changes to recording practices are violence related offences, including both Violence Against the Person (VAP) and Violent Crime. This is evident in the Kent Police SPC chart for VAP (page 4) which shows a significant step change in the number of recorded incidents. The graph below which shows the total of violent crime across Kent (excl. Medway), reflects these changes. Due to these changes it is not possible to compare the current year with previous years.



Given the above caveat, in **Maidstone Violence against the person** increased by 24.4%, from 1,889 incidents to 2,349. Within this overall figure burglary of dwellings offences has increased by 1.6% and robbery by 1 offence to 47 offences. Despite this increase, Maidstone continues to be ranked 6th in the county for violent offences.

The number of **Deliberate and Accidental Fires** rose by 8% and 3% respectively.

2. Introduction

2.1 The purpose of this Strategic Assessment

This Strategic Assessment is for the period April 2015 to March 2016, and is prepared on behalf of the Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP) to inform strategic planning and commissioning priorities for the community safety partnership. It is used to update the priorities and planned activities for the 2015-18 Community Safety Partnership Action Plan.

The purpose of this Strategic Assessment is to provide knowledge and understanding of community safety issues to the members of the Safer Maidstone Partnership, and to provide a sound evidence base upon which the Partnership can base future prioritisation. The assessment is based upon intelligence and analysis and identifies the emerging priorities by considering the patterns, trends and shifts relating to aspects of community safety. It provides a knowledge and understanding of local community safety concerns and considers what needs to be achieved to help improve community safety, including how the community can feel assured and confident that their concerns and fears are being addressed. Emerging priorities are identified through intelligence analysis of patterns, trends and shifts relating to crime and disorder in the Maidstone borough. It is produced annually and complemented by regular assessments that monitor CSP activities.

2.2 The background to Strategic Assessments

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police, and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. In 2006, a review of the partnership provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police Reform Act 2002 led to a series of recommendations to strengthen and extend existing requirements further through the experience gained from partnership working. This resulted in a new set of national minimum standards which came into force in August 2007. The 1998 Act included the requirement to produce a detailed crime and disorder audit through consultation with key agencies and the wider community and had to use the findings to identify strategic priorities and set targets and performance measures. The new national standards placed a legal obligation on responsible authorities to comply with the specified requirements, one of which was the creation of a strategic assessment in place of the previous 3 yearly audit.

The introduction of strategic assessments hoped to move partnerships toward a more intelligence-led business planning approach. It was also hoped that by removing the need to produce a three year audit and replacing it with the requirement to produce a strategic assessment at least yearly, partnerships will improve their understanding of problems and their potential causes and thus respond more effectively to the communities they serve.

2.3 Maidstone Community Safety Partnership

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 required local councils, police and other agencies to set up Crime and Disorder Reductions Partnerships (CDRPs) and to work together to tackle local crime problems. In Maidstone the CDRP is called the 'Safer Maidstone Partnership' and is referred to as the SMP.

The SMP brings together people from local government, the NHS, the police, the fire service, probation, local businesses, housing providers and voluntary and community organisations to work as a team to tackle issues such as crime, education, health, housing, unemployment and the environment in Maidstone Borough.

SMP membership is made up of the public sector agencies (Kent County Council, Maidstone Borough Council, Kent Police, Kent Police Authority, NHS, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Kent Probation Service and Maidstone Prison) and also incorporates

members from other key partners including Maidstone Mediation, Kenward Trust and Golding Homes. The SMP's objectives are to:

- Promote Maidstone as a safe place to live, work and visit;
- Take a preventative approach to tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour;
- Reduce violent crime and reduce serious crime in the wards where the trend is higher than the borough average;
- Reduce alcohol related crime in the town centre and identified rural locations;
- Reduce re-offending to at least our predicted rate;
- Reduce drug offences;
- Tackle domestic abuse through supporting victims and challenging perpetrators to change their behaviour;
- Reduce those killed or seriously injured on our roads.

2.4 Partnership working in two-tier areas

The strategic assessment must outline the priorities to escalate to the county level. Kent County Council prepares a community safety agreement based on the individual strategic assessments of partnerships within the county. The county community safety agreement identifies:

- Ways of co-ordinating across the county to address priorities;
- How the responsible authorities might contribute to reducing crime, disorder and substance misuse through closer joint working across the county.
-

For two tier authorities such as Kent, a statutory Community Safety Agreement was introduced to develop a more joined-up approach to public service delivery, enable more effective and co-ordinated strategic planning across partner agencies and to ensure sustainable and lasting improvements in delivering outcomes.

2.5 Maidstone Borough Council Policy Framework - The Strategic Assessment in context

The Strategic Assessment does not exist in isolation, but is linked to a number of partnership strategies and plans. The Strategic Assessment is a key document which feeds into partners' service and operational plans and informs the work of the Safer Maidstone Partnership.

The Maidstone Community Strategy is the topmost level of policy making for the locality. It was first published in 2009 and its purpose is to set the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Maidstone. The Sustainable Community Strategy was refreshed in July 2013

Maidstone Borough Council Strategic Plan

Maidstone sits at the heart of Kent and within the sphere of influence of London - one of the world's most vibrant cities. Taking its cue from the Maidstone Community Strategy, the Strategic Plan illustrates how Maidstone Borough Council will create the conditions to ensure Maidstone Borough is an attractive place to live, work and visit.

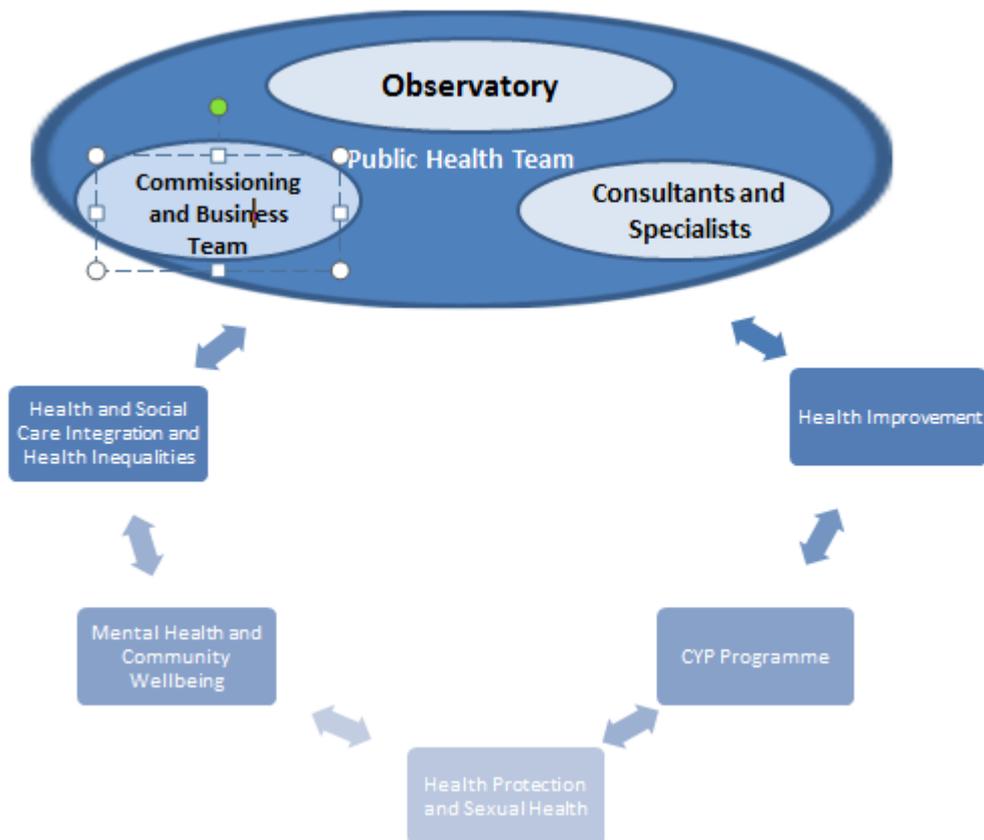
2.6 Safer Maidstone Partnership and Public Health

Public health is defined as:

"Public Health protects and improves the populations' health and wellbeing, and reduces health inequalities." (Definition from Public Health England)

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 received Royal Assent on 27 March 2012 and was a critical step in the transition towards the establishment of a new public health system. From April 2013 upper tier and unitary local authorities provide local leadership for public health, underpinned by new statutory functions, dedicated resources and expert public health teams. This new role complements but also

extends existing local authority functions in terms of maximising the wellbeing of citizens, including for example, environmental health and tackling local crime priorities.



Public health's links to SMPs priorities:

1. Violent crime:

- PH provide approximately £300,000 per year into the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service
- PH are currently developing a domestic abuse needs assessment to help design and commission future services
- PH will work with the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Steering Group to examine how to improve support for children and young people affected by DA, as well as examining the programmes available for perpetrators
- In 2015, PH plans to re-start agreement where A&E departments collect and provide information about violent assaults to the Police. This can then be used to target violence hotspots

2. Substance Misuse:

PH published the 2014 Alcohol Strategy and is facilitating its implementation by;

- helping local areas produce action plans related to the strategy
- offering in depth analysis of local statistics
- highlighting and sharing best practice from around Kent and nationally
- Piloting awareness raising and IBA (Identification and Brief Advice) campaigns
- KDAAT have recently joined PH

3. Reducing Re-offending:

- PH have recently completed a Community Offenders Health Needs Assessment
- PH is undertaking a health review of young offenders.
- PH are now working with Kent Police, CRC, NPS and IOM leads to improve the health of offenders which will hopefully reduce their re-offending.
- A key focus of this is improving the data sharing between health and criminal justice organisations

4. Anti-Social Behaviour:

- Much of the ASB in Kent is alcohol related; we are hoping to reduce this through the Alcohol Strategy
- We work closely with other relevant KCC teams (Community Safety, Troubled Families) where appropriate

5. Road Safety:

- KCC Transport and Safety Policy is led by the Highways team (David Joyner leads)
- Public Health England have recently produced "Reducing unintentional injuries on the roads among children and young people under 25 years"
- https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322212/Reducing_unintentional_injuries_on_the_roads_among_children_and_young_people_under_25_years.pdf

2.8 Contributors to this Assessment

The Strategic Assessment has been produced on behalf of the Safer Maidstone Partnership by Duncan Bruce in consultation with partnership agencies represented in the SMP. In addition, thanks are gratefully expressed to partners represented through the Kent Connects portal, and to the other local partners with whom we continue to work.

Chart 1 overleaf shows how the Strategic Assessment informs the Partnership Plan and sits alongside national and county level policy documents. The current organisation chart for the Safer Maidstone Partnership is shown as Chart 2.

Chart 1: Strategic Assessment - Policy and Strategy linkages

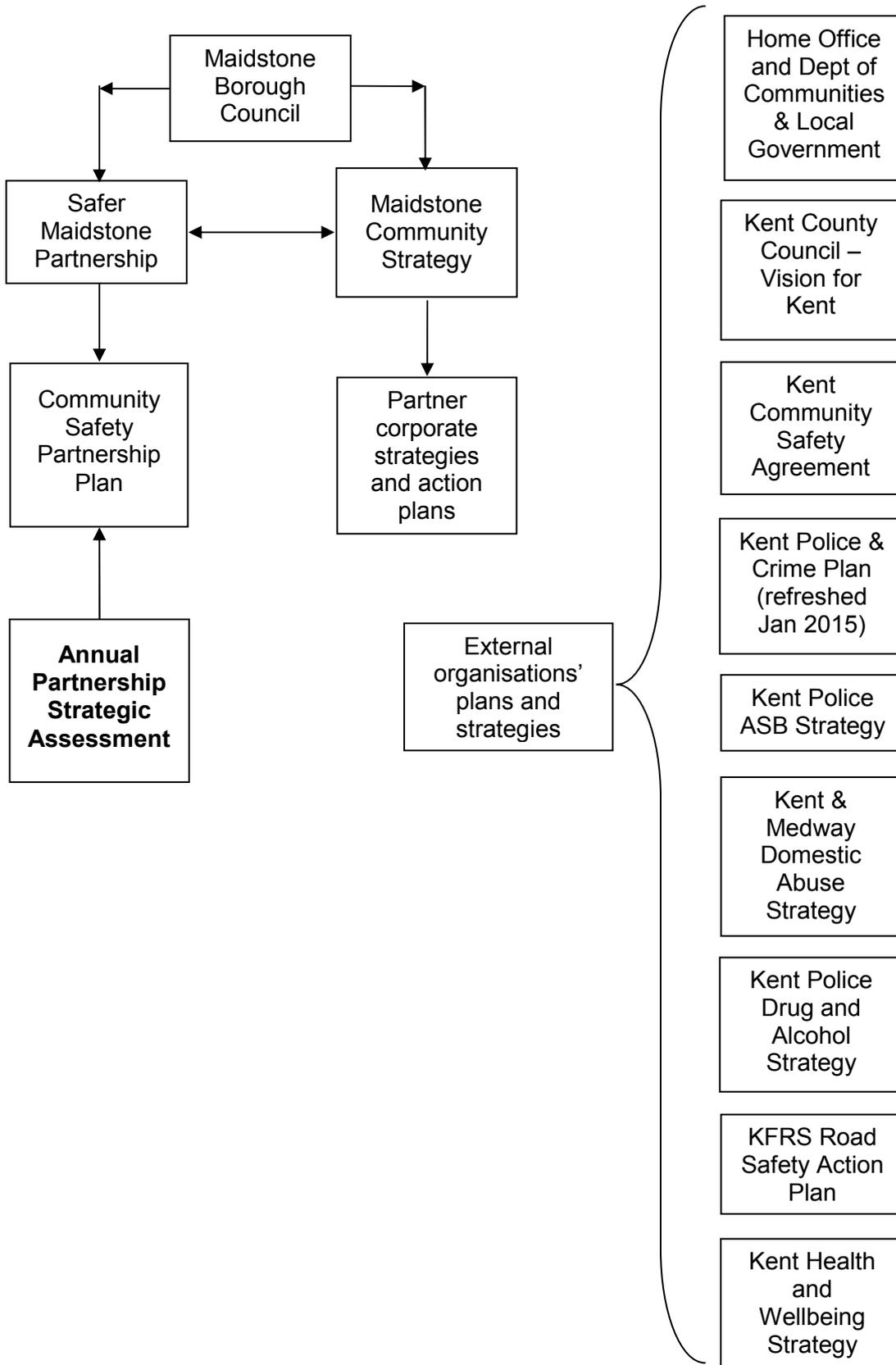
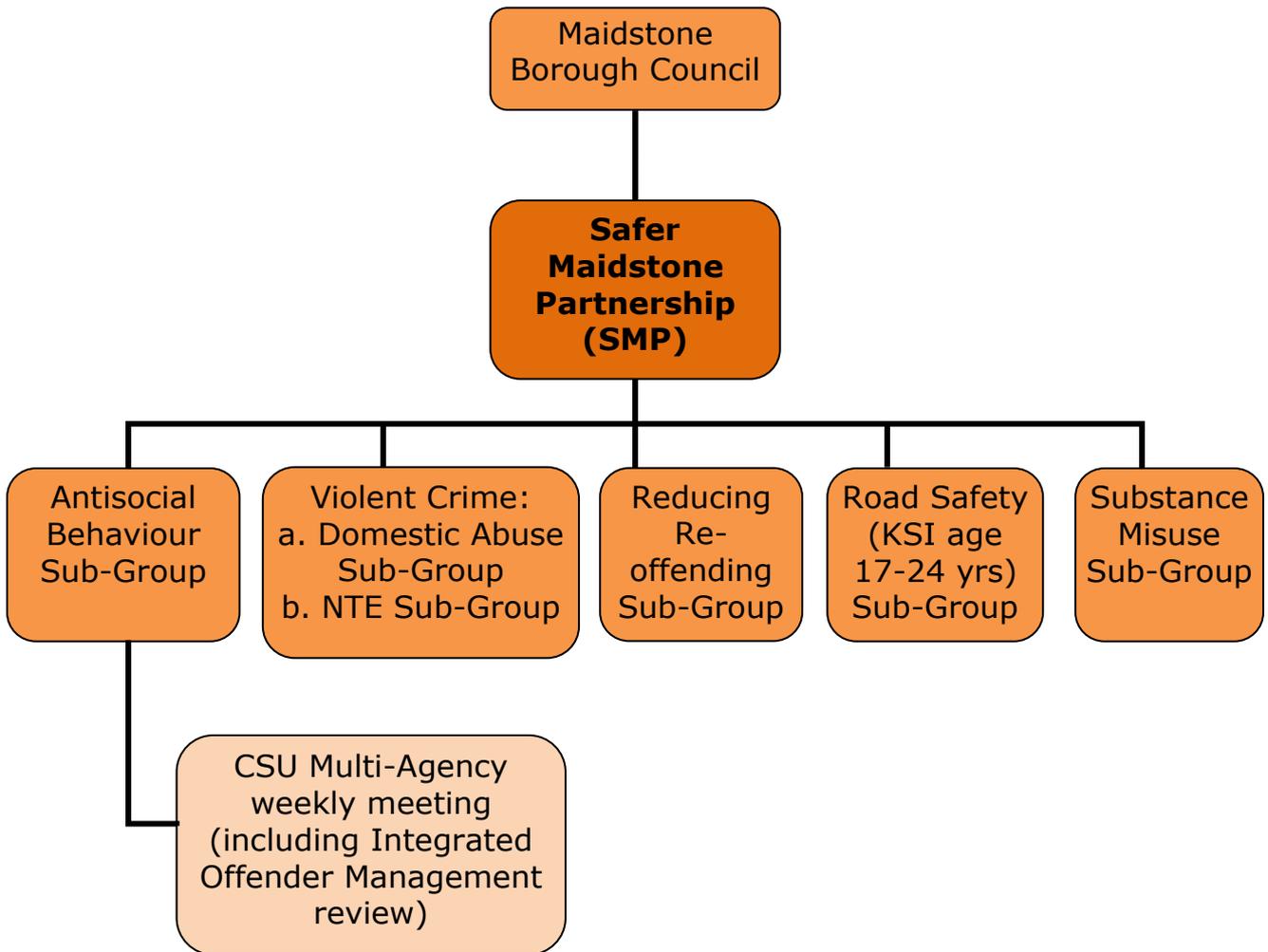


Chart 2 – Safer Maidstone Partnership organisation



3. Maidstone Crime and Resolution Overview

3.1 Three year time series²

Category	2011 / 2012 ³	2012 / 2013	2013 / 2014	Volume change ⁴	% change	Per 1k pop ⁵	District Rank ⁶
Total victim based crimes	7,372	8,033	8,457	+424	+5.3%	53.8	4
Total crimes against society ⁷	670	864	953	+89	+10.3%	6.1	N/A
All crime total	8,042	8,897	9,410	+513	+5.8%	59.8	N/A
Anti-Social Behaviour incidents	4,923	4,026	3,679	-347	-8.6%	23.4	5
Assaults resulting in hospital admissions (Sept-Aug 12/13 & 13/14)		48	65	+17	+35.4%	0.4	8
Burglary – Dwelling	391	496	468	-28	-5.6%	7.4	6
Burglary – Other	661	607	568	-39	-6.4%	3.6	6
Criminal Damage	1,244	1,379	1,379	NIL	NIL	8.8	5
Domestic Abuse (DA) – number of incidents (incl 16 & 17yr olds)	1,739	1,784	2,042	+258	+14.5%	16.1	5
DA - number of repeat victims	426	416	512	+96	+23.1%	4.0	5
DA - % repeat victims	24.5%	23.3%	25.1%	+1.8%	+7.7%		5
Drug Offences	359	472	431	-41	-8.7%	2.7	11
Metal Theft	158	170	79	-91	-53.5%	0.5	4
Re-offending rate: % difference between actual v predicted rate	Predicted Actual		7.86% 7.97%	+0.11%	+1.4%		4
Robbery	37	65	60	-5	-7.7%	0.4	5
Sexual Offences	102	168	203	+35	+20.9%	1.3	5
Shoplifting	955	1,086	1,108	+22	+2.0%	7.04	10
Theft & Handling Stolen Goods	2,698	2,615	2,728	+113	+4.3%	17.3	7
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	504	603	482	-121	-20.1%	3.1	4
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	181	155	160	+5	+3.2%	1.0	4
Theft of Pedal Cycle	112	104	138	+34	+32.7%	0.9	6
Other Theft Offences	1,631	1,425	1,482	+57	+4.0%	9.4	6
Violent Crime	1,652	2,122	2,612	+490	+23.1%	16.6	6
Violence Against the Person	1,513	1,889	2,349	+460	+24.4%	14.9	6

² Data sources: Kent CSU data pack, Kent Public Health, Kent Police, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, West Kent CCG, Kent Wardens.

³ Time period used for data is October to Sept each year, except Assaults September to August and RTC casualties July to June.

⁴ The number difference and % difference columns are coloured red or green as appropriate against the previous 12 month period.

⁵ Population figure used to calculate the per 1,000 population is mid-2012 figure of 157,300, except Burglary Dwelling which uses households figure (63,400), and domestic violence uses population 16+ figure (127,000).

⁶ District ranking is based on per 1,000 population value. Rank 1 indicates best of 12 Kent districts.

⁷ Crimes in this category include: drug offences, possession of weapons, fraud, public order offences.

					%		
Accidental Fires	187	199	205	+6	+3.0%	N/A	12
Deliberate Fires	99	88	95	+7	+8.0%	N/A	7
Road Traffic Collisions – all casualties (July-June 11/12 to 13/14)	622	672	693	+21	+3.1%	N/A	12
KSI ⁸ casualties All ages	58	54	76	+22	+40.7%	N/A	11
KSI casualties <16 yrs	55	50	51	+1	+2.0%	N/A	9
KSI car drivers 17-24 yrs ⁹	1	1	4	+3	+300%	N/A	12
KSI road users aged 65 and over	9	3	9	+6	+200%	N/A	12

⁸ KSI = Killed and Seriously Injured where the number of persons killed and the number of persons seriously injured are combined.

⁹ KSI car drivers 17-24 yrs and road users over 65 data is for January to June (6 months) each year.

1.2 Maidstone crime resolution outcome analysis: April – December 2014

	1) Charged/Summoned	2) Caution – youths	3) Caution – adults	4) Taken into consideration	5) Offender Died	6) Police Notice for Disorder	7) Cannabis Warning	8) Community Resolution	9) Not in public interest (CPS)	10) Not in public interest (Police)	11) Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	12) Prosecution prevented – suspect ill	13) Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/ill	14) Evidential difficulties victim based – suspect not identified	15) Evidential difficulties prevent further action; victim supports police	16) Evidential difficulties prevent further action; victim does not support	17) Prosecution time limit expired	18) Investigation complete – no suspect identified	Total outcomes
Apr 14	110	9	19	0	1	6	0	24	0	0	0	3	0	14	68	80	4	367	705
May 14	120	3	28	0	0	9	0	19	1	0	2	7	1	6	80	101	1	339	717
Jun 14	128	5	37	2	0	7	0	16	0	0	1	7	1	8	116	82	0	326	736
Jul 14	140	3	19	1	0	11	0	22	0	0	1	5	0	5	67	93	0	439	806
Aug 14	120	3	27	0	0	7	0	25	0	1	1	8	0	12	98	80	0	368	750
Sep 14	116	4	15	0	0	5	0	21	0	0	1	9	1	7	92	78	0	428	777
Oct 14	106	3	18	1	0	2	0	8	0	0	1	12	0	8	88	96	1	376	720
Nov 14	130	10	15	0	0	1	0	25	0	0	0	5	0	4	91	84	1	358	724
Dec 14	98	9	19	0	0	3	0	12	0	0	1	5	1	7	75	116	1	364	711
Total	1,068	49	197	4	1	51	0	172	1	1	8	61	4	71	775	810	8	3,365	6,646
%	16.1%	0.7%	2.9%	0.1%	0%	0.8%	0%	2.6%	0%	0%	0.2%	0.9%	0.1%	1.1%	11.7%	12.2%	0.2%	50.6%	100%

4. Performance 2013-2014: Progress on current priorities

4.1 Anti-Social Behaviour

Although the evidence shows that ASB in Maidstone has fallen a further 8.6%, slightly more than the County-wide average fall 8.3%. Despite this, Maidstone's county ranking has fallen from 4th to 5th for ASB incidents per 1,000 population. At ward level High Street, Fant and East wards recorded the highest volumes of ASB with 666, 246 and 222 recorded incidents respectively for the 9 month period April to December 2014. These three wards account for 38% of all ASB incidents in Maidstone. In terms of public perception, the relatively highly concentrated nature of ASB in Maidstone means that overall the borough performs well compared with the rest of Kent. Despite the large night time economy (NTE), public perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour or teenagers hanging about are well below expected levels.

Despite the decrease in ASB incidents, and given that much ASB occurs away from the town centre, there remains a need to support both town centre safe socialising and more focused work in specific locations, including rural 'hotspots'. During 2013/14 the ASB Sub-Group has:

- Hosted the weekly SMP Partnership Tasking and Action Group meeting to identify repeat and vulnerable victims and promote joint working.
- Sought ASB/Injunction orders where appropriate.
- 14 Action Days have been held with multiple agencies visiting targeted areas as part of Operation Civic.
- Worked with licence premises holders through the Night-time Economy Forum and other direct liaison
- SMP continued to fund the Urban Blue Bus which acts as a place of safety in the NTE, and enables multi-agency outreach working to a variety of client groups
- Worked with local schools and hospitals to develop initiatives – such as 'Wasted' - aimed at raising young people's awareness of the dangers of drugs and alcohol through the SMP Substance Misuse Sub-Group.
- Provided community based outreach in conjunction with Switch Youth Café.
- Identified NEET's (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and referred them to Maidstone Engage programme.
- Identified troubled families and referred to the Maidstone Families Matter programme.
- Carried out targeted substance misuse work with offenders.
- Developed and promoted youth diversionary activity: such as Zeroth Gym and Challenger Troop, SNAP discos, community football & boxing, Power Project (YISP).

Case Study: Two vulnerable residents, one housebound, one with learning difficulties and partially sighted had been the on-going victims of hate crime and antisocial behaviour in Coxheath. Youths were known to be entering the property overnight and there was evidence of drug use and melted plastic containers in and outside the property. The two vulnerable residents believed that the property was haunted and had been sleeping in the downstairs sitting room for years.

The Kent Community Warden for the area co-ordinated the efforts of the Police, Social Services, Waste Services and the local housing provider to reassure the residents, clear the house and move them to a new property in another area. In addition, Kent Fire and Rescue visited the vulnerable people to ensure they were educated in fire safety.

Further case studies are to be found at Appendix 6

4.2 Violent Crime - Domestic Abuse

Evidence shows that in Maidstone **Domestic Abuse** has increased by 258 incidents, (from 1,784 to 2,042), an increase of 14.5%. However, given the underreported nature of domestic abuse, this is an area that should remain a focus for the Partnership, particularly given the continuing economic austerity which can place households under stress. During 2013/14 the role of DA Sub-Group continued to be delivered by the Maidstone Domestic Violence Forum, a registered charity. During 2013/14 the Forum has:

- Ensured the smooth changeover from K-DASH to Choices DA Services when the former organization resolved to cease operation;
- Supported – through direct payment - the establishment of a DA One-Stop Shop to ensure all services are available under one roof;
- Organised and promoted a one day DA workshop to develop a revised Action Plan, aligned with the MBC Community Safety Plan and County-wide DA strategy.
- Refreshed and reprinted the Domestic Violence Handbook;
- Purchased and distributed a variety of practical and promotional items, including biro pens with essential phone numbers on, to personal alarms
- Launched a Work Place Health employee awareness campaign.
- Supported the Freedom programme and Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service.
- Promoted and supported the Community Domestic Abuse Programme (CDAP).
- Referred all High Risk cases to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).
- Promoted the DA Schools Project (SAFE).
- Helped facilitate the Sanctuary and Flight Fund Schemes.
- Increased referrals for domestic abuse victims who are street homeless.
- Worked with the main social housing providers to increase awareness of DA issues;
- Supported the Specialist Domestic Violence Court and the work of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors;
- Provided support for male offenders wishing to rehabilitate.

4.3 Violent Crime – Night Time Economy (NTE)

The crime types which have been most affected by changes to recording practices are violence related offences including Assault and Violence Against the Person (VAP) (see page 3. Given the changes in crime recording, the real increase in violent crime is estimated to be between 4 to 8%, rather than the actual year on year increase of 23% the data now indicates. However, we are conscious that the violent crime category has shown increases, notably violence against the person from alcohol and drug related violence as part of the night time economy

Given the caveat above, a county-wide comparison shows Maidstone is middle ranked (6th) for violent crime per 1,000 population, and 4th amongst our West-Kent neighbours. At ward level, in the 12 month period January to December 2014, High Street ward experienced the highest number of violent crimes in the County (574), an increase of 10.6% from the previous year, and 28% of all violent crime in Maidstone. Other wards with high levels of violent crime include Park Wood, Fant and Shepway North. During 2013/14, the Safer Maidstone Partnership:

- In conjunction with Pubwatch, excluded violent individuals from the Town Centre premises.
- Shared information proactively from CCTV control room and Kent Police via MaidSafe network radios provided to door staff of key premises.
- Supported the town centre Street Pastors initiative.
- Supported successful initiatives such as the Town Centre purple flag scheme

- Used CCTV to protect and prevent crime.
- Enforced Alcohol Control Zones.
- Supported the county-wide Hate Crime Reporting Line.

4.4 Substance Misuse

Although drug offences have reduced by 8.7% (41 fewer offences), offences per 1,000 population are well above the County average, and Maidstone is ranked in 11th place overall County-wide. To tackle this, during 2013/14 the Substance Misuse Sub-Group has facilitated:

- Targeted multi-agency evening operations have been delivered with Trading Standards, Kent Police and Borough Council teams to tackle underage sales and licensed premises; as a result a premises license has subsequently been reviewed and information gathered on a number of other premises.
- Supported a Legal Highs awareness campaign aligned with national campaigns.
- Supported 'SNAP' discos which were attended by over 1,800 young people in 2013/14, where targeted messages were delivered regarding the misuse of drugs and alcohol.
- Service provision provided by CRI has been integrated into the partnership. Outreach workers have delivered the Maidstone Assertive Outreach programme which engages with hard to reach individuals (e.g. street population) misusing substances.
- Worked with licence holders through the Night-time Economy Forum and other direct liaison;
- Promoted Maidstone as a safe place to visit for leisure and entertainment;
- Worked with local schools and hospitals to develop initiatives – such as Theatre ADAD's 'Wasted' - aimed at raising young people's awareness of the dangers of drugs and alcohol through the SMP Substance Misuse Sub-Group;
- Overseen the delivery of the Don't Abuse The Booze project to all Maidstone secondary school including one PRU. DATB is a two year project with a 'whole borough' integrated approach to firmly tackle problem drinking head-on by:
 - Developing a comprehensive programme of alcohol education in our schools, Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and colleges;
 - Proactively reducing 'pre-fuelling' and binge-drinking;
 - Challenging alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour in identified 'hot-spots' in town centre and rural locations;
 - Reduce excess emergency ambulance call-outs and A&E admissions.

The integrated approach will have a direct impact on reducing the four key harms arising from alcohol abuse: harms to health, harms to public order, harms to productivity and harms to families and society.

4.5 Road Safety – Killed and Injured 17-24 Year Olds

Evidence shows that road safety has improved on Maidstone's road over the last 10 years. However, young drivers in the 17-24 age group experience a disproportionate number of crash's, and the collisions they have are more serious. The Road Safety Sub-Group has:

- Proactively targeted young drivers and drivers of two-wheeled vehicles.
- Identified hotspots of concern.
- Identified repeat offenders for speeding and promoted Speedwatch.
- Held multi-agency events around speed enforcement and safety.
- Delivered Safety in Action programme to all primary school children transitioning to secondary school, providing road safety education and pedestrian awareness.
- Promoted walking buses and 20MPH zones around schools.
- Promoted bus safety driver and pedestrian awareness.

- Signposted to bicycle and marking events.
- Promoted focused campaigns on discouraging drink driving and using mobile phones.
- Supported KFRS to promote their demonstration/learning events:
 - Car'n'Age
 - Carmageddon
 - Rush
 - Jack & Jill
 - Licence to Kill

4.6 Reducing Re-offending

Reducing re-offending across the age range is a Government target for all CSP's. This is particularly important when those who have already been through the criminal justice system commit over half of all crime. Reducing re-offending was adopted as the SMP's 5th priority in 2012/13 following an analysis of Maidstone's actual re-offending rate against what its expected rate should be. A re-offending sub-group was established involving all key agencies to gain an overview of which agencies are doing what in terms of the 7¹⁰ resettlement pathways and provide strategic direction to the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) and Deter Young Offenders (DYO) groups.

- All offender managers have been briefed in relation to the process and benefits of these approaches.
- Restorative Justice has become an embedded process within Integrated Offender Management (IOM).
- Community Payback scheme is used by Maidstone Borough Council and some parish councils.
- Electronic 'Buddy' tracking is being piloted in partnership between Kent Police and Probation. At present this can only be undertaken with the agreement of the offender.
- Yes Plus and Challenger Troop commissioned to provide diversionary and personal development programmes at Kings Reach Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).

¹⁰ 1. [Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour](#)
 2. [Accommodation](#)
 3. [Drugs and Alcohol](#)
 4. [Children and Families](#)
 5. [Health](#)
 6. [Education, Training and Employment](#)
 7. [Finance, Benefit and Debt](#)

5. Community Safety Priorities 2015-16 and Recommendations

5.1 Establishing SMP Priorities – Local Crime Priorities Assessment Score Sheet

Crime category	Maidstone Performance & Comparisons				Sub-total	Community & Victim Impact				
	Volume change yr on yr ¹¹	3 year Trend ¹²	Comparison #1 West Kent ¹³	Comparison #2 County ¹⁴		Community concern ¹⁵	Level of harm ¹⁶	Can SMP add value? ¹⁷	Total score	Priority Rank
Anti-Social Behaviour	0	0	5	3	8					
Domestic abuse: number	5	5	5	3	18					
Domestic abuse: % repeat	5	5	3	3	16					
Drug offences	0	5	3	5	13					
Re-offending rate	5	N/A	3	3	11					
Burglary – Dwelling	0	5	3	0	8					
Burglary - Other	0	0	3	0	3					
Criminal damage	3	3	5	3	14					
Theft from motor vehicle	5	5	3	3	16					
Theft of motor vehicle	0	5	3	3	11					
Violent crime	5	5	3	3	16					
Sexual offences	5	5	5	3	18					
Violence Against the Person	5	5	5	3	18					
Theft & Handling stolen goods	5	3	5	3	16					
Robbery	0	5	5	3	13					
Shoplifting	5	5	5	5	20					
Accidental fires	5	5	5	5	20					
Deliberate fires	5	3	5	3	16					
Metal Theft	0	0	5	3	8					
KSI casualties all ages	5	5	5	5	20					
All casualties under16 yrs	5	5	5	3	18					

¹¹ If volume increased 2013/14 on 2012/13 = 5, if decreased = 0, if stayed same = 3;

¹² If 3 year trend increasing = 5, if decreasing = 0, if broadly same/level over 3 yrs = 3

¹³ Based on per 1,000 population figure compared to other 3 West Kent districts: Score 5 if worst, 0 if best, 3 if either 2nd or 3rd

¹⁴ Based on per 1,000 population figure compared to other 11 Kent districts: 5 if in bottom 3, 0 if in top 3, 3 if between 9th to 4th

¹⁵ Scored 0 – 5 using information gathered from a variety of community, parish and interest group meetings

¹⁶ Scored 0-5 according to assessment of impact of crime on community

¹⁷ Scored 0-5 according to assessment of partnership working adding value above and above agencies working individually

5.2 National and Local Emerging Issues 2015-2016

5.2.1 Introduction

The UK economy is no longer contracting at the rate seen in 2008/09, and most economic indicators show that growth has returned. This is reflected in the local economy which has recovered well. Maidstone's unemployment rate (as at September 2014) of 1.3% (1.8% in 2013 and 2.5% in 2012) is lower than the county average (1.8%) and much lower than the national rate (2.2%). In September 2014 there were 1,257 unemployed people in Maidstone which is 5.6% lower (75 fewer people) than August 2014 and 37.3% Lower (748 fewer unemployed people) than September 2013.

Unemployment rates vary across the district. The lowest unemployment is in Detling and Thurnham ward where 0.4% of the working age population are unemployed. The highest rate is in High Street ward where 3.0% of the working age population are unemployed.

The majority of those unemployed are aged 18-24 years old. In Maidstone, 18-24 year olds account for 24.3% of all of those unemployed and in Kent the proportion is 26.5%. More information is provided in Chart 3.

Table 3: Unemployment rates

District	Total unemployed as at September 2014	Resident based rate %	Change since previous month		Change since last year	
			Number	%	Number	%
Maidstone	1,257	1.3%	-75	-5.6%	-748	-37.3%
Kent	16,162	1.8%	-622	-3.7%	-7,165	-30.7%
Great Britain	870,863	2.2%	-37,028	-4.1%	-391,876	-31.0%

Source: NOMIS - Claimant Count

5.2.2 Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 gained Royal Assent on 13 March 2014. The Act brings a number of changes to the tools and powers available to organisations, agencies and practitioners who tackle Anti-social Behaviour.

The overarching aim of the Act is to provide more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour, protect victims and communities and treat the underlying behaviour of perpetrators. The Act streamlines and simplifies 19 existing powers, replacing them with six new ones which will enable the police, local authorities and others to respond quickly and effectively to anti-social behaviour.

Two further changes are the Community Trigger and Community Remedy which it is hoped will empower victims and communities by giving them a greater say in the outcome of their reports and how agencies respond to complaints of anti-social behaviour.

The Community Trigger

What form the Community Trigger takes depends on partnership consultation, but it is based around lack of action by agencies. When agencies fail to work together, the Community Trigger can be invoked by individuals, agencies and community groups. Kent CSU is consulting with District CSU partnerships to ensure the most effective Community Trigger process is developed for adoption by Districts.

The Community Remedy

This is a list of actions providing suitable remedies/sanctions, other than prosecution. The list is decided upon jointly by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable after consultation with district CSUs, and the community remedy adopted must have victim agreement.

5.3 Local Community Safety Priorities

This Strategic Assessment's first objective is to identify any crime and disorder trends, which can then be used to inform the priority planning for year 2015/16. This is done by analysing data and intelligence reports from the previous year, which is usually 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014, to produce recommended priority areas the data are telling us are a concern. The priorities are then compared with other areas and ranked against a number of factors, including volume, trend over time, resident's concerns and how much it is felt the partnership can influence – see chart section 5.1. This is then reviewed by our stakeholders, to help guide practitioners in formulating actions that they feel will have an impact on each priority.

Intertwined through each of the emerging themes are the three common threads of: Targeting prolific offenders/repeat locations; Safeguarding vulnerable and young people; Prevention and early intervention. The following areas were identified by this process and are recommended as emerging priorities for the Safer Maidstone Partnership.

5.3.1 Violent Crime

The Home Office defines violent crime as robbery, sexual offences, and a group of Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences ranging from assault without injury, through wounding, to homicide. Violent crime costs society around £13 billion annually in England and Wales, of which £4 billion is incurred by the NHS and within the Criminal Justice System. In addition, more than 45% of violent offenders are thought to be under the influence of alcohol and young men are at almost four times greater risk of being a victim of violence than the rest of the adult population.

Looking specifically at violence against the person offences, in the period October 2013 to September 2014, crimes in this category saw a county-wide increase of over 30% (5,468 additional offences), although the caveat on page 3 applies. In Maidstone, violence against the person increased from 1,889 offences in 2012/13 to 2,349 offences in 2013/14 (+24.4%), which placed Maidstone is 6th in the county. For the year April to December 2014, at ward level, High Street Park Wood and Fant wards recorded the highest volumes of violence against the person with 574 and 163 and 152 recorded crimes respectively. These 3 wards account for 43% of all violent crime in the borough.

(i) Domestic Abuse

The cross-government definition of domestic abuse is:

'any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional.'

It is known that domestic abuse is one of the most under reported crimes: the Crown Prosecution Service reports that women on average experience an average of 35 incidents of domestic abuse before reporting an incident to the police. Nationally, domestic abuse represents approximately 25% of all violent crime. National figures for England and Wales from 2010/11 estimate that 7% of women aged 16-59 were victims of domestic abuse in the past year, as were 5% of men. Extrapolating this to Maidstone's female population aged 16-59 yrs would suggest that over 3,000 women

are victims of domestic abuse each year. Using this locally derived figure compared to actual recorded domestic abuse incidents in Maidstone (2,042) suggests that only around two thirds of domestic violence incidents were reported in 2013/14.

In Maidstone, there are on average 39 domestic abuse incidents reported to the police each week. Per 1,000 population, Maidstone has the 5th lowest rate of domestic abuse incidents and 5th lowest percentage of repeat victims in the county. Of the total reports, a quarter (25.1%) are repeat incidents.

It is widely recognized that increased recorded incidents of domestic abuse are not necessary indicators of a worsening situation. Since domestic abuse is such an under-reported crime increased reports indicate that DA victims feel more confident to come forward to report the abuse they are suffering. Further analysis of local postcode data, the highest volumes or hotspots can be seen primarily in the Park Wood, Shepway North, High Street, East and Fant wards

Due to the high levels of domestic abuse and repeat incidents, recommendation is made that Violent Crime (domestic abuse) remains as a priority for the partnership, focusing on those areas with frequent reports of domestic abuse.

(ii) Maidstone's Night-Time Economy (NTE)

Maidstone has the largest night time economy in Kent and prides itself on ensuring that visitors to the town's entertainment venues are as safe as possible. Given the changes in crime recording (see page 3), the real increase in total violent crime is estimated to be between 4 to 8%, rather than the actual year on year increase of 23% the data now indicates. A county-wide comparison shows Maidstone is middle ranked (6th) for violent crime per 1,000 population, and 4th amongst our West-Kent neighbours. In terms of the absolute number of violent crimes recorded, Maidstone's total of 2,612 is surpassed only by Swale (2,657) and Thanet (3,750).

Looking at hospital admissions related to violent crimes, Maidstone Hospital recorded 65 admissions of Maidstone residents for assault in 2013/14, compared to 48 the year before. Approximately 85% of all admissions to Maidstone Hospital were male and 15% female. Of those recorded, the majority of males reported to have been assaulted in the street, bar/pub or at school/college, whereas the majority of females reported to have been assaulted in the street or at home.

Despite a well managed evening economy, there is therefore a continuing need to tackle alcohol related incidents, including those arriving in the town centre already drunk - known as 'pre-fuelling'. During recent years there has been significant focus on tackling Night Time Economy crime, including violent crime and there are many examples of successful partnership projects which are in effect, including the Urban Blue Bus, Maidsafe radio, taxi marshals, purple flag scheme and Street Pastors. However, SMP are conscious that the violent crime category has shown increases, notably violence against the person from alcohol and drug related violence as part of the night time economy.

Due to the continuing rise in violent crime in the night-time economy, recommendation is made for drug and alcohol related violence in the night time economy to remain a priority for the partnership.

5.3.2 Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti social behavior is defined as: *'acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator'*.

Over the last three years there has been a decrease in the number of reports of ASB by just over 25%. However, Maidstone still has the 5th highest number of reported incidents in the County (after Thanet, Canterbury, Swale and Dover). Analysis of ASB across Maidstone highlights that 3 wards (High Street, Fant, and Park Wood) account for nearly 40% of ASB incidents in the borough. In surveys, Maidstone residents regularly feature ASB as one of the most frequently identified issues and this, together with geographic hot spots in the wards identified above, continue to be relevant as areas of concern.

Due to the high volumes of anti-social behaviour in parts of the borough, and the impact ASB has on residents, recommendation is made that ASB continues as a priority for the Partnership.

5.3.3 Substance Misuse

The UK has amongst the highest rates of young people's cannabis use and binge drinking in Europe. In the UK there are some 13,000 hospital admissions linked to young people's drinking each year. Early drug and alcohol use is related to a host of educational, health and social problems. Offenders who use heroin, cocaine or crack cocaine are estimated to commit between a third and a half of all acquisitive crime.

In Maidstone total drug offences have reduced 8.7% or 41 incidents, but are still 20% higher than the level of three years ago and High Street ward has the highest volume of drug offences in Kent, 204 incidents or 20.9 per 1,000 population. There have been no identified seasonal trends. For alcohol related conditions, Maidstone is ranked 10th out of the 12 districts for hospital admissions due to alcohol in the county, and has the 9th worst rate of alcohol related deaths.

Alcohol drives much crime. In Maidstone nearly 800 crimes were recorded as directly alcohol related in 2012/13, out of a total of 8,457 victim based crimes (9.5%). In contrast.

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), or so called 'legal highs' are substances designed to produce similar effects to controlled drugs, such as cannabis, cocaine or ecstasy, but are structured differently in an attempt to avoid being controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Legal highs are not safe and should be termed 'lethal highs'. In England in 2012 some 68 deaths were linked to legal highs. NPS use in Maidstone is on the increase, driven by the number of highly visible retail legal high outlets. In fact, Kent has more 'head shops' than anywhere outside London, and Maidstone more than anywhere else in Kent. In addition, NPS users tend to be those who are more vulnerable.

Due to the high level of drug offences in certain wards, and the increasing prevalence of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), recommendation is made that substance misuse including alcohol and NPS remains as a priority.

5.3.4 Reducing Reoffending

Maidstone data shows that in the period 1 January to 31 December 2013 the actual re-offending rate was 1.40% higher than the predicted re-offending rate, which is the 4th best among Kent districts. As at 31 May Maidstone has the 4th highest caseload (348), or some 10.2% of the total Kent caseload.

Significant demands are placed on CSP resources by individuals who are repeat ASB offenders - particularly those who perpetrate low-level offences as a result of alcohol consumption. Reducing re-offending across the age range is a Government target for all CSP's. This is particularly important when those who have already been through

the criminal justice system commit over half of all crime. It will enable a more strategic engagement between CSP's and other local partners, such as the third sector and Local Criminal Justice Boards, in planning and commissioning services for offenders. Therefore, SMP should continue to support the work of IOM to continue to have a positive impact on the number of offences caused by repeat offenders.

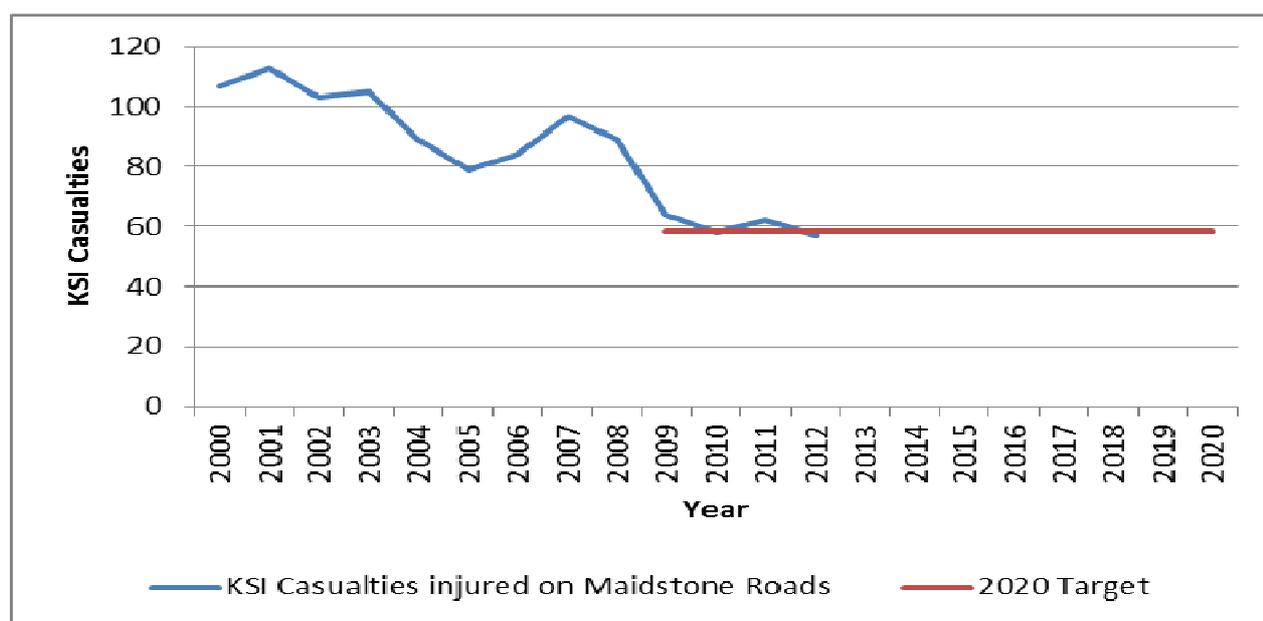
Although the actual re-offending rate has fallen from the 2nd lowest to the 3rd lowest in Kent, recommendation is made that Reducing Re-offending remains as a priority, being a cross cutting theme across all priorities.

5.3.5 Road Safety - Killed or seriously injured (KSI)

In 1994 across Kent (excluding Medway) some 73 people were killed and a further 1,170 seriously injured on Kent roads: by 2011 this had reduced to 43 persons killed, with 476 seriously injured. In 2013, there were a total of 4,252 road traffic collisions (RTCs) on Kent roads (including trunk and motorways). In these collisions there were injuries to 5,830 people of whom:

- 48 people died
- 546 road users were seriously injured
- 5,236 road users received slight injuries.

KSI casualties on Maidstone Roads and 2020 Target



On average, the number of people of all ages Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) in **Maidstone** in the period 1994-98 was 115 per year. By 2009 this had reduced to 64, and by 2012 had reduced further to 57, a halving from the 1994-98 average.

However, in 2013 the number KSI in Maidstone rose slightly to 63 an increase of 10.5%. For the six month period January to June 2014 the number KSI totals 41 which forecast a year-end total KSI between 75-80.

Whilst acknowledging that Maidstone has the highest number of RTCs and casualties, when KSI casualties per 1,000 population are compared with our near neighbours, road safety is a priority across West Kent – see table below.

Table 1. Road Safety in West Kent – KSI per 1,000 population

Period	All ages KSI	Maidstone BC	Sevenoaks DC	Tonbridge & Malling BC	Tunbridge Wells BC
January to June 2014	Total KSI	41	37	25	27
	KSI Per 1,000 pop	0.263	0.321	0.206	0.234
January to June 2013	Total KSI	28	29	19	27
	KSI Per 1,000 pop	0.179	0.251	0.157	0.234

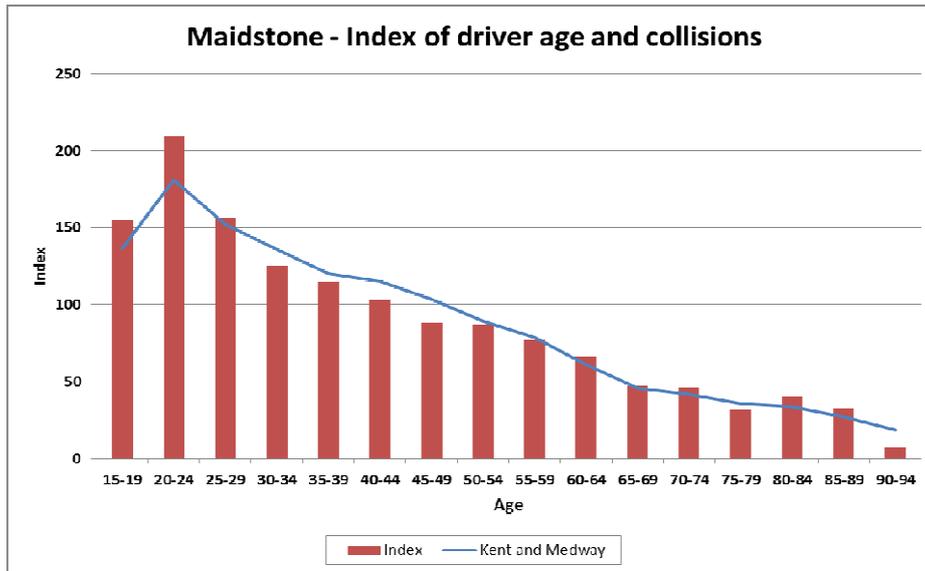
Sevenoaks DC has a higher rate of KSI casualties per 1,000 population than Maidstone in the first 6 months of 2014 and 2013, with both Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells boroughs having a higher rate per 1,000 population in the first half of 2013.

Table 2 - Road safety in Maidstone: 2010 – 2014

Category	2011	2012	2013	Jan-June 2014
Total casualties, All ages	651	675	643	345
KSI casualties, All ages	62	57	63	41
Slight casualties, All ages	589	618	580	304
KSI casualties <16 yrs old	7	3	3	2
KSI car drivers 17-24 yrs	6	4	5	4
KSI road users aged 65+	7	15	8	9

In 2013, total all ages casualties reduced from 2012 levels, although they are forecast to increase from 643 in 2013 to around 690 in 2014.

Road traffic is still the biggest cause of unnatural death, injury and harm to the people of Kent, especially young people aged between five and 25. Kent County Council is the Highway Authority for Kent and has a Statutory Duty under the Road Traffic Act for road safety with the aim to reduce casualties through a combination of safer road engineering and education, in conjunction with Police enforcement activity. However, road safety is not just the remit of one organisation and certain aspects such as education benefit from a partnership approach. Maidstone car user casualties over the last 5 years have consistently been above the Kent and Medway districts' average, within this the car drivers involved in the highest number of collisions were 18 year olds (124 in total). Over the period 2008 - 2012-20% of car drivers involved in crashes were aged 17-24: in 2013 young car users and their passengers accounted for 25.6% of all recorded KSI injuries. Young drivers in the 17-24 age group experience a disproportionate number of RTC's, and the collisions they have are more serious – see table below.



Summary:

Based on the current data for 2013/14, Maidstone has seen a 3.1% increase in all casualties compared with Kent-wide increase of 9%, and a 40.7% increase in KSI casualties against the same period last year, compared to a Kent-wide KSI increase of 26.3. However, young drivers in the 17-24 age group experience a disproportionate number of RTC's, and the collisions they have are more serious. The focus for 2015-16 will be on three user groups: young drivers aged 17-24, powered two-wheelers (p2w) riders, and teenage pedestrians (secondary school age), since these groups are over represented in the data.

Due to killed and seriously injured figures increasing faster against the county wide increase, recommendation is made that Road Safety remains as a priority.

5.4 Cross Cutting Themes

Data analysis also acknowledged that the priorities are often inter-related and has identified three distinct cross cutting themes that run through all of the priority focus areas. Actions contained within this plan are therefore built around the five identified priorities and three cross cutting themes, as shown in the chart below:

Cross cutting themes				
Anti-social Behaviour	Reduce Re-offending	Violent crime (Domestic abuse & NTE)	Road safety (KSI)	Substance Misuse (including alcohol)
Targeting prolific offenders / repeat locations				
Safeguarding vulnerable and young people				
Prevention and early intervention				

5.5 Recommendation to Safer Maidstone Partnership

Our priorities for this year have been distilled from a wide variety of information shared with our partners and represent the most important issues to focus on this

(2014/15) year. Based on the information in this Strategic Assessment, it is recommended that the Safer Maidstone Partnership confirm the following 2014/15 priorities based on the areas where maximum impact could be achieved given a continuing reduction in resources and capacity:

- 1. Violent Crime (specifically Domestic Abuse and Night Time Economy)**
- 2. Anti-social Behaviour**
- 3. Substance Misuse**
- 4. Reduce Re-offending**
- 5. Road Safety – Killed & Seriously Injured 17-24 year olds & pedestrians**

All the priorities will require a robust multi-agency response, but because they are important for residents and communities, achieving them will have a positive impact on people's quality of life.

6. Implementation and Monitoring

To ensure that the identified priorities are delivered, the Partnership will review and monitor progress as follows:

- At SMP level through quarterly Sub-Group Chair reports
- At Sub-Group level through Action Plan monitoring by Sub-Group Chairs

7. Strategic Assessment review date

The purpose of this document is to inform the annual SMP Partnership Plan and to assist the SMP and its partner agencies to draw up specific actions. Therefore this document is reviewed annually and agreed by the Safer Maidstone Partnership in March each year. It is also independently assessed by Kent CSU.

8. How to get further information

If you would like further information about the Safer Maidstone Partnership, please contact: Community Partnerships Team, 6th Floor, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Tel: 01622 602000. www.maidstone.org.uk

<p>We can provide this Assessment in large print, on tape and in Braille. For people whose first language is not English, we can arrange to have the Assessment translated into your preferred language. Please telephone (01622) 602000 for further assistance.</p>
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Text service for the deaf or speech-impaired

If you're deaf or speech-impaired, you can text Kent Police. Start the message with the word 'police' then leave a space and write your message including what and where the problem is. Send your text to 60066 (the Kent Police communications centre) and they will reply with a message.

Appendix 1

Methodology and Information Sources

Unless otherwise stated, data collected for this Strategic Assessment relates to the time period April 2013 to March 2014, with data for the period April to September 2014 utilised where necessary. The main body of this assessment is broken down into three sections. The first, the crime and perceptions of crime overview, gives a three year time series analysis of crime activity, anti-social behaviour, fire and road safety data, together with our position relative to the other 11 Kent district councils.

The second section looks at the current partnership priorities with emphasis on the assessment of performance against these. This is done through time series analysis since the previous assessment was undertaken and reasons for any changes in a particular issue.

The third section of this assessment, 'Emerging Issues 2014-2015 and Recommendations', further analyse the emerging potential issues identified from the performance section, with greater detail on the scope of the problem, including the scale of the problem, any reasons for changes in levels and the suggested cause of the problem including the relevance of location, time, the offender or the victim. Following this further analysis, after going through a priority selection process with key partners, a final list of recommended partnership priorities for the upcoming year is produced.

A community prioritisation process allowed for the views of the local community of what issues should be deemed an emerging priority for the local area and was gathered through the Maidstone Resident Satisfaction Survey. In addition, PCSO's and Community Safety Unit Police staff engaged with local communities at public events such as the Maidstone Mela, 36 Engineers Day, Switch on the Music and Uprockin' young people's festival. Also public opinion and those categories that are of most concern are highlighted through the quarterly Kent Crime and Victimisation Survey.

Information sources

The list below includes the details of those data sources used to inform this strategic assessment, including the agency supplying the data, the time period the data refers to and any issues surrounding the validity and reliability of the data. All information was correct at time of document production.

Kent Community Safety Unit crime data – Safer Communities Web Portal

All data provided by the County CSU is using recorded crime data provided by the Business Information Unit at Kent Police. This data places the incidents at the time at which they were recorded by the Police.

Kent Police Intelligence Analysis data

Data provided by Kent Police is 'committed' data. The 'date' used is the mid point between the earliest and latest dates that the offence could have been committed.

Ambulance data

All ambulance pickup submissions have been compiled by the County Community Safety Unit utilising data supplied by the South-East Coast Ambulance service. This data has been cleansed and sanitised for use on CrimeView and, due to NHS data protection requirements, some data loss does occur within the cleansing process. (E.g. ward-level occurrences of 4 or less are suppressed and shown as zero.)

Other data sources

Data and information used in producing this Assessment has been provided, directly or otherwise, from the following organisations:

Association of Chief Police Officers
Association of Police Authorities
Association of Public Health Observatories (PHO's)
Children, Family and Education, KCC
Choices DA Services (formerly North Kent Women's Aid)
Clean Kent Partnership
Community Health Profiles
East Coast Kent PCT
Every Child Matters
Health & Social Care Information Centre
Home Office
Institute of Alcohol Studies
Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership
Kent Adult Social Services
Kent Community Support Unit
Kent Community Wardens
Kent County Council
Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team
Kent Fire & Rescue Service
Kent Highways
Kent Police
Kent Probation
Kent Public Health Information Library
Kent Youth Offending Service
Kenward Trust
Local Alcohol Profiles for England
London Health Observatory
NHS West Kent
Nomis
North West Public Health Observatory
Office for National Statistics
ONS Labour Market Statistics
Project Fusion
South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAmb)
South East England Public Health Observatory
Supporting People
The NHS Information Centre
Trading Standards
Youth Offending Services

Appendix 2

Case Study 1 – Vulnerable Mother and Son – Kent Police

The Community Safety Unit received a call from an elderly mother and her son. When the property was visited, their living conditions were appalling with no hot water, no heating, no cooking facilities.

The couple had their curtains closed all day and night as they feared people looking into their windows as they had experienced ASB problems previously. Their clothes were dirty and they both looked unkempt. The furniture was old, dirty and broken.

Action taken:

The CSU Police worked closely with Golding Homes to support a move and worked with the housing provider, removal company, social services and a local church. The church provided furniture, cutlery, crockery, cooking utensils, duvets, sheets, covers, curtains, carpet tiles and food. Once the family had moved, CSU staff put together beds, made the beds up, hung curtains and arranged KCC Social Care to support the family with their finances and correspondence by supporting the son to sort out his finances, pay all arrears. Welfare visits have been made by police and the mother and son are doing well.

Case Study 2 – Cold Calling – Kent Community Warden Service

A Warden was delivering leaflets to the elderly in Lenham for an up coming event when he noticed a white van on a driveway of a bungalow. There was a young lady sitting in the driving seat. As Martin approached the van the driver got into the drivers seat, started the engine and asked Martin if he was issuing parking tickets. As the van drove off the Warden made a note of the registration number and noticed that he had left some equipment on the drive. This included a compressor, a plastic dustbin, a jet wash type lance some hose and a bucket of dry mortar mix. Some of the drive had already been cleaned.

Action taken:

The Warden was concerned and decided to speak to the resident who was retired, disabled and lived on his own. When asked if he knew the men who were cleaning his drive, he said he had been cold called and asked if he wanted his drive cleaned for £75. Written notice was not given by the trader. The householder also said that when he told the trader he would have to write a cheque the trader said he only wanted cash. The Warden decided to call the local PCSO who was working in the village. The PCSO and Warden gathered further evidence as the incident unfolded, and notified KCC trading Standards who confirmed that the tradesmen involved were all known. In an excellent example of partnership working the resident was saved from paying for work he did not want, and from future losses.

Case Study 3 – Tackling deliberate arson in Marden - KFRS case studies

After a number of call outs to small deliberate fires, thought to be started by youths in the area, the fire station contacted the Youth Engagement Team (YET) who worked with crews to address the problems.

Action taken:

- Areas where youths congregated were identified and this information was combined with other intelligence.
- This information was compared to the location of fires and discussed with the local community warden and PCSOs.
- An initial intervention was conducted by two officers from the YET team who went to these areas with the local crews and spoke with around 20 young people about

the dangers of what they had been doing, and the consequences of their actions. This group included the youths thought to be responsible for the fires.

- A follow up intervention was conducted a few weeks later, also involving members of the Community Engagement Team and of two PCSOs. A fire engine was taken along and this time officers engaged with around 40 youths. The conversation was kept light-hearted and involved breaking down any barriers with them, sitting in the engine, trying on fire gear and allowing 'hands on' activity with the hose. All the time this was happening, safety messages were being shared with the young people.

"Prior to the intervention we were attending small rubbish fires in the village on a regular basis, at least weekly. Since their intervention as yet we haven't had any incidents of this type" - *Jonathan Nightingale, Crew Manager, Marden*

Case Study 4 – Financial Scam – KCC Warden Service

A call was received by the Warden service from Barclays Bank who had concerns about a customer wanting to withdraw £9,000. Barclays were asked if they could keep the customer there and a Warden attended the bank. The Warden spoke to the customer and it was soon obvious that he had been drawn into many scams and had already lost a considerable amount of money. Barclays were able to put a stop on £4,000 that he had tried to transfer earlier. The Warden asked if she could visit him and made an appointment for the next day.

During the visit the Warden discovered that the customer had many issues: he was suffering from a brain tumour and his 93 year old mother was in hospital but dependent on him when she was at home. It became evident that he had been spending on average between £800-£1,000 a month on various scams for 5 years and in total had lost between £40,000-£60,000 pounds.

Action taken:

The Warden worked with Barclays got his bank account changed stopping all direct debit charges, and worked with B.T. got his telephone number changed to stop the scam callers. She also contacted relatives to make them aware of what had been happening and contacted Social Services to arrange for care for his mother on her return to the home to take pressure of him. The Warden then contacted the Fraud Squad who investigated and so far he has had £13,000 pounds back. This is a good example of joined up partnership working not only with public services but the private sector too.

Appendix 2

Maidstone demographic and economic summary

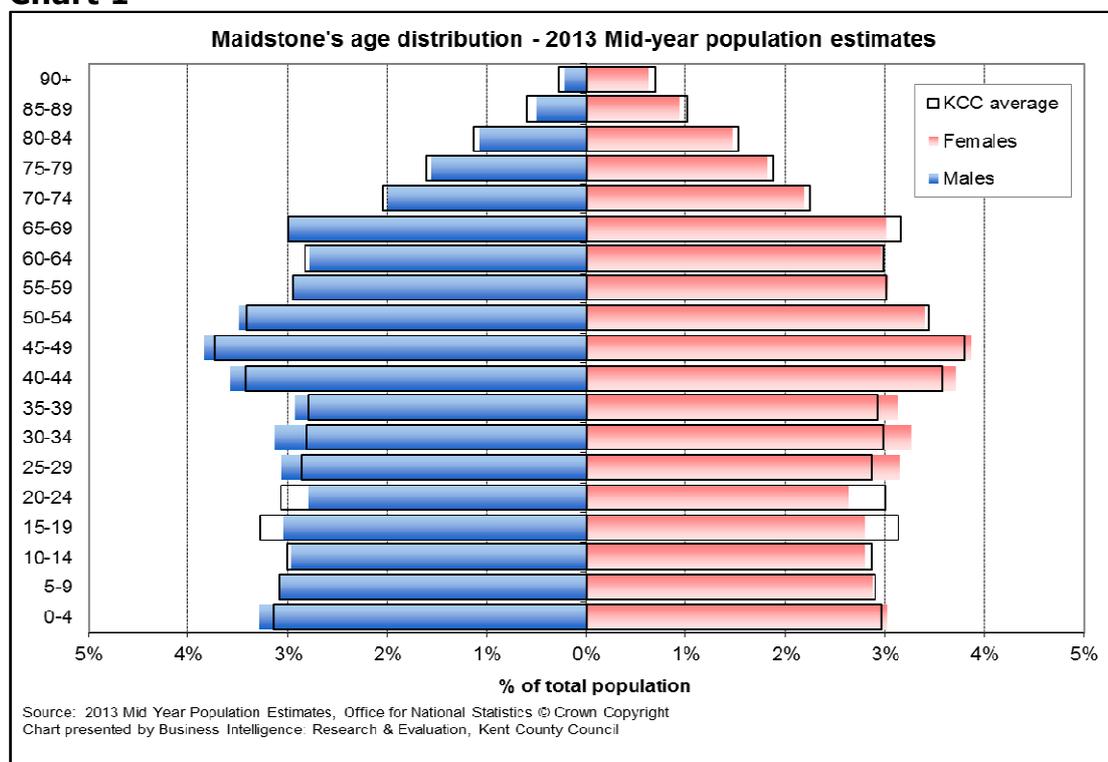
1. Population profile

The latest population figures from the 2013 Mid-year population estimates show that there are 159,300 people living in Maidstone Borough¹⁸. This population size makes Maidstone Borough the largest Kent local authority district area.

75% of the borough's population live in the Maidstone urban area with the remaining 25% living in the surrounding rural area and settlements¹⁹.

The age profile of Maidstone's population is shown in Chart 1. Overall Maidstone has a very similar age profile to the county average. Maidstone has a slightly higher proportion of people in the 25-54 age groups, and a smaller proportion of teenagers and retired people compared to the KCC average.

Chart 1



Over the last 10-years Maidstone's population has grown by 12.8% (an additional 18,100 people)²⁰. This is the third highest rate of growth of any Kent district. The population of the borough is forecast to grow at slower rate over the coming years with current forecasts suggesting a 15% growth over the next 15-years²¹. This rate of growth is higher than the county average (13%).

This forecast is based on KCC's assessment of the district authority's future housing targets as at September 2014. Such targets will be subject to changes as district authorities develop their Local development framework.

Further population information:

¹⁸ 2013 Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics

¹⁹ 2012 Ward level population estimates (experimental), Office for National Statistics

² Time series of Mid-year population estimates 1995 - 2013, Office for National Statistics

²¹ KCC Strategy forecasts (Oct'2014). Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

2. Ethnic profile

94.1% of Maidstone’s population is of white ethnic origin with the remaining 5.9% being classified as of Black Minority Ethnic (BME) origin²². The proportion of Maidstone’s population classified as BME is lower than the county average of 6.3%.

The largest ethnic group in Maidstone is White British, with 89.1% of residents from this ethnic origin. Within the BME population, the largest ethnic group is Other Asian (accounting for 1.6% of all residents) with the second largest group being residents of Indian accounting for 0.8% of all residents).

Further ethnicity information:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/Facts-and-figures-about-Kent/equality-and-diversity-data>

3. Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation 2010 provide a measure of deprivation at both district and sub-district (Lower Super Output Area) level, relative to other areas in England²³. Table 1 overleaf presents the national and county rank of Maidstone based on the 2010 Index and also shows how the rankings have changed since the 2007 Index²⁴.

In 2010 Maidstone Borough was ranked as the 9th most deprived district in Kent (out of 12 districts, with the most deprived being ranked 1). Nationally, Maidstone ranks 198th out of 326 local authority districts in England. This rank places it within England’s least deprived half of authorities.

The county rank of Maidstone has remained at number 9 between 2007 and 2010. On the national ranking, Maidstone has moved up 8 positions from 225th in 2007 to 217th in 2010. This indicates that Maidstone’s level of deprivation has increased, relative to other areas in England.

Table 1 - National and county rank of Kent districts based on the 2007 and 2010 Indices of Deprivation (table displayed based on 2010 rank)

LA CODE	District	2007 Index		2010 Index		Change in rank*	
		National rank (out of 326)	KCC rank (out of 12)	National rank (out of 326)	KCC rank (out of 12)	National position	KCC position
29UN	Thanet	60	1	49	1	11	0
29UL	Shepway	114	3	97	2	17	1
29UM	Swale	108	2	99	3	9	-1
29UE	Dover	142	5	127	4	15	1
29UG	Gravesham	132	4	142	5	-10	-1
29UC	Canterbury	180	7	166	6	14	1
29UD	Dartford	170	6	175	7	-5	-1
29UB	Ashford	206	8	198	8	8	0
29UH	Maidstone	225	9	217	9	8	0
29UQ	Tunbridge Wells	250	10	249	10	1	0
29UP	Tonbridge & Malling	256	11	268	11	-12	0
29UK	Sevenoaks	270	12	276	12	-6	0

* A minus change in rank illustrates that a district has moved down the rankings and is therefore now less deprived relative to other LAs in England

Source: Indices of Deprivation, Communities and Local Government

²² 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

²³ Indices of Deprivation 2010, Department for Communities and Local Government

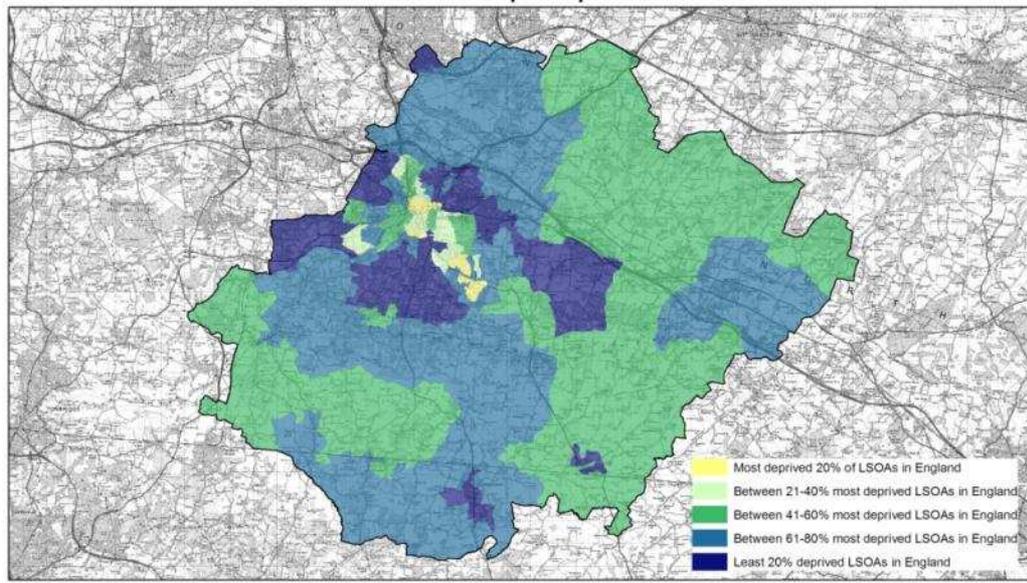
²⁴ Based on the indicator ‘national rank of average score’

The levels of deprivation vary across the borough. Parts of Maidstone are within England's top 20% deprived of areas and yet other parts are within England's least 20% deprived of areas. More detail is shown on Map 1.

The greatest levels of deprivation are found within the areas of Park Wood and High Street. Neighbouring some of the most deprived areas of Maidstone are areas with relatively low levels of deprivation. The least deprived areas of Maidstone are found in the areas of Bearsted.

Map 1

Deprivation Rank of areas within Maidstone based on the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010



Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010, Communities and Local Government (CLG)
Produced by Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

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Further deprivation information: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/Facts-and-figures-about-Kent/deprivation-and-poverty>

4. Economy, Employment and Skills

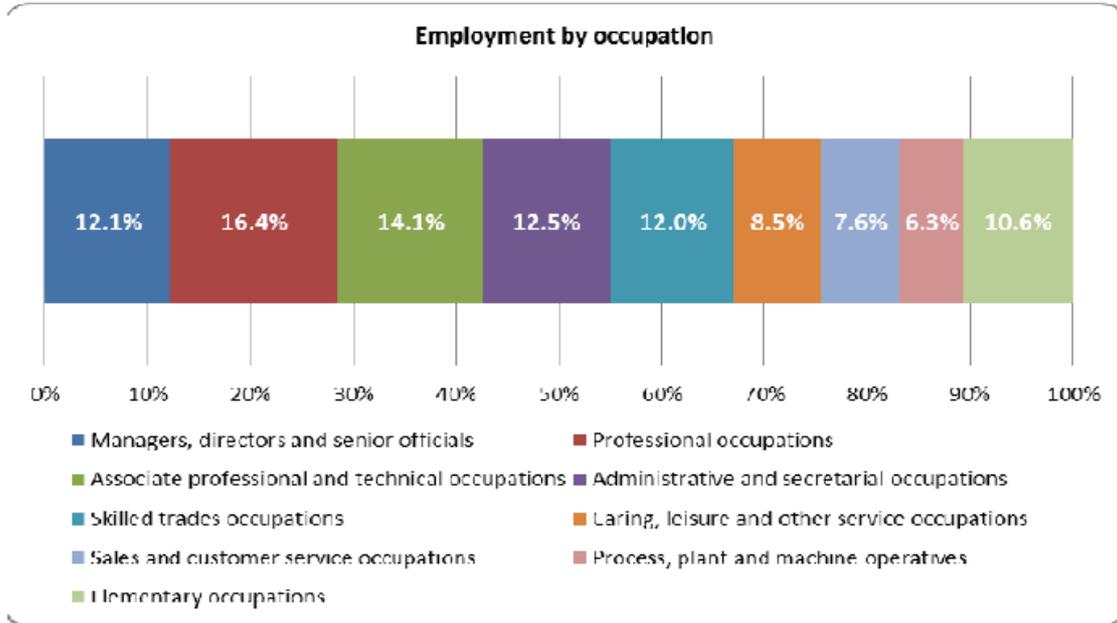
Out of a total population of 157,300, some 99,400 (62.4%) people are aged 16-74 and considered of working age. 82.6% of people are economically active, of which 78.9% of people are in employment. Whilst the wage gap between work based and resident based earning is currently £59.60, there has been a reduction in the difference between workplace and resident earnings over the last year – with the gap shrinking by £5.80 compared to the previous year. Male resident based earnings per week are £122 higher than female resident based earnings.

The main industries in Maidstone are: Construction, followed by Professional, Scientific and Technical Industries and Retail. The Borough also has a growing medical sector. Maidstone town centre is home to both Kent County Council and Maidstone Borough Council offices with 19,700 residents employed by the public sector. The graph shows employment by occupation for all people aged 16-74 in Maidstone. The largest single group in the borough is professional occupations.

Six of the Lower Super Output Areas in Maidstone, are areas that are amongst the top 20% of most deprived areas in England. 15.1% of children under 16 in Maidstone are living in poverty; this is lower than the figure for Kent which is 20.6%. In the Borough, 2% of households do not have central heating and 16% of households do not have a car or a van, these are lower than the averages for England overall. In

addition 10.9% of the borough children receive free school meals compared to 13.8% in Kent overall.

For the academic year 2011/12, 69% of Maidstone pupils achieved five or more GCSEs grades A* to C including Maths and English, this is the third highest figure in out of the Kent districts. Maidstone has fairly a higher proportion of people educated to NVQ level 4 or higher, even though this declined between 2011 and 2013 by 4.6%.



Mosaic profile of residents

Mosaic Public Sector is a classification system designed by Experian to profile the characteristics of the UK population. Each household in the UK is classified as belonging to one of 15 groups and 66 types. The 15 groups have been named A to O.

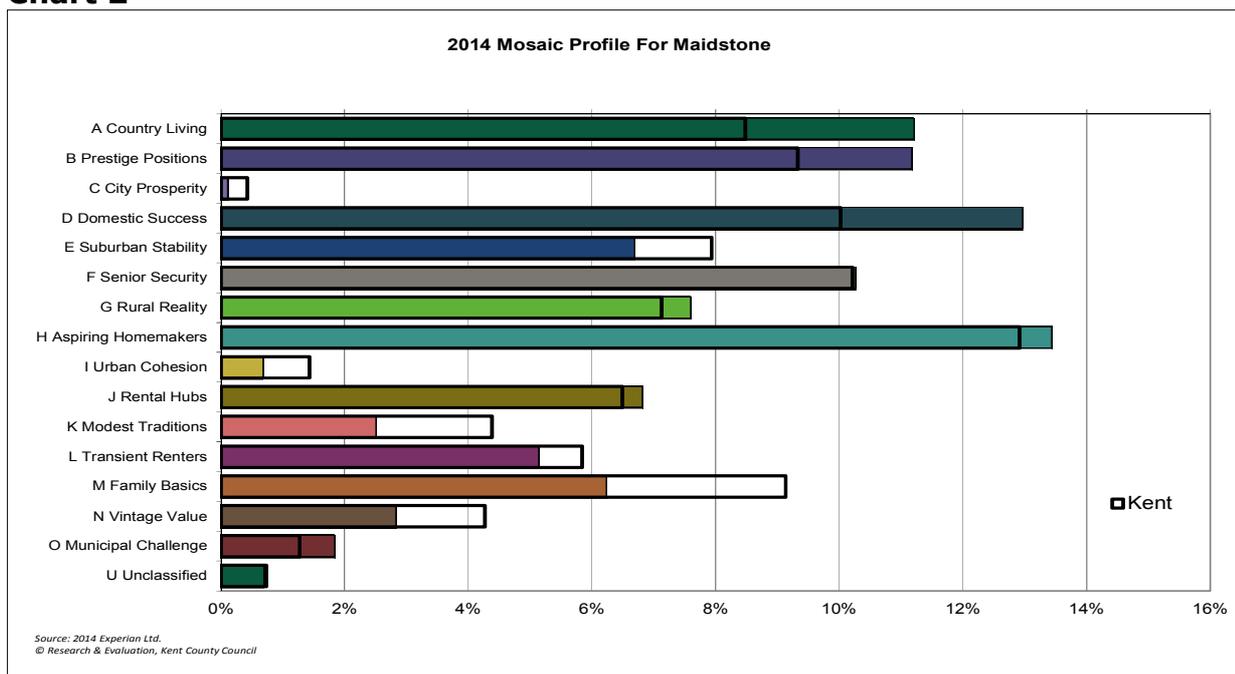
These groups identify clusters of individuals and households that are as similar as possible to each other, and as different as possible to any other group. They describe the residents of a postcode in terms of their typical demographics, their behaviours, their lifestyle characteristics and their attitudes. The characteristics of the Mosaic groups are presented in Table 2 overleaf.

Table 2

	Definition
A	- Country Living - Well off owners in rural locations enjoying the benefits of Country life
B	- Prestige Positions - Established families in large detached homes Living upmarket lifestyles
C	- City Prosperity - High status city dwellers living in central locations and persuing careers with high rewards
D	- Domestic Success - Thriving families who are busy bringing up children and following careers
E	- Suburban Stability - Mature suburban owners living in settled lives in mid-range housing
F	- Senior Security - Elderly people with assets who are enjoying a comfortable retirement
G	- Rural Reality - Householders living in expensive homes in village communities
H	- Aspiring Homemakers - Younger households settling down in housing priced within their means
I	- Urban Cohesion - Residents of settled urban communities with a strong sense of identity
J	- Rental Hubs - Educated young people privately renting in urban neighbourhoods
K	- Modest Traditions - Mature homeowners of value homes enjoying stable lifestyles
L	- Transient Renters - Single people privately renting low cost homes for the short term
M	- Family Basics - Families with limited resources who have to budget to make ends meet
N	- Vintage Value – Elderly people reliant on support to meet financial or practical needs
O	- Municipal Challenge – Urban renters of social housing facing an array of challenges

The Mosaic profile of residents in Maidstone district is shown in Chart 2 alongside the county profile.

Chart 2



Unemployment

Maidstone's unemployment rate is currently 1.3%. This is slightly lower than the county average of 1.8% and considerably lower than the national average of 2.2%²⁵.

In September 2014 there were 1,257 unemployed people in Maidstone which is 5.6% lower (75 fewer people) than August 2014 and 37.3% Lower (748 fewer unemployed people) than September 2013.

Table 3: Unemployment rates

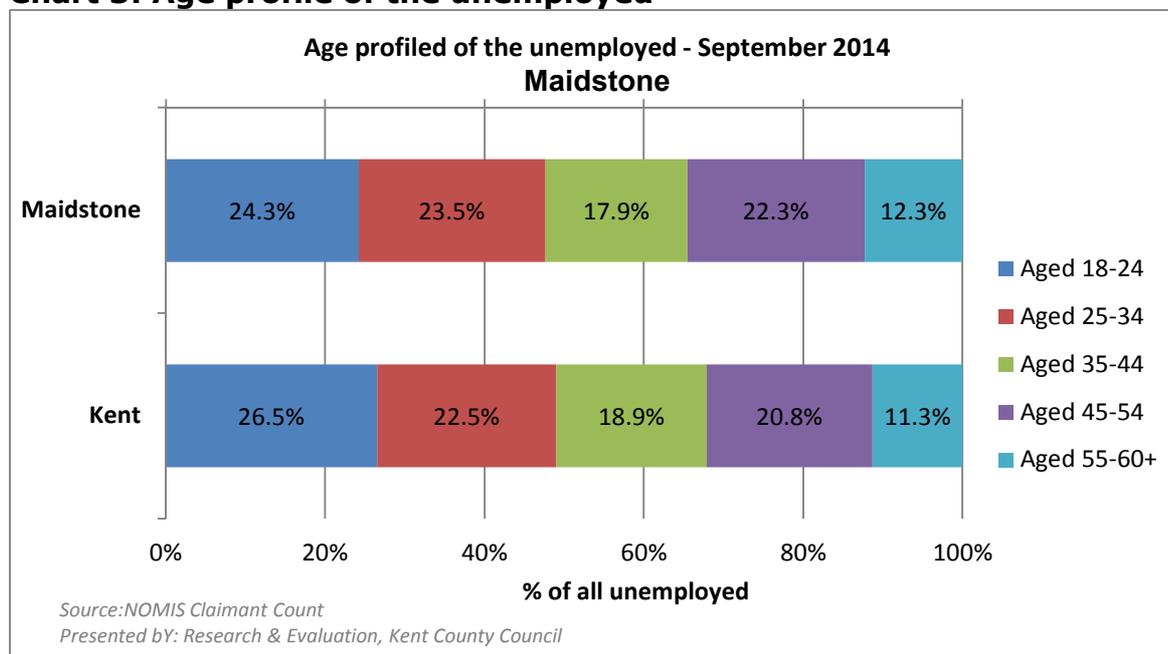
District	Total unemployed as at September 2014	Resident based rate %	Change since previous month		Change since last year	
			Number	%	Number	%
Maidstone	1,257	1.3%	-75	-5.6%	-748	-37.3%
Kent	16,162	1.8%	-622	-3.7%	-7,165	-30.7%
Great Britain	870,863	2.2%	-37,028	-4.1%	-391,876	-31.0%

Source: NOMIS - Claimant Count

Unemployment rates vary across the district. The lowest unemployment is in Detling and Thurnham ward where 0.4% of the working age population are unemployed. The highest rate is in High Street ward where 3.0% of the working age population are unemployed.

The majority of those unemployed are aged 18-24 years old. In Maidstone, 18-24 year olds account for 24.3% of all of those unemployed and in Kent the proportion is 26.5%. More information is provided in Chart 3.

Chart 3: Age profile of the unemployed



Further unemployment information:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/Facts-and-figures-about-Kent/economy-and-employment>

²⁵ Unemployment rates as at September 2014, Office for National Statistics

Out of Work Benefits

Out of work benefits claimants includes those people aged 16-64 who are claiming a key Department of Work and Pension (DWP) benefit because they are not working. This definition is used as an indicator of worklessness.

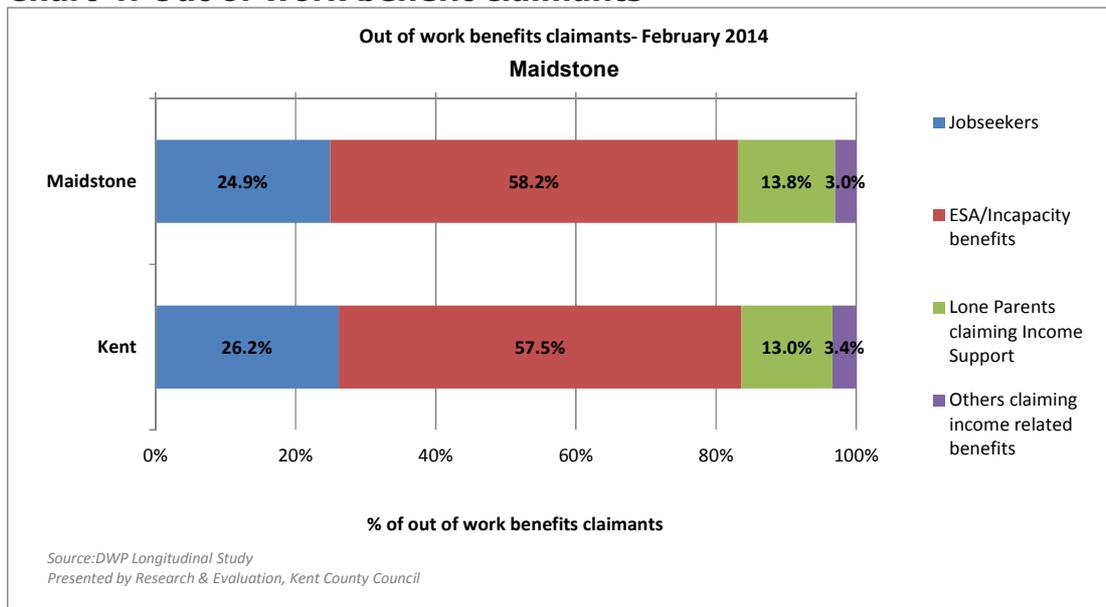
As at February 2014, there were 7,300 people in Maidstone who were claiming out of work benefits. This is 7.4% of all 16 to 64 year olds and is lower than the county average of 9.2%.

The largest proportion of those who are out of work are claiming Employment Support Allowance or Incapacity Benefit i.e. they have a health condition which is restricting the sort of work that they usually do.

A lower proportion is classified as jobseekers (claimants of Jobseekers Allowance) than the average for the KCC area. 13.8% of those who are workless in Maidstone are lone parents who are claiming Income Support. This is slightly higher than the KCC rate of 13.0%²⁶.

Chart 4 shows out of work benefits claimants by main reason for which they are claiming.

Chart 4: Out of work benefit claimants



As with Unemployment rates, out of work benefit claimant rates also vary across the borough. The lowest proportion of out of work benefit claimants is in Detling and Thurnham ward where 3.0% of the working age population are claiming. The highest rate is in Park Wood ward where 18.6% of the working age population are out of work.

Further benefits information:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/Facts-and-figures-about-Kent/economy-and-employment>

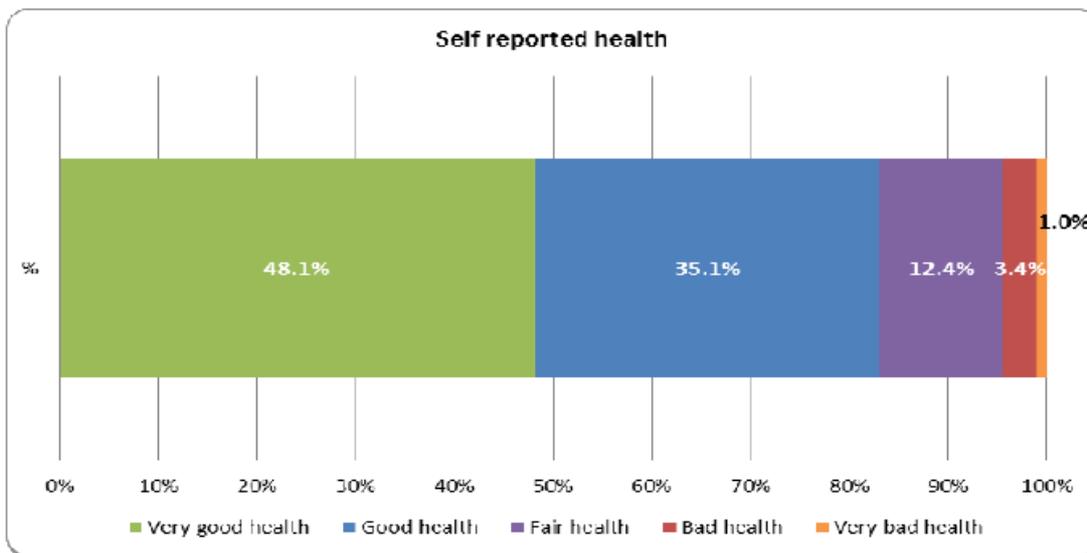
²⁶ DWP Longitudinal Study: February 2014

Health

Life expectancy at birth in Maidstone for both men and women match the overall figures for Kent at 79.9 years for men and 83.4 years for women. However at the age of 65, life expectancy for a Maidstone resident is slightly lower for both genders when compared to the overall figures for Kent.

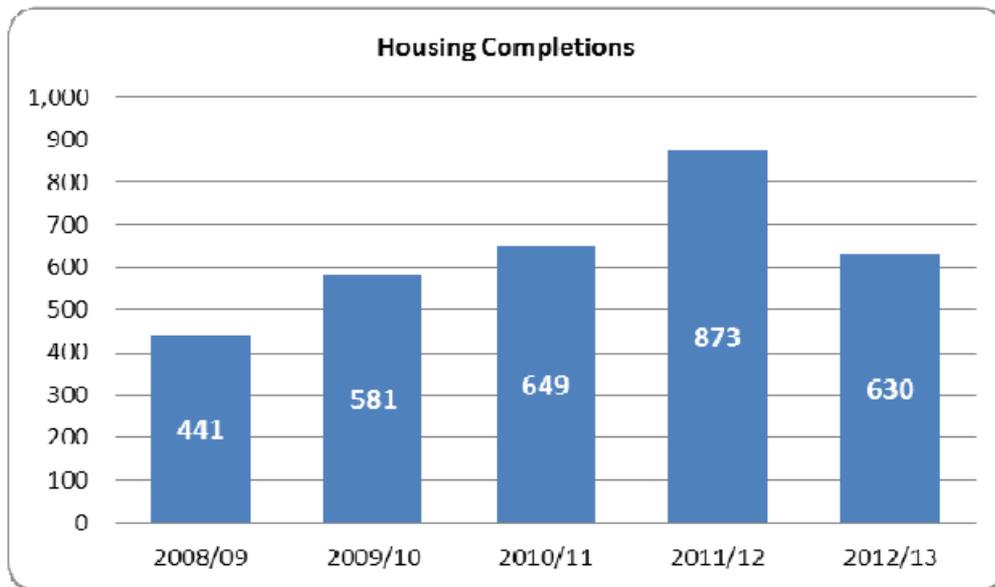
The graph below shows the self-reported health from the 2011 census, which shows that 4.4% of people feel they are in bad or very bad health, the figure for England overall is 5.5%. 15.8% (24,505) of people in Maidstone consider themselves to have a limiting life long illness and 9,700 (6.1%) people in Maidstone claim a disability benefit.

Of those aged over 65, 4,930 claim either disability living allowance or attendance allowance compared to 1,610 of those age 24 and under. 10% (15,561) of Maidstone residents provide some form of unpaid care each week and 1.3% (1,370) of those aged 16 and over currently claims a carer's allowance.



Housing

With 66,982 homes Maidstone has the greatest number of dwellings in the County and in the four years from 2009 to 2013 Maidstone district increased its dwelling stock by 4.65%. Maidstone has the greatest number of both detached and semi-detached properties out of the districts in Kent: taken together they amount to 46% of the districts' housing stock, which is significantly higher than the proportion for England overall of 40%. Maidstone has a lower proportion of flats/maisonettes compared to all England with this type of property accounting for 16% in the borough compared to 22% nationally.



Maidstone has a higher proportion of people that either own their home outright or with a mortgage at 70% compared to England where the proportion is 63%. In turn, the proportion of people living in social rented accommodation is lower than for England at 13% compared to 18%. In October 2013 there were 414 long term vacant dwelling in Maidstone accounting for 8% of all long term vacant dwellings in Kent. Long term vacant dwellings account for 0.62% of the boroughs housing stock, lower than the proportion for England overall which is 0.93%. The majority of properties (54%) in the borough are in Council Tax bands C and D. Maidstone has a significantly lower proportion of properties in bands A and B when compared to both Kent and England, with just 19% of dwelling in the borough in these bands compared with 29% in Kent and 44% in England. This is likely due to the proximity of the borough to London coupled with higher than average house prices in the South East when compared to other regions; Sevenoaks which is closer to London has just 9% of its dwelling stock within these bands.

Average house prices in the borough are lower than that for the South East region for all property types but higher than the average for Kent, as the table shows, for semidetached properties. In terms of Council tax Maidstone has the third highest average rate per dwelling for council tax (band D) in Kent for 2014/15 (£1536 including parish precepts).

2013	Maidstone	Kent	South East
Detached	£375,477	£393,786	£456,839
Semi Detached	£232,300	£227,986	£267,092
Terraced	£180,686	£188,016	£220,579
Flat/ Maisonette	£134,435	£150,544	£172,293
All	£236,525	£246,121	£286,032

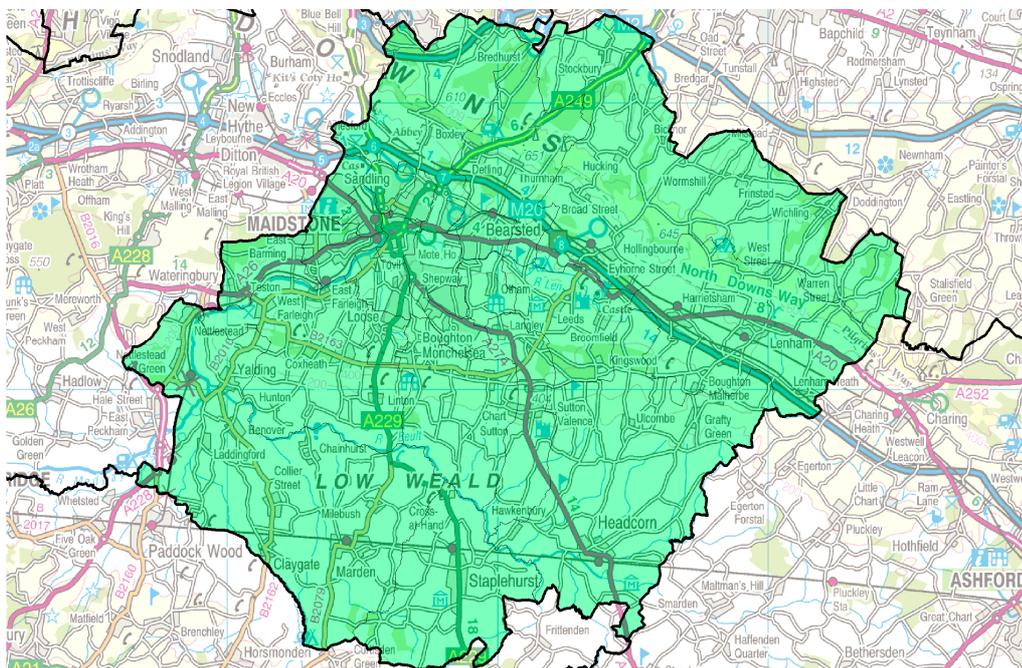
Local context - Maidstone the place

Maidstone Borough, which covers 40,000 hectares, sits at the heart of Kent, positioned between London and the Channel ports and is home to 159,300 people. Maidstone, as the County Town of Kent, is the administrative and retail capital. The Borough combines the services provided by a large urban area, with excellent schools, shopping and a general hospital, with a very attractive rural hinterland, which includes

the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ANOB) and thriving villages. Housing in Maidstone Town has traditionally been considered relatively affordable compared to the south east average, but this is not the case in rural Maidstone and for those on average or low incomes.

Maidstone has the largest town centre shopping offer within Kent with approximately 700 shops, 75 cafes and restaurants, employing some 4,400 people. The Borough also boasts the largest night time economy in Kent, creating £75 million a year and employing around 1,500 people. The Safer Maidstone Partnership has fostered close working with the Police, Street Pastors, Urban Blue Bus, and Town Centre Management to ensure that Maidstone has a safe night time economy. The SMP's approach to ensuring Maidstone is a safe place to socialise has resulted in much positive press and TV coverage.

Map 2: The Maidstone borough area



Maidstone is an exceptionally green Borough with a number of parks, the largest of which is Mote Park, which is Grade II on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks, and has been voted the nations second most favourite park. Maidstone Borough is considered a good place to live and work with high rates of employment, relatively low levels of adults claiming incapacity benefits and a higher proportion of residents who have a degree than the South East average.

Larger numbers of people commute into than out of the Borough. The Borough has a very mixed business sector with large numbers of small and medium size businesses with particular strengths in professional services (law and accountancy) and construction. There is a growing media industry led by Maidstone Studios and the Kent Messenger Group. Maidstone has an extensive further education campus (Mid Kent College) and a higher education offer with Mid Kent College seeking to increase their range of courses and facilities.

Residents living in the Borough have relatively high wages (although many higher earners commute out of the Borough to achieve these). Maidstone came out as the top destination for business in the 2010 study of locations for business in Kent.

Transport links are generally good although rail travel could still be improved. 2011 saw the introduction of High Speed services from the Maidstone West to St. Pancras. Rail journey times to London from some of the smaller rural towns (Staplehurst and Marden) are as low as 40 minutes. The Borough is well served by the motorway network with the M20 and M2 both providing links to the M25 and the Channel Ports. The international high speed railway stations at Ebbsfleet (15 mins) and Ashford (25 mins) are also extremely accessible.

What matters to Maidstone residents

The Council carried out extensive consultation when developing the Sustainable Community Strategy for Maidstone 2009-2020. Residents were asked to identify what was good and bad about living in the Borough as well as their dream for Maidstone. The top three positive comments related to Maidstone included shopping, parks and the river. Other positive comments related to cleanliness, the countryside and nightlife. The top three negative comments related to traffic congestion, public transport and the quality of roads. The top three dreams for Maidstone residents related to resolving transport issues, improving the river and an improved theatre/concert facility.

A residents' survey was undertaken in 2011. This was the first survey the Council had undertaken since the Place Survey in 2008 and showed improved satisfaction in a number of areas including providing value for money, keeping residents informed and the way the Council runs its services. It also showed some areas that need improvement, such as people from different backgrounds getting on well together and satisfaction with the local area. The next residents' survey is programmed to take place in September 2015, when the opportunity to ask Maidstone's residents about their perceptions of crime and fear of crime and ASSB will be taken.

Appendix 4

Terrorism

Prevent is a part of the UK's counter terrorism strategy, CONTEST. Its aim is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent seeks to address all forms of terrorism but will continue to prioritise according to the threat they pose to our national security. Whilst Kent has not been identified as a national priority site, it is recognised that there is a need to address this issue here.

The current threat level to the UK from international terrorism is severe. The most significant international terrorism threat to the UK remains violent extremism associated with and influenced by Al Qa'ida, and more lately by ISIS/ISIL. 'Prevent' is about stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremists. There are five elements:

1. Challenging violent extremist ideology and supporting mainstream voices;
2. Disrupting those who promote violent extremism and supporting the institutions where they are active;
3. Supporting individuals who are being targeted and recruited to the cause of violent extremism;
4. Increasing the resilience of communities to violent extremism;
5. Addressing the grievances that ideologues are exploiting.

The current international terrorist threat is quite different from previous threats, with contemporary terrorist groups claiming a religious justification for their actions. They seek mass casualties and are both sophisticated and unconventional in their techniques: they do not provide warnings and seek out soft targets, in particular crowded places.

The threat is very real and will be around for a number of years, but despite the threat, the Police must be proportionate and measured in their response. The responsibility for preventing violent extremism and supporting those individuals and communities who may be vulnerable rests with us all, including partners and communities. Delivering an effective Prevent programme requires action by a range of agencies, front line workers and, in particular, neighbourhood policing teams who come into contact with communities and vulnerable individuals.

The Prevent Strategy 2011 review

In 2011, the government launched a review of the Prevent strategy. This review was independently overseen by Lord Carlile of Berriew. The review found that the previous Prevent programme tended to confuse the delivery of government policy to promote integration with government policy to prevent terrorism. Thus, in trying to reach those at risk of radicalisation, funding sometimes reached those extremist organisations that Prevent should have been confronting. The [Prevent strategy](#) has been re-focused, and now contains three objectives:

1. respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat from those who promote it;
2. prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support;
3. work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that need to be addressed.

Appendix 5

Glossary of terms

Although some terms may not be specifically discussed in this Assessment, the following table of abbreviations are in common usage in policing and community safety.

A&E	Accident & Emergency	MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour	MSG	Most Similar Group (of local authorities)
BCU	Basic Command Unit	NDTMS	National Drug Treatment Monitoring System
BDw	Burglary Dwelling	NHS	National Health Service
BOTD	Burglary Other Than Dwelling	NHW	Neighbourhood Watch
CCCZ	Cold Calling Control Zone	NEET	(Children) Not in Education, Employment or Training
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television	NTE	Night Time Economy
CDam	Criminal Damage	PACT	Partners and Communities Together
CDAP	Community Domestic Abuse Programme	PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
CJS	Criminal Justice System	PCSO	Police Community Safety Officer
CP	Community Payback	PDU	Problematic Drug User
CRI	Crime Reduction Initiative	PPO	Prolific Priority Offender
CSP	Community Safety Partnership	RJ	Restorative Justice
CSU	Community Safety Unit	RSL	Registered Social Landlord
DA	Domestic Abuse	RTC	Road Traffic Collision
DAVSS	Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services	SDVC	Specialist Domestic Violence Court
ETE	Education, Training and Employment	SMP	Safer Maidstone Partnership
FTE	First Time Entrant (to criminal justice system)	SVC	Serious Violent Crime
HIRL	Hate Crime Incident Reporting Line	TFMV	Theft from Motor Vehicle
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Adviser	THSG	Theft and Handling Stolen Goods
ISVA	Independent Sexual Abuse Advisor	TOMV	Theft of Motor Vehicle
JFMO	Joint Family Management Officer	TOPC	Theft of Pedal Cycle
KCC	Kent County Council	VAP	Violence against the Person
KCVS	Kent Crime and Victimisation Survey	YISP	Youth Inclusion and Support Panel
KDAAT	Kent Drug & Alcohol Action Team	YJB	Youth Justice Board
KFRS	Kent Fire and Rescue Service	YJS	Youth Justice System
KCA	Kent Council for Addiction	YOS	Youth Offending Service
KSI	Killed or Seriously Injured	YRO	Youth Rehabilitation Order

Appendix 6

SPC Charts Explained

Statistical Process Control (SPC) Charts are a tool used by Kent Police to help identify whether there has been any significant improvements or deteriorations in a particular crime type.

When a category is stable and in control, the data will appear within a set of predicted limits based on past knowledge and experience. Although there will be some natural variation around the average (*also known as common cause variation*) as long as the figures remain within the control limits there has been no significant changes to what was anticipated.

If the category was unstable and displayed uncontrolled variation (*also known as special cause variation*), the data would not follow a predicted pattern and would indicate that something had changed and action *might* be required.

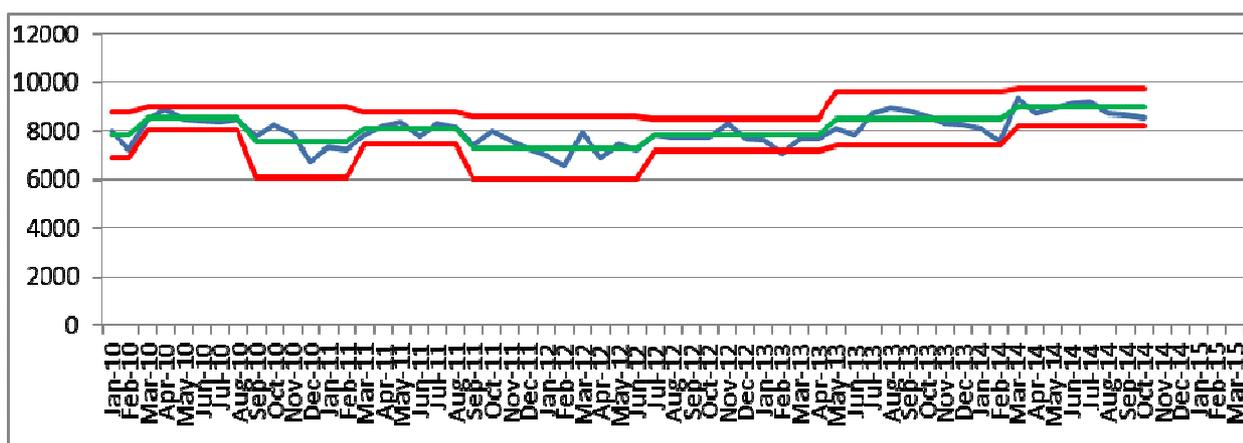
Natural variation indicates that any change from month-to-month is expected, e.g. the time you come to work every day varies by a few minutes around an average, however if there was an accident on the road then the time taken to come to work would be significantly longer, this would be **unnatural variation** indicating that something has gone awry.

SPC charts are generated based on historical data to produce the following:

- The **Centre Line (CL)** which is the average no. of recorded crimes / incidents
- The **Upper (UCL)** and **Lower Control Limits (LCL)** which are the limits of natural variation

Any result above the **UCL** suggests that there may be a problem. In addition, other indications that a category is out of statistical control includes when several results in a row are above the **CL** or when several results in a row showing an increase trend. If the figures are consistently below the **CL** this indicates an improvement and will result in the centre line and the control limits being lowered, often referred to as a 'step change'. Similarly if the figures for a specific category rise due possibly to an increase in activity; a revision to the data (i.e. back-record conversion); or possibly a change in what is recorded within each category then the CL and control limits may need to be raised. *NB. if the control limits are closer together this indicates a low level of variation around the average and shows that the category is in control, a wider gap between the limits indicates greater variation and less control.*

Example of a Kent Police SPC Chart:



Agenda Item 14

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

22 APRIL 2015

REPORT OF THE COUNCILLOR WORKING GROUP

Report prepared by Angela Woodhouse

1. **NEW CONSTITUTION FOR MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

1.1 **Issue for Decision**

1.1.1 On 10 December 2014 full Council agreed to change the system of governance of Maidstone Borough Council from Cabinet Governance to Committee Governance. The Council is unable to pass any further resolution to change the Council's governance arrangements for five years. The Council now needs to implement the change, which will take effect at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 23 May 2015.

1.1.2 In order to facilitate that change a new Constitution has been developed, in conjunction with a working group of Councillors. There have also been a number of Councillor training sessions to discuss the implications of operating a new Committee Governance system and the content of the new Constitution.

The principal changes are intended to secure increased Councillor participation; more effective and efficient decision making; and improved and increased public involvement. There are a number of changes in the way that the Council will operate, in particular, the inability to delegate functions to individual Councillors (other than local matters at Ward level).

1.1.3 All significant policy decisions (other than those reserved to Council) will be taken by four new service committees, as follows:

- **Policy and Resources Committee** – which considers the Council's budget and strategic plan, economic development, corporate matters and has an overarching role should disputes or differences arise between Committees;
- **Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport Committee** – covers the Local Plan, development

management policies and transport matters including parking and park and ride;

- **Communities, Housing and Environment Committee** – considers housing strategy, waste and recycling strategy (it is also the Council's crime and disorder committee); and
- **Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee** - dealing with matters relating to the Council's parks and open spaces, events, the leisure offer and culture and heritage services.

1.1.4 The draft of the proposed new Constitution for the Council has been circulated under separate cover. A summary of the changes is set out below split into high level structural changes and separately more detailed operational changes.

1.2 **RECOMMENDED:**

1.2.1 That the new Constitution for Maidstone Borough Council circulated separately, be adopted to come into effect from the Annual Meeting of the Council on 23 May 2015.

1.3 **SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

1.3.1 High level and structural changes include the following:

- A shorter Constitution, omitting the Articles from the previous Constitution;
- Style changes with reference to "Councillors" rather than "Members" in most places; and "members of the public" rather than "residents"/"citizens";
- No references to Cabinet or Executive governance nor Overview and Scrutiny (other than in relation to crime and disorder or health matters);
- Creation of four main service committees that will review policy and operate in a more open and strategic manner;
- Merger of the Audit Committee with Standards in a new Audit, Governance and Standards Committee; General Purposes becomes the Democracy Committee; and the Member and Employment Development Panel becomes the Employment Committee (with Councillor development moving to Democracy) (Licensing and Planning remain largely the same);
- The creation of an Urgency Committee to deal with matters which may need to be determined between scheduled meetings

of Council and Policy and Resources Committee that are truly urgent and above the level of financial delegation to Officers. (It is not envisaged that this Committee will meet very frequently, or at all.) The proposed membership is each of the Leaders of the five largest political groups represented on the Council from time to time;

- Description of the roles and responsibilities of the Chairmen of the new Service Committees added;
- No Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, since all decisions flow from full Council through the delegation in the Constitution to Committees, Sub-Committees and Officers, rather than some decisions being made by Council and some by the Executive (no dispute resolution provisions are therefore required);
- No "key decisions" nor "forward plan" since these expressions feature within executive governance arrangements, although there will be a calendar of meetings available on the Council's website with advance notification of potential items of business, in due course;
- A fuller Summary and Explanation as part 1 of the constitution;
- All of the delegations to committees, sub-committees and officers (including proper officers) are brought together in part 2 of the constitution;
- All of the Procedure Rules are together in part 3;
- All Codes and Protocols are together in part 4;
- The new Members Allowances scheme is to be inserted as part 5 when adopted by the Council, following consideration of the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel;
- The Management structure chart is included at part 6; and
- A new Glossary of terms has been added at the end of the Constitution, to aid interpretation.

1.3.2 Legislative references have also been updated to take account of changes in the law, including some changes that will take effect in early May 2015.

1.3.3 The Constitution also contains a number of hypertext links and the Summary and Explanation in particular is written in simple English so that anyone who may deal with the Council is able to understand the

way in which the Council operates and its procedure rules, codes and protocols.

MORE DETAILED CHANGES

- 1.3.4 The Summary and Explanation is now 12 pages long and includes some of the matters that were previously contained within the Articles (which were over 30 pages in length). There is a structure chart for the Council's committee structure and this part summarises the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor, Leader, Chairmen, members of the public, Statutory Officers, Directors and joint service delivery arrangements with other Councils.
- 1.3.5 The next part contains the responsibility for functions. This part has sought to identify the delegation of functions from Council to Committees, Sub-Committees and Officers. There are some financial levels set out in the Appendix to the Financial Procedure Rules in part 3 that apply to the allocation of functions, as well as setting out the responsibilities as to who may take decisions. The main Committee changes are set out above, however, it is also proposed that the Joint Consultative Committee be reduced in size from 8 Councillors and 8 Trades Union members to 4 Councillors and 4 Trades Union members (3 UNISON and 1 UNITE).
- 1.3.6 The main changes in the rules of procedure include the following:
- Questions by members of the public to be answered in the order in which they are received and to last for up to one hour (Committees will be half an hour); questions from Councillors to be reduced at Council to half an hour;
 - All public questions will be answered in writing, a copy of which will appear with the minutes of the meeting and shall be posted with the reply on the Council's website;
 - Ability for any three Councillors to refer a decision of a service Committee to Policy and Resources Committee for reconsideration; likewise any five Councillors would have the ability to refer a decision of Policy and Resources Committee to full Council for reconsideration. However, should additional information come to light or other circumstances arise which mean that the original service committee may be able to take a different decision (that would resolve matters) then the Chairman of the original Committee on the request of three Members in writing may call a further meeting of the Committee to consider the matter again and to resolve the matter in a different way, in which case the referral falls away.

- Under the current Constitution Councillors are required to commit to undertake training within an agreed period for certain Committees (Planning and Licensing), to ensure that Councillors understand the detailed rules that govern the decisions made by that particular Committee e.g. material planning considerations for Planning Committee and for all members of that Committee annually. This training requirement has been strengthened as the new constitution states that failure to undertake annual refresher training will result in the Councillor ceasing to be a member of the committee until the refresher training has been undertaken. The Democracy Committee will oversee the provision of this training along with Induction training.

- 1.3.7 The financial procedure rules largely remain the same, although there are suggested changes in the level of delegation, particularly for virement (increasing from £40,000 to £100,000); the Chief Finance Officer will be authorised to accept tenders or quotations up to £75,000 (increased from £50,000) in line with previous decisions of the Council to authorise expenditure up to that level; Chief Finance Officer virement and supplementary estimates (increase from £25,000 to £50,000); and minor changes to values in the contracts procedure rules, increasing £5,000 to £10,000 above which a written risk assessment is required and £15,000 to £25,000 for something to be included on the Council's contract register and in relation to which separate files shall be required recording details of contract awards, waivers and extensions.
- 1.3.8 The Contract Procedure Rules now reflect the changes required because of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, although most of the detailed rules involved in purchasing and tendering are included within the Council's Purchasing Guide, which is also in the process being updated.
- 1.3.9 The Officer Employment Procedure Rules have been updated to take account of the legislative changes introduced by the Local Government Standing Order Regulations 2015 which involve Independent Persons appointed to assist the Monitoring Officer with member conduct also being involved in disciplinary action against the three statutory protected officers (Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer) instead of a procedure which involves a Designated Independent Person.
- 1.3.10 The arrangements for dealing with alleged breaches of the Councillors' Code of Conduct have been included in the Constitution at 4.2, after the Code. These arrangements mirror the Kent-wide arrangements. One small amendment is proposed by the Monitoring Officer (in line with changes proposed at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council) and that relates to the time within which a complaint should be received in

relation to an alleged breach. The current arrangements only allow for complaints to be made within three months of the alleged breach. The three month limit would be removed (currently at 4.2 Annex 1 at 1.4 (f)) and a second example will be added to the current 1.4(j), as follows "*the alleged misconduct took place so long ago that the complaint should not be pursued*". In practice it would be left to the discretion of the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Independent Person, to determine how long ago is too long ago.

- 1.3.11 Given that the arrangements also govern complaints relating to Parish Councillors within the Maidstone Borough, the Monitoring Officer has consulted all Parish Councils on the proposed change. The majority of Parish Councils that have responded at the date of this report generally support the removal of the three month time limit rule but some feel that it would be unfair on Councillors if there was not a defined deadline. Six or twelve months has been suggested. These representations have been considered carefully, but on balance the Monitoring Officer does not recommend replacing the three month rule with a longer defined time limit, such as six or twelve months. This is because there may be perfectly valid reasons why it takes longer than this to report a serious incident of Councillor conduct (e.g. a Police investigation is ongoing or the conduct is not discovered until later) and it would be very difficult to try and justify this rule to a member of the public that wished to complain in these circumstances. There are separate criteria in the existing arrangements which ensure that complaints will not be accepted about behaviour which took place so long ago that it would not be practicable or proportionate to investigate it. The proposed addition to 1.4(j) (which becomes 1.4(i)) strengthens these criteria.
- 1.3.12 The Protocol on Councillor and Officer Relations has also been updated and refreshed with some minor changes including stressing the need for respect between councillors and officers and ensuring that the protocol is balanced. It explicitly mentions that correspondence with Councillors should not be shared with other Councillors without the consent of the Councillor (unless the Monitoring Officer considers this to be justified in the circumstances of the case, for example to comply with a legal obligation).
- 1.3.13 Councillors are asked to consider the changes proposed to the Council's Constitution and to adopt the new Constitution with effect from Annual Council in May, subject to any amendments that may be made at this meeting.
- 1.3.14 It is proposed that the Democracy Committee review the operation and effectiveness of the new Constitution early in 2016, with a view to adopting and implementing appropriate changes in April/May 2016.

Agenda Item 20

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

22 APRIL 2015

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES

Report prepared by Caroline Matthews

1. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME

1.1 Issue for Decision

1.1.1 To consider the recommendations set out in the report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances for Maidstone Borough Council (attached as **Appendix A**).

1.2 Recommendation of the Head of Finance and Resources

1.2.1 That the recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel be considered and approved as follows:-

- (a) That the basic allowance for Members be increased by 5% to £4,900 per annum to reflect the enhanced role;
- (b) That the Leader of the Council/Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee's special responsibility allowance be reduced by 20% to reflect the change in the role under the new governance arrangements to £18,661 per annum;
- (c) That the Chairmen of Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport Committee; Communities, Housing and Environment Committee; and Planning Committee all be given a special responsibility allowance of £7,464 per annum;
- (d) That the Chairmen of Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee; Audit, Governance and Standards Committee; and Licensing Committee all be given a special responsibility allowance of £3,732 per annum;
- (e) That the Group Leaders' Allowance (with the exception of the Leader) be held at £11,663 per annum to be apportioned dependent on the number of Members in each party as approved by Council at its previous meeting;
- (f) That there be no change to the Special Responsibility Allowances for Co-Opted Members of Standards Committee and the Independent Person, currently set at £331

and £700 respectively;

- (g) That there be no change to the Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chairman of Licensing Panel Hearings and Licensing Panel Hearing Members, currently set at £77 per session and £58 per session respectively;
- (h) That there be no change to the Special Responsibility Allowances for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor;
- (i) That there be no Special Responsibility Allowance set for Vice-Chairmen of Committees. However, provision should be built into the Council's Constitution which allows for a Vice Chairman to be given the Chairman's SRA allowance if the Chairman is absent for a significant period of time;
- (j) That the broadband allowance of £11.17 per Member be removed;
- (k) That the Dependent Carer's Allowance be paid as detailed in the report;
- (l) That there be no change to the current rates for Travel and Subsistence;
- (m) That only the Leader of the Council be given a mobile phone for Council business use;
- (n) That all Members should receive Member development and training and that in recognition of the increase to the basic allowance, all Members should take up current and future training development opportunities to support the revised governance arrangements; and
- (o) That the new Democracy Committee should carry out an evaluation of the new system in due course and that the Members' Allowance should be reviewed by the Panel in the next eighteen months to two years.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendation

1.3.1 The report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances is attached at **Appendix A**. In accordance with the requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent Regulations, the Council is obliged to give consideration to the recommendations of the Panel. A copy of the current Members' Allowances Scheme is attached at **Appendix B**.

1.3.2 The recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel will have no financial implications for the Council.

1.4 Alternative Action and why not Recommended

1.4.1 There is no alternative action. The Council must consider the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations in accordance with the requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2000.

1.5 Impact on Corporate Objectives

1.5.1 None.

1.6 Risk Management

1.6.1 Not relevant to the decision being made.

1.7 Other Implications

1.7.1

- 1. Financial
- 2. Staffing
- 3. Legal
- 4. Equality Impact Needs Assessment
- 5. Environmental/Sustainable Development
- 6. Community Safety
- 7. Human Rights Act
- 8. Procurement
- 9. Asset Management

1.8 Relevant Documents

1.8.1 Appendices

Appendix A - Report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel
Appendix B - Current Members' Allowances Scheme

1.8.2 Background Documents

None.

IS THIS A KEY DECISION REPORT?

Yes No

If yes, when did it first appear in the Forward Plan?
.....

This is a Key Decision because:
.....

Wards/Parishes affected:
.....



A REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR
MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

MARCH 2015

South East Employers
Newfrith House
21 Hyde Street
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 7DR

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Foreword

This report has been produced for Maidstone Borough Council as part of the Council's requirement to receive independent advice from its statutory advisory panel on members' allowances. The Panel was established to review members' allowances for both Maidstone Borough Council and Swale Borough Council. On this occasion Swale Borough Council did not participate as they did not have any issues that they wished to raise with the Panel. The membership of the Panel on this occasion was Chair, Mark Palmer (Development Director, South East Employers), Athos Louca (Invicta Chamber of Commerce) and Steve Golding (Independent Member).

The current Panel was asked to carry out a full review of the existing scheme of allowances as the Council moves towards a new governance system. The Panel met on 12th and 13th March 2015 and the summary of recommendations, together with the full report, is attached.

The Panel would like to thank those Members of the Council who completed the questionnaire, some 22 in all, and those Members who were interviewed and contributed to our discussions. Those who attended are set out in Appendix One.

Our thanks also to the Chief Executive and the Head of Policy and Communications for agreeing to be interviewed in order that their views on members allowances and the new governance arrangements could be taken into account.

Finally thanks to Sandra Marchant and Caroline Matthews for providing their assistance throughout the two days that the Panel met.

Mark Palmer
Chair
Independent Remuneration Panel

Summary of Recommendations

This summary sets out the main recommendations. The considerations that have led to these recommendations are set out in the full report.

The proposals are based on a review of background information, interviews with Councillors and Officers of the Council, a review of oral and written submissions and a review of benchmark information from other relevant authorities in the region. At the forefront of the discussions was the Council's change in governance arrangements coming into force in May 2015.

The Panel took into account the statutory guidance relating to Members' Allowances which falls within the remit of the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Summary of Recommendations

Allowance	Current Amount	Recommended Amount (*)	Comments
Basic Allowance	£4,666	£4,900 (increase of 5% to reflect enhanced role)	55 Members
Leader of the Council/Chairman of Policy & Resources Comt	£23,326	£18,661 (reduction of 20% to reflect the change in role)	1 Member
Chairman of Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport Comt	Not applicable	£7,464 (40% of Leader's Allowance)	Committee of 9 Members
Chairman of Communities, Housing and Environment Comt	Not applicable	£7,464 (40% of Leader's Allowance)	Committee of 9 Members
Chairman of Heritage, Culture and Leisure Comt	Not applicable	£3,732 (20% of Leader's Allowance)	Committee of 9 Members
Chairman of Planning Committee	£5,831	£7,464 (40% of Leader's Allowance)	Committee of 13 Members
Chairman of Audit, Governance and Standards Comt	Chair of Audit - £1,166, Chair of Standards - £1,166	£3,732 (20% of Leader's Allowance)	Committee of 5 Members

Allowance	Current Amount	Recommended Amount (*)	Comments
Chairman of Licensing Comt	£2,332	£3,732 (20% of Leader's Allowance)	Committee of 12 Members
Group Leaders Allowance	£11,663	£11,663	Based on Composition of Party x £376 (£11,663 ÷ 31, 31 being the current composition of Members excluding the Leader's party)
Co-opted Members of Standards Comt	£331	£331	To be confirmed
Independent Person	£700	£700	To be confirmed
Chair of Licensing Panel Hearing	£77 per session	£77 per session	1 Member
Licensing Panel Hearing Members	£58 per session	£58 per session	2 Members

(*) – All rates subject to the percentage increase in line with the staff indexation rise (with effect from 1st April each year).

Mayor's Allowance – the Panel recommended that the Mayor's Allowance should stay the same, at £2,500.12 per annum

Deputy Mayor's Allowance - the Panel recommended that the Deputy Mayor's Allowance should stay the same, at £1,000.15 per annum

Special Responsibility Allowance for Vice-Chairmen – the Panel recommended that there should be no special responsibility allowance for Vice-Chairmen. However, provision should be built into the Council's Constitution which allows for a Vice Chairman to be given the Chairman's allowance if the Chair is absent for a significant period of time.

Broadband Allowance - The Panel recommended that a specific broadband allowance was no longer relevant as most households have broadband as a matter of course.

Dependent Carer's Allowance – The Panel recommended that the Dependent Carer's Allowance be paid on production of receipts as follows:-

Child-Care Provider - £7.85 per hour (Living Wage). The Living Wage would

be subject to a review every November by the Living Wage Foundation.

Specialist Carer Provider – Currently stands at £15-£20 per hour but must not exceed Market Rates.

Reasonable travelling time can also be claimed by the carer.

Travel and Subsistence - the Panel recommended that Members continue to be reimbursed for subsistence in the event that a meal is not provided in the course of their Council duties as long as it is deemed reasonable and on production of receipts.

Travelling expenses can also be claimed for train, taxi or car journeys. The current rate for travelling by car is 45p per mile which is in line with HMRC recommendations. Other than car journeys, travelling expenses should only be paid on the production of receipts.

Mobile Phones – the Panel recommended that only the Leader receives a mobile phone for their use on Council business.

Member Development & Training - the Panel felt that in the light of the new governance arrangements, all Members should receive Member development and training. Furthermore, in recognition of the increase to the basic allowance, all Members should take up current and future training development opportunities to support the revised governance arrangements. This would also assist Members to meet the defined responsibilities and competencies within the new role descriptions and responsibilities.

Date of Implementation

The recommendations relating to the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances, and all other recommendations, should be implemented with effect from the Council's Annual Meeting to be held on 23 May 2015.

Methodology

The Panel met at the Town Hall in Maidstone for two days on 12th and 13th March 2015. The Panel meetings were held in private session so as to enable the Panel to interview Councillors and Officers in confidence. The list of the Elected Members and Council Officers that met with the Panel are provided in Appendix One.

The Panel recognised that a lot of assumptions have had to be made in their deliberations and would like to review the recommendations they have made in eighteen months to two years, following the proposed review of the new governance arrangements by the Council's Democracy Committee. The Panel could then consider any recommendations for changes to the Scheme of Allowances arising from that review.

The Panel worked within the set of principles for the proposed governance structure:-

- * to be cost neutral
- * to increase Member participation in decision making
- * to lead to more effective and efficient decision making

The Panel were also keen to simplify the current Members Allowances Scheme in preparation for the new governance structure wherever possible.

The Panel's activity fell into four parts:-

One – Review of background information, in particular, the current political structures and composition of Council committees compared to the Committee structure that Maidstone Borough Council would be adopting with effect from the Council AGM in May 2015 under new governance arrangements. The Panel also looked at relevant benchmarking information about members' allowances elsewhere in Kent.

Two – The principle of a Special Responsibility Allowance for Vice-Chairmen.

Three – Interviews with Councillors and Officers of the Council.

Four – Review of oral and written submissions including an analysis of responses to the questionnaire that was sent to all Councillors.

Five – Arriving at recommendations.

Whilst the Panel reviewed a wide range of available information and interviewed a cross section of Councillors, it also considered responses received from Members in relation to the questionnaire that had been circulated to all Members prior to the Panel's meeting. This ensured no Councillor was denied a voice in the review process (see Appendix Two for a copy of the questionnaire). Twenty two out of fifty five Councillors responded to the questionnaire.

The Panel assessed the hierarchy of the new Committees and from that determined the Special Responsibility Allowances that would be attributed to these. Some Committees were not considered appropriate to attract any Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA).

It is from these processes and deliberations that the Panel has arrived at the recommendations set out in this report.

Principles of the Review

Before the Panel arrived at its recommendations it determined that its deliberations should be underpinned by the following principles, which took into account the current statutory provisions:-

- * The recommended allowances should be of a sufficient level that they would allow most people to consider becoming an elected Member without undue financial hardship, whilst not being at such a level that allowances would become the primary reason for standing for Council.
- * As far as possible the Panel would abide by the precedent and approach of previous reviews, except where there was a clear and prescient case not to do so.
- * The allowances should be seen as a contribution and recognition of the time and skills of councillors, not as an equivalent to a formal job evaluation exercise and salaries.
- * A healthy and resourced Opposition is important in maintaining an appropriate balance within local democracy.
- * Any recommendations should be based on a logical and transparent construction and arrived at in a way that is simple to understand.
- * Sensitivities of cost of implementation of any recommendations should be borne in mind.

The Panel has laid out a synopsis of its deliberations in this report to assist Members and the public to understand its approach. Following its deliberations, the Panel concluded that there was an appetite for small changes to the current scheme of allowances at Maidstone.

Whilst the Panel's recommendations are not mandatory, it is hoped that if the Council disagrees with the actual figures recommended, that the Council would accept the Panel's logic. The recommendations presented in this report represent the view of the Panel and not the official view of Maidstone Borough Council.

Arriving at the Recommendations

Basic Allowance

The Panel noted the statutory guidance it must pay regard to, in particular, that the authority's scheme of allowances must include provision for a Basic Allowance that is payable at an equal flat rate to all Members.

The Panel noted that in response to the question "Is the Basic Allowance appropriate?", 45% of those who responded to the questionnaire said "Yes". In the interviews conducted with Councillors the Panel noted that Councillors felt it should be slightly increased in the light of the new arrangements and that it would in turn attract new councillors. They were, however, of the opinion that being a Councillor should not give undue financial hardship.

The Panel were in agreement with the Members' views that the basic allowance should be increased to reflect the change in governance arrangements as Members will have increased decision making responsibilities and will need to increase their knowledge. They therefore felt that a small increase should be made to the basic allowance.

Special Responsibility Allowances

The Panel was under a duty to recognise the following statutory guidance in arriving at recommendations for Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs):

Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) may be paid to those members of the council who have significant additional responsibilities, over and above the generally accepted duties of a councillor. These special responsibilities must be related to the discharge of the authority's functions.

These are important considerations for local authorities. If the majority of members of a council receive a special responsibility allowance the local electorate may rightly question whether this was justified. Local authorities will wish to consider very carefully the additional roles of members and the significance of these roles, both in terms of responsibility and real time commitment before deciding which will warrant the payment of a special responsibility allowance.

It does not necessarily follow that a particular responsibility, which is vested to a particular member, is a significant additional responsibility for which a special responsibility allowance should be paid. Local authorities will need to consider such particular responsibilities very carefully. Whilst such responsibilities may be unique to a particular member it may be that all or most members have such responsibility to varying degrees. Such duties may not lead to a significant extra workload for any one particular member above another. These sorts of responsibilities should be recognised as a time commitment to council work, which is acknowledged within the basic allowance and not responsibilities for which a special responsibility allowance should be recommended.

The majority of the Councillors interviewed were strongly of the view that the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Leader should be reassessed in recognition of the fact that whilst the level of work will remain the same, the Leader, under the new Committee model, would no longer have executive authority which it had under the Leader/Cabinet model.

In response to the question "Would you like to see changes made to the SRAs?", 68% of all respondents said 'Yes', 32% said 'No'. There were some suggestions made by Members in terms of what positions should be paid a SRA and the associated hierarchy of the Committees which the Panel largely concurred with.

The Panel felt that in terms of the Committees that should receive a Special Responsibility Allowance, there was a clear hierarchy structure, and they based their determination in the level of SRA on this, which is illustrated as follows:-

	Council		<i>Top Tier</i>
	P & R Comt		<i>Second Tier</i>
SPS&TC	CH&EC	PC	<i>Third Tier</i>
HC&LC	AG&SC	LC	<i>Fourth Tier</i>
<i>Remaining Committees not remunerated – Fifth Tier</i>			

Key: SPS&TC – Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport Committee
 CH&EC – Communities, Housing and Environment Committee
 PC – Planning Committee
 HC&LC – Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee
 AG&SC – Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
 LC – Licensing Committee

Overall, the number of Special Responsibility Allowances had decreased from twenty four to seventeen.

Leader of the Council/Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee

The Panel recognised that the role of the Leader of the Council under the new governance arrangements would change, specifically that the decision making powers would not be as strong as they were under the Executive Model.

Of those Members interviewed, it was generally envisaged that the Leader's role would not be as significant under the new governance arrangements, although it could be an onerous one in terms of being Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee. It was, however, accepted that this may not become apparent until the new arrangements had been in operation for a while.

Chairmen of Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport Committee; Communities, Housing and Environment Committee; and Planning Committee

The Panel put these as third tier Committees in the belief that their responsibilities were of greater significance than those on the fourth tier.

Chairmen of Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee; Audit, Governance and Standards Committee; and Licensing Committee

The Panel put these as fourth tier Committees in the belief that their responsibilities were of greater significance than those on the fifth tier but of less significance than those on the third tier.

Cobtree Sub Committee, Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment Sub Committee; Local Plan Sub Committee; Employment & Development Panel; Democracy Committee; Joint Transportation Board; Charity Committees: Bentlif, Relief in Need, Brenchley and Gunsley; and Planning Referrals

The Panel put these as fifth tier Committees in the belief that their responsibilities were of less significance than all the other Committees and did not therefore afford a Special Responsibility Allowance.

Group Leaders Allowance

The Panel submitted a proposal at their January meeting that the Group Leaders Allowance be based on the composition of the relevant political parties. This was subsequently agreed by Council at its meeting in February 2015.

The Panel therefore have no proposals to revise their recommendation.

Co-Opted Members of Standards Committee

The Panel did not consider that the current remuneration for Co-Opted Members of Standards Committee should change at this stage.

Independent Person

The Panel did not consider that the current remuneration for the Independent Person should change at this stage.

Chair of Licensing Panel Hearing

The Panel did not consider that the current remuneration for the Chair of Licensing Panel Hearings should change at this stage.

Licensing Panel Hearing Members

The Panel did not consider that the current remuneration for the two Members of the Licensing Panel Hearings should change at this stage.

Mayor and Deputy Mayor Allowances

The Panel did not consider that the current remuneration paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor should change at this stage.

Vice-Chairman Allowance

The Panel considered fully the proposal put forward by the Licensing Committee for all Vice-Chairmen to be paid a Special Responsibility Allowance. They considered benchmarking statistics from some neighbouring authorities and based on that evidence and the fact that there was no evidence yet of the amount of work that a Vice-Chairman would contribute under the new system, they felt that this should be reviewed when the Panel carry out a further review in eighteen months to two years' time when the new system has had time to settle in.

However, provision should be built into the Council's Constitution which allows for a Vice Chairman to be given the Chairman's allowance if the Chair is absent for a significant period of time.

Broadband Allowance

The Panel thought that a specific broadband allowance was no longer relevant as most households have broadband as a matter of course.

Dependent Carer's Allowance

Dependent Carer's Allowance to be paid on production of receipts as follows:-

Child-Care Provider - £7.85 per hour (Living Wage). The Living Wage would be subject to a review every November by the Living Wage Foundation.

Specialist Carer Provider – Currently stands at £15-£20 per hour but must not exceed Market Rates.

Reasonable travelling time can also be claimed by the carer.

Following comments received from Members, the Panel were mindful that this needed to be publicised more as it could be an integral consideration for anyone thinking about becoming a Councillor.

Travel and Subsistence

The Panel recommended that Members continue to be reimbursed for subsistence in the event that a meal is not provided in the course of their normal Council duties as long as it is deemed reasonable and on production of receipts.

Travelling expenses can also be claimed for public transport, taxis or car journeys. The current rate for travelling by car is 45p per mile which is in line with HMRC recommendations. Claims can only be made for travelling whilst on approved Council business.

Mobile Phones

The Panel were made aware that the Cabinet Member positions did attract the provision of a mobile phone for Council use. It was recommended that only

the Leader's position should attract a mobile phone for Council use in the future.

Member Development & Training

The Panel felt that in the light of the new governance arrangements, all Members should receive Member development and training. Furthermore, in recognition of the increase to the basic allowance, all Members should take up current and future training development opportunities to support the revised governance arrangements. This would also assist Members to meet the defined responsibilities and competencies within the new role descriptions and responsibilities.

The Panel did discuss the possibility of Members' Special Responsibility Allowances being linked to performance but it was felt that this should not be considered at this time, particularly as the new arrangements were not in place yet.

Indexation Rise

The Panel put forward a recommendation following their meeting in January 2015 that Members receive an indexation rise in line with whatever the indexation rise is for staff. This was approved by Council at its meeting in February and therefore all the figures set out above should take into account any indexation rise with effect from 1st April each year.

Recommendations

- (1) That the Basic Allowance for Councillors be increased by 5% to take into account the enhanced role that they will have moving forward to the new committee structure;
- (2) That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Leader of the Council/Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee be reduced by 20% to take into account the change in role;
- (3) That the Chairmen of Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport Committee; Communities, Housing and Environment Committee; and Planning Committee be given a Special Responsibility Allowance of £7,464 p.a. (40% of the Leader's Allowance);
- (4) That the Chairmen of Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee; Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and Licensing Committee be given a Special Responsibility Allowance of £3,732 p.a. (20% of the Leader's Allowance);
- (5) That the Group Leaders Allowance stay the same as previous at £11,663 per annum, split between the Group Leaders dependent on the current composition;

- (6) That the remunerations for the Co-Opted Members and Independent Person for Standards Committee stay the same;
- (7) That the remunerations for the Chair and Panel Members of the Licensing Panel Hearings stay the same;
- (8) That the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's Allowance stay the same;
- (9) That there should be no special responsibility allowance for Vice-Chairmen but this should be reviewed when the Panel meet again in eighteen months to two years time;
- (10) That the broadband allowance cease to exist;
- (11) That the Dependent Carer's Allowance be determined as follows:-

Child-Care Provider - £7.85 per hour (Living Wage). The Living Wage would be subject to a review every November by the Living Wage Foundation.

Specialist Carer Provider – Currently stands at £15-£20 per hour but must not exceed Market Rates.

Reasonable travelling time can also be claimed by the carer.

Following comments received from Members, the Panel were mindful that this needed to be publicised more as it could be an integral consideration for anyone thinking about becoming a Councillor;

- (12) That the Travel and Subsistence scheme stay the same;
- (13) That only the Leader of the Council be given a mobile phone for Council use;
- (14) That in the light of the new governance arrangements, Members should receive Member development and training. In addition, they should take up current and future training development opportunities to support the revised governance arrangements; and
- (15) That the new Democracy Committee carry out an evaluation of the new system in due course and that the Members Allowance would be reviewed by the Panel in the next eighteen months to two years.

Appendix One

Members and Officers interviewed by the Panel

- * Councillor Mrs Annabelle Blackmore, Leader of the Council
- * Councillor Mrs Fran Wilson, Leader of the Liberal Democrats Party
- * Councillor Dan Daley, Maidstone Borough Council
- * Councillor Denise Joy, Maidstone Borough Council
- * Councillor Clive English, Maidstone Borough Council
- * Councillor Fay Gooch, Leader of the Independent Party
- * Councillor Malcolm McKay, Leader of the Labour Party
- * Councillor Alistair Black, Maidstone Borough Council
- * Councillor Martin Cox, Maidstone Borough Council
- * Councillor Eddie Powell, Leader of the UKIP Party
- * Councillor Mike Cuming, Maidstone Borough Council
- * Councillor Mrs Parvin, Maidstone Borough Council
- * Councillor Richard Ash, Maidstone Borough Council
- * Councillor Mrs Grigg, Maidstone Borough Council
- * Alison Broom, Chief Executive, Maidstone Borough Council
- * Angela Woodhouse, Head of Policy & Communications, Maidstone Borough Council

Appendix Two

Members Allowances - Questionnaire

In accordance with Government regulations, a review of payments to councillors is to be undertaken by an independent panel every 4 years.

Your views are vital in allowing the panel members to assess an appropriate level of allowances. As part of this process, I would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to answer the following questions. Don't worry if you feel unable to answer some of the questions, just leave that section blank. I can assure you that the individual views expressed by councillors will remain confidential and will only be disclosed to the members of the panel.

Please return your completed questionnaire to me by Friday 6 March 2015.

Thank you.

Caroline Matthews
Democratic Services Officer
01622 602743

1. How many hours on average do you spend each week on council business?	__ hours Role
2. In a typical week, how will this time be spent? Please complete the details below:	
a) Attending meetings (including travelling)	__ hours
b) Community representation	__ hours
c) Case work (dealing with particular issues in your ward)	__ hours
d) Research	__ hours
e) Other (please specify)	__ hours
3. The average number of hours assessed at the last review was 20 per week. Is this figure broadly right for the role of an average constituency councillor? If not, then what do you feel would be the correct number of hours to fulfil the role in an effective and efficient manner?	YES / NO (delete as appropriate) __ hours

<p>4. Do you incur any significant costs which you believe are not covered by your present allowance?</p>	<p>YES / NO</p> <p>If YES, please provide details</p>
<p>5. Governance guidance states that “it is important that some element of the work of Members continues to be voluntary”. Independent Remuneration Panels are required to assess what Public Service Discount should apply to the basic allowance. That is the percentage of their time Councillors expect to give without any financial remuneration. The average for this is typically one third. Do you feel this is broadly right?</p>	<p>YES / NO</p> <p>If NO, then what do you feel would be an acceptable % discount?</p>
<p>6. The present level of basic allowance payable to all councillors is £4666. Do you think this is appropriate?</p> <p>If NO, should it be higher or lower?</p> <p>If you are able, please indicate an appropriate level</p>	<p>YES / NO</p> <p>HIGHER / LOWER</p> <p>£</p>
<p>7. Special responsibility allowances (SRAs) are currently paid as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader of the Council • Cabinet members • Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees • Chairman of the Planning Committee • Chairman of the Licensing Committee • Chairman of the Standards Committee • Chairman of Audit Committee • Group Leaders • Co-optee Allowance <p>Note: SRAs are subject to change with the new governance arrangements</p>	<p>£23,326</p> <p>£11,663</p> <p>£4,665</p> <p>£5,831</p> <p>£2,332</p> <p>£1,166</p> <p>£1,166</p> <p>£11,663*</p> <p>£331</p> <p>*Shared between each Group Leader on basis of number of members in Political Group</p>

<p>Would you like to see any changes made to these allowances?</p>	<p>YES / NO</p> <p>If YES, please provide details</p>
<p>Would you like to see any additional SRAs introduced other than those that will arise from the new Governance arrangements?</p>	<p>YES / NO</p> <p>If YES, please provide details</p>
<p>8. Carer's Allowance</p> <p>The Dependent Carer's Allowance is required to be set to at least the minimum wage level, currently £6.50 per hour. Do you think this rate should be increased?</p>	<p>YES / NO</p> <p>If YES, please can you suggest a new amount?</p>
<p>9. Travel and Subsistence</p> <p>The current scheme is attached.</p> <p>Do you have any comments on the current Travel and Subsistence scheme for Members?</p>	<p>YES/NO</p> <p>If YES, please can you provide details here:</p>

If you have any other comments on allowances, please include details below. Please add additional pages as necessary.

If required, would you be prepared to be interviewed by the independent panel? **YES / NO**

Name _____
Councillor

Dated _____

Members'

Allowances Scheme

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

The Maidstone Borough Council has adopted the following Members' Allowances Scheme:-

Citation

1. This scheme may be cited as the Maidstone Borough Council Members' Allowance Scheme and the scheme shall come into operation on the following dates and be operative for subsequent years
 - a) Basic Allowance - 1 April 2003
 - b) Special Responsibility Allowance - 1 April 2003

Interpretation

2. In this scheme, "Councillor" means a Member of the Maidstone Borough Council who is a Councillor;
"Co-opted Member" means a person who is not a Councillor (as above) but has been appointed to join a Committee of this Council;
"year" means the 12 months ending with 31 March.

Basic Allowance

3. Subject to paragraph 6, for each year a basic allowance of £4666 shall be paid to each Councillor (with effect from 1 April 2013).

Special Responsibility Allowance

4.
 - (1) For each year a special responsibility allowance shall be paid to those Councillors or Co-opted Members who have the special responsibilities in relation to the authority that are specified in schedule 1 to this scheme.
 - (2) Subject to paragraph 6, the amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against that special responsibility in that schedule.
 - (3) No more than one special responsibility allowance can be paid to any single Councillor or Co-opted Member at one time and that the allowance to be paid be the highest that the Councillor or Co-opted Member is entitled, with the exception it will not preclude any person who receives a special responsibility allowance from being paid such an allowance for attendance at Licensing Panel Hearings.

Renunciation

5. A Councillor or Co-opted Member may by notice in writing given to the Head of Policy and Communications elect to forego any part of his entitlement to an allowance under this scheme.

Part-year Entitlement

6. (1) The provisions of this paragraph shall have effect to regulate the entitlements of a Councillor to basic and special responsibility allowances where, in the course of a year, this scheme is amended or that Councillor becomes, or ceases to be, a Councillor, or accepts or relinquishes a special responsibility in respect of which a special responsibility allowance is payable.
- (2) If an amendment to this scheme is made which affects payment of a basic allowance or a special responsibility allowance in the year in which the amendment is made, then in relation to each of the periods
- (a) beginning with the year and ending with the day before on that which the first amendment in that year takes effect, or
- (b) beginning with the day on which an amendment takes effect and ending with the day before that on which the next amendment takes effect, or (if none) with the year,
- the entitlement to such an allowance shall be to the payment of such part of the amount of the allowance under this scheme as it has effect during the relevant period as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of the days as the period bears to the number of days in the year.
- (3) Where the term of office of a Councillor begins or ends otherwise than at the beginning or end of a year, the entitlement of that Councillor to a basic allowance shall be to the payment of such part of the basic allowance as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which his term of office subsists bears to the number of days in that year.
- (4) Where this scheme is amended as mentioned in sub-paragraph (2), and the term of office of a Councillor does not subsist throughout a period mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) the entitlement of any such Councillor to a basic allowance shall be to the payment of such part of the basic allowance referable to each such period (ascertained in accordance with that sub-paragraph) as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which his term of office as a Councillor subsists in that period bears to the number of days in that period.
- (5) Where a Councillor or Co-opted Member has during part of, but not throughout, a year such special responsibilities as entitle him or her to a special responsibility allowance, that Councillor's or Co-opted Member's entitlement shall be to payment of such part of that allowance as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which he or she has such special responsibilities bears to the number of days in that year.

- (6) Where this scheme is amended as mentioned in sub-paragraph (2), and a Councillor or Co-opted Member has during part, but does not have throughout the whole of any period mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) of that paragraph any such special responsibilities as entitle him or her to a special responsibility allowance, that Councillor's or Co-opted Member's entitlement shall be to payment of such part of the allowance referable to each such period (ascertained in accordance with that sub-paragraph) as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days in that period during which he or she has such special responsibilities bears to the number of days in that period.

Payments

7. (1) Payments shall be made in respect of basic and special responsibility allowances, subject to sub-paragraph (2) in instalments of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this scheme on the (last working) day of each month;
- (2) Where a payment of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this scheme in respect of a basic allowance or a special responsibility allowance would result in the Councillor or Co-opted Member receiving more or less than the amount to which, by virtue of paragraph 7, he or she is entitled, the payment be such amount as will ensure that no more or no less is paid than the amount to which he or she is entitled.

Dependent Carers Allowance

8. Each Councillor shall be entitled to claim a Dependent Carers Allowance at a rate of £6 per hour when they attend meetings which relate to functions of the Council or in relation to a Cabinet portfolio including meetings of certain specified outside bodies (see Schedule 2) and any approved conference, training or site visits.

Travel Allowance

9. Councillors and Co-opted Members are entitled to claim travel costs when they attend meetings which relate to functions of the Council or in relation to a Cabinet portfolio including meetings of certain specified outside bodies (see Schedule 2) and any approved conferences or site visits. Councillors and Co-opted Members must indicate on the claim form the purpose of all meetings attended. Travelling allowances are paid per mile as set out in the table below.

<i>TRAVEL ALLOWANCES</i>	
<i>Cars and Vans</i>	<i>45p per mile</i>
Motorcycles	24p per mile
Bicycles	20p per mile

Councillors or Co-opted Members may claim an additional 5p per mile if other passengers travel in their vehicle. This again must be detailed on the Allowance Application Form.

If a Councillor or Co-opted Member travels to and from meetings by public transport they are entitled to claim this back in full but receipts or tickets must be attached to their Allowance Application Forms.

Councillors and or Co-opted Members may also claim back in full the cost of toll, parking or garage fees by completing the appropriate section on the Allowance Application Form.

Subsistence Allowance

10. Councillors and Co-opted Members are entitled to claim a subsistence allowance when, in attending meetings which relate to functions of the Council or in relation to a Cabinet portfolio, they are kept away from their normal place of residence for significant periods of time at certain times of day. Subsistence will only be paid upon the production of a receipt for the purchase of a required meal. The amount paid should be the lesser of a) the applicable subsistence rate (as set out in the table below), or b) the amount on the receipt.

SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE		
<i>Allowance Type</i>	<i>Allowance</i>	<i>Period</i>
Breakfast	£5.37	more than 5 hours away from normal place of residence before 11.00am
Lunch	£7.70	more than 5 hours away from normal place of residence, including the lunchtime between 12.00 noon and 2.00pm
Tea	£3.04	more than 5 hours away from normal place of residences, including the period 3.00pm to 6.00pm
Dinner	£9.53	more than 5 hours away from normal place of residence ending after 7.00pm

If Councillors or Co-opted Members are attending a meeting or function where a meal is provided for them they are not entitled to claim a subsistence allowance.

If a Councillor or Co-opted Member attends an approved Conference which includes an overnight stay away from his/her usual place of residence the Councillor or Co-opted Member can claim the cost of an evening meal up to a maximum of £20 per head, provided they submit a receipt with the Allowance Application Form.

Members and Co-opted Members are reminded that any Allowance Application Forms should be submitted within two months of the approved duty for which they are claiming.

Broadband Allowance

11. Councillors are entitled to claim £11.17 per month.

SCHEDULE 1

1. The following are specified as the special responsibilities in respect of which special responsibility allowances are payable, and the amounts of those allowances:-

<u>POST</u>	<u>SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE</u> (w.e.f. 1.4.13)
Leader	£ 23,326
Cabinet Member (50% of Leader's Allowance)	£ 11,663
Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny (25% of Leader's Allowance)	£ 4,665
Chairman of Planning Committee (25% of Leader's Allowance)	£ 5,831
Chairman of Licensing Committee (10% of Leader's Allowance)	£ 2,332
Chairman of Licensing Act 2003 Committee (10% of Leader's Allowance)	£ 2,332
Chairman of Standards Committee (5% of Leader's Allowance)	£ 1,166
Chairman of Audit Committee (5% of Leader's Allowance)	£1,166
Leader of the Opposition (minimum of 10 Councillors) (25% of Leader's Allowance)	£5,831
Group Leader (minimum of 5 Councillors) (10% of Leader's Allowance)	£2,331
Co-opted Members of Standards Committee	£ 331
Independent Person	£ 700
Chair of Licensing Panel Hearing	£77 daily session rate
Licensing Panel Hearing Members	£58 daily session rate

SCHEDULE 2

LIST OF OUTSIDE BODIES

1. Action with Communities in Rural Kent
2. Age Concern
3. Allington Millennium Green Trust
4. Brenchley Charity
5. Citizens Advice Bureau
6. Collis Millennium Green Trust
7. Cutbush and Corral Charity
8. Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee
9. Hermitage Quarry Liaison Group
10. Howard de Walden Centre
11. KCC Health Overview & Scrutiny
12. KCC Youth Advisory Group
13. Kent County Playing Fields Association
14. Kent Downs AONB Joint Advisory Committee
15. Kent Partnership
16. Local Government Association General Assembly
17. Local Government Association Rural Commission
18. Local Government Association Urban Commission
19. Maidstone Area Arts Council
20. Maidstone/Beauvais Twinning Association
21. Maidstone Mediation Scheme
22. Maidstone MIND
23. Maidstone Sea Cadets
24. Maidstone Street Pastors Management Committee
25. Maidstone YMCA
26. Mid Kent Downs Steering Group
27. Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London Adjudication Joint Committee ("PATROLAJC")
28. Relate West and Mid Kent
29. Relief in Need Charities
30. Rochester Bridge Trust
31. South East Employers
32. Town Centre Management Advisory Group
33. Town Centre Management Board of Directors
34. Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board
35. Vinters Valley Park Trust
36. Youth and Community Charity (KCC)

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

22 April 2015

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE & RESOURCES

Report prepared by Paul Riley

1. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

1.1 Issue for Decision

1.1.1 To consider the new Calendar of Meetings for 2015/16.

1.2 Recommendation of the Head of Finance & Resources

1.2.1 That the Calendar of Meetings 2015/16, as attached at Appendix A, be agreed.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendation

1.3.1 The proposed Calendar of Meetings for 2015/16 is attached at Appendix A. This sets out the proposed dates for the Council and Service, Regulatory and Other Committees based on the new Committee structure.

1.3.2 It will be noted that the Annual Meeting of Council is on Saturday 23 May, to be held in conjunction with a Civic Parade.

1.3.3 It will be noted that following the Annual Meeting, there will a meeting of all four Service Committees and these will be on Tuesday 26 May. The meetings will elect the Chair and Vice-Chair for each committee, other than for the Chair of Policy and Resources Committee who will be appointed at the Annual Meeting. The meetings will also start work on the agenda setting for the first cycle of meetings.

1.3.4 With the exception of Planning Committee, there will be no other meetings during August.

1.3.5 Extraordinary Council meetings will be called if necessary.

1.4 Alternative Action and why not Recommended

1.4.1 The dates of meetings are in accordance with the normal pattern for meetings based on the new Committee structure.

1.5 Impact on Corporate Objectives

1.5.1 None.

1.6 Risk Management

1.6.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

1.7 Other Implications

1.7.1

1. Financial
2. Staffing
3. Legal
4. Equality Impact Needs Assessment
5. Environmental/Sustainable Development
6. Community Safety
7. Human Rights Act
8. Procurement
9. Asset Management

1.8 Relevant Documents

1.8.1 Appendices

Appendix A – Calendar of Meetings 2015/16

1.8.2 Background Documents

1.8.3 None

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2015/16

Appendix A

	MAY 2015	JUNE	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN 2016	FEB	MAR	APR
Council (Wed)	23 May 2015 (Sat) AGM		15		16			9			2	13
Policy & Resources (Wed)	26	24	29		23	21	25	16	27	24	23	27
Planning (Thurs)	28	18	9/30	20	10	1/22	12	10	14	4/25	17	7/28
Adjourned Planning (Thurs)		4/25	16	6/27	17	8/29	19	17	21	11	3/24	14
Licensing (Thurs)		11			24		26		28		31	
SPS&T (Tues)	26	9	14		8	6	10	1	12	9	8	5
CHE (Tues)	26	16	28		15	13	17	8	19	16	15	12
HCL (Tues)	26		7		1		3		5		1	
JTB (Wed)			22			14			20			20
Audit, Governance & Standards (Mon)			20		21		23		11		21	
Member Development & Training Sessions	13 – New Member Induction											

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SPS&T = Strategic Planning, Sustainability & Transport
HCL = Heritage, Culture & Leisure

CHE = Communities, Housing & Environment
JTB = Joint Transportation Board

Member Development & Training Sessions – P = Planning, L = Licensing, A = Audit, MS/T = Member Seminar/Training

Agenda Item 22

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

22 APRIL 2015

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE & RESOURCES

Report prepared by Caroline Matthews

1. URGENT DECISION TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE

1.1 RECOMMENDED:

1.1.1 That the report be noted.

1.2 CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING

1.2.1 The Cabinet Member for Environment and Housing agreed on 27 February 2015 that the decision set out in paragraph 1.2.3 below was urgent and needed to be actioned within the call-in period. In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules of the Constitution, the Mayor, in consultation with the Head of Paid Service and the Chairman of the Community, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, agreed that the decision was reasonable in all the circumstances and should be treated as a matter of urgency and not be subject to call-in.

1.2.2 Photovoltaic Array at Maidstone Depot

The Cabinet Member was asked to approve the installation of a 50kw photovoltaic array at Maidstone Depot.

1.2.3 Decision Made

- 1) That the installation of a 50kw photovoltaic array at Maidstone Depot be approved;
- 2) That a capital budget of £65,000 be made available to deliver the project and that authority to spend the project budget be delegated to the Director of Environment and Shared Services, in consultation with myself as the Cabinet Member for Environment and Housing, including the purchase and installation of the necessary equipment;
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Director of Environment and Shared Services to obtain the necessary approval and consents for the photovoltaic array; and
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Director of Environment and Shared Services to obtain the necessary approval and consents for the Council to benefit from the Feed In Tariff (FIT) and for the

export of any surplus energy generated by the array.

1.2.4 Reason for Urgency

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Housing determined that her decision was urgent because it needed to be actioned in the call in period in order that the Council could secure the best tariff rates available.