

AGENDA

COMMUNITY, LEISURE SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING



Overview and Scrutiny

Date: Tuesday 14 January 2014
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors: Mrs Blackmore (Chairman), Brindle, Mrs Gibson,
Mrs Joy (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Mannering, Munford,
Mrs Parvin, Vizzard and Yates

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1. **The Committee to consider whether all items on the agenda should be web-cast**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Notification of Substitute Members**
4. **Notification of Visiting Members/Witnesses**
5. **Disclosures by Members and Officers**
6. **To consider whether any items should be taken in private because of the possible disclosure of exempt information**
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Interviews with: Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services,
Councillor JA Wilson, Jason Taylor, Parks and Leisure Manager and
Amanda Scott, Play Facilities Development Officer.
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Continued Over/:

Issued on 6 January 2014

Alison Broom

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

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MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community, Leisure Services and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2013

Present: Councillor Mrs Blackmore (Chairman), and Councillors Brindle, Mrs Gibson, Mrs Joy, Munford, Mrs Parvin and Vizzard

66. THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER WHETHER ALL ITEMS ON THE AGENDA SHOULD BE WEB-CAST

RESOLVED: that all items on the agenda be web-cast

67. APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mannering.

68. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no Substitute Members.

69. NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS/WITNESSES

There were no Visiting Members.

70. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no disclosures.

71. TO CONSIDER WHETHER ANY ITEMS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN PRIVATE BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBLE DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

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

72. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2013

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2013 be approved as a correct record and duly signed.

73. URGENT ITEM

It was proposed that an urgent update be taken on the Street Triage Pilot Scheme which the Committee were evaluating as part of its Mental Health Review.

RESOLVED: that the update on the Street Triage Pilot be taken as an Urgent Item.

74. AMENDMENT TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairman proposed that the Update on the Street Triage Pilot be taken as Item 8 on the Agenda and the scheduled item, Warn Homes Eco Pilot Review, be taken as Item 9.

RESOLVED: that the update on the Street Triage Pilot be taken as Item 8 on the Agenda and the scheduled item, Warn Homes Eco Pilot Review, be taken as Item 9.

75. UPDATE ON STREET TRIAGE PILOT

Police Constable Shane McMahon was invited to update the Committee on the Street Triage Pilot Scheme being undertaken by Kent Police in partnership with the Kent and Medway NHS Social Care and Partnership Trust (KMPT). Police Constable McMahon made it clear from the outset that the opinions he was expressing were his own. He made the following points:

- Mental Health would be the No.1 illness by 2020;
- It was recognised that there was a need to work with the NHS;
- The Police were risk adverse because of bad press;
- The Police's main power was S136 of Mental Health Act, giving power to detain; and
- If someone was found in a public place by the police they would be taken to a place of safety i.e. a hospital or a Police Cell as still stated in legislation.

The officer described his positive experiences of working with health professionals to the Committee. He gave an example of working with an ambulance crew and their ability to identify that someone who was thought to be suffering from a Mental Health crisis was actually suffering from an aneurysm which enabled the correct treatment to be given. He explained that by going out with Mental Health trained staff as part of the pilot scheme, it gave the Police the ability to diagnose and identify the best treatments. It also provided access to the same tools available to NHS.

The officer spoke of the culture of both organisations and approaches to Mental Health being challenged through the pilot scheme with positive outcomes. NHS staff were given an insight into some of the crisis situations faced by the Police. As part of the pilot they would encounter someone at a crisis point, possibly under the influence of drugs or alcohol whereas they would usually encounter the person after they had calmed down.

The following points were clarified in response to the Committee's questions:

- It was confirmed that the scheme was a countywide pilot;
- The Police's responsibility ceased when the person was taken to a place of safety (other than a Police cell) and assessment began;
- The resources involved included five police officers and five Mental Health nurses covering a five week shift pattern on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays nights;
- In terms of cost, a hire car was used and the Mental Health staff were provided on overtime;
- For someone to be sectioned, 2 doctors were needed; and
- Time was currently lost with S136 teams having to travel across the county. A central unit or team would be preferable.

The pilot had run for 12 weeks but was so successful it was being continued. As a result of the initial 12 week pilot 18 people had not been issued S136 by the Police because of the improved knowledge and understanding of a person's needs from working with a Mental Health professional. This offered a financial saving of between £1200 and £1400 per assessment that would have had to have been made and meant that space was available for those most in need. However in some cases, it was explained, S136 was right course of action.

Members questioned the follow up process and next steps following the pilot scheme. They were informed that a database was being developed to help identify those people dealt with most often. Some people would be issued a S136 once in their lifetime; others could receive several in one week. This was information that would be shared with partner organisations. The scheme was to be extended until the end of March 2014.

In terms of the scheme going forward and next steps, the Committee was informed that it was about building trust, establishing relationships and breaking down barriers between the Police and the NHS. The Committee was told that this could be achieved by extending the shift rotation period and involving more staff over a longer period of time, thus increasing involvement. With greater flexibility to have more staff involved barriers could be broken down and knowledge could disseminate more quickly.

Members were informed that there was evidence that the pilot was making a difference with quicker access to more appropriate treatment and people not being unnecessarily detained under S136. This in turn lessened the impact on the NHS with only right cases being taken forward. The officer told the Committee that as a long term solution and outcome having a dedicated Mental Health professional at the end of a hotline would solve an estimated 60-70% of the problem. It would open up access to treatments and advice on courses of action that the Police were unaware of.

Members queried what happened on Sunday to Wednesday when the scheme was not running. The officer explained that the knowledge being acquired was being utilised across other shifts. In addition to this Custody Sergeants received training in Mental Health and Community Psychiatric

Nurses were available to Custody Sergeants. He added that a person who had been taken to a police station would not be released until they had been seen by a Mental Health professional and assessed.

The Committee questioned the paperwork involved in the process. It was informed that there was a feedback summary completed at the end of every case, at the end of shift and the end every set of shifts. It was confirmed that as a result of the pilot scheme this was being reviewed. At the 12 week review of scheme improvements in this area had already been made.

Members questioned whether a police cell was the best place to take someone suffering a Mental Health crisis. The officer told that Committee that in his opinion it was not. A person in distress would be surrounded by loud, violent people and may feel they were being treated like a criminal; S136 suits in hospitals completely different.

The Committee questioned whether there were any statistics that showed that mental health was worse in certain areas. The officer told the Committee that anecdotally it was worse in areas of social deprivation – certainly more awareness in these areas (Thanet, Dover and Folkestone were mentioned) but that conversely the Police were also called to very affluent areas. The message was that Mental Health affects all.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

76. WARM HOMES ECO PILOT REVIEW

Neil Coles, Housing Services Manager was invited to update the Committee on the Warm Homes Eco Pilot Review which the Committee had originally considered in August, approving the following decision:

- That the Council implements and borough wide Warm Homes ECO pilot, initially targeting the wards of High Street, Park Wood, Shepway North and Shepway South.
- That the Council enters into a service level agreement with Enterprise plc to deliver the Warm Homes ECO pilot.

The scheme was launched on 21st Oct but lost momentum when it became clear a government announcement was due in December which would alter the funding and emphasis of the Energy Company obligation.

On the 5th December the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced significant changes in the level of funding and targeting. The main changes were:

- The timescale; originally until March 2015 but now until March 2017;
- The level of funding; the funding could now be spend over a longer period, effectively reducing the amount spent each year. This would reduce the amount that energy firms have to spend each year;

- The emphasis; the most severely deprived areas and those of certain means tested benefits will still have some support but support for insulating hard to insulate homes, particularly homes with solid walls, has been significantly reduced; and
- The level of funding; many works are not fully funded and schemes do not progress due to incomplete funding

The Committee was informed that Npower were no longer going to fund the affordable warmth strand of the project designed to help people on certain means tested benefits. Kent County Council had negotiated with Enterprise's supply chain and the affordable warmth element could now be provided by a new service provider.

The Committee considered whether or not the Council should continue to support the Warm Homes scheme and concluded that the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services receives a report recommending an amendment to the Housing Assistance Policy to allow assistance to be given to households in receipt of means tested benefits to top up shortfalls in ECO funding to enable measures to be installed.

Mr Coles told the Committee that the scheme had already been launched and marketed. It had been suspended during the phase of uncertainty already described.

He elaborated on the second recommendation put forward. He explained that the Capital Programme was an area that could be influenced. The funding gap to top up the shortfalls from energy companies could be met through the Capital Programme being used to provide additional funding via Housing Assistance programme. It was explained that amending the Housing Assistance Policy to allow a top up in funding would be more cost effective to the Council as the alternative was that a resident could apply for the entire funding they required for a new boiler, for example, by providing the Council with two quotes. What the Council was trying to achieve with the recommendations put forward was a means of unlocking the funding available.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the Community, Leisure Services and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend that the Council continues to support the Warm Homes scheme.
- b) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend that the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services receives a report recommending an amendment to the Housing Assistance Policy to allow assistance to be given to households in receipt of means tested benefits to top up shortfalls in ECO funding to enable measures to be installed.

77. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its Future Work Programme. It was confirmed that the Homelessness Strategy would be returning to it but the date was still unconfirmed. Members also considered its Mental Health Review and a follow up meeting with the West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group. It was agreed that this should be arranged for the New Year.

RESOLVED: that a follow up meeting with the West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group be arranged for the New Year in relation to the Committee's Mental Health Review.

78. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30pm to 20.11pm

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND LEISURE SERVICES

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR REGENERATION AND COMMUNITIES

Report prepared by: Jason Taylor

Date Issued: 2014

1. Maidstone Play Strategy - A Strategy for Outdoor Equipped Play Areas 2014-2024

1.1 Key Issue for Decision

1.1.1 To consider the adoption of the Maidstone Play Strategy – A Strategy for Outdoor Equipped Play Areas 2014-2024 and the actions within the document

1.2 Recommendation of the Director of Regeneration and Communities

1.2.1 That the draft Maidstone Play Strategy 2014-2024 is consulted on with all ward councillors and that they are asked for responses within 5 weeks.

1.2.2 Following this consultation period and taking into account any objections and representations received it is proposed that the Cabinet Member agrees to the following:

1.2.3 To adopt the Maidstone Play Strategy – A Strategy for Outdoor Equipped Play Areas 2014-2024.

1.2.4 Approve a new borough wide standard for equipped play “That most residents across the borough will live within 12 minutes walk of a good play area”

1.2.5 Agree to the allocation of capital funding to allow the improvement of all strategically important play areas to green and Amber standard.

1.2.6 That any non Strategically Important be offered to the community and added to the community right to bid list of assets

1.2.7 After one year any non-strategically important play areas that are not taken on by the community will have the play equipment removed, but will be retained as open space.

1.2.8 To agree the allocation of funding to support a grant scheme to allow Parish Councils to improve any strategically important play areas that they are responsible for.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendation

1.3.1 The Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure and officers visited the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22nd April 2013; and the Community, Leisure Services and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26th July 2013. This was to discuss the work that had been done by officers on the Play Area Review and approval of a new play area strategic standard. The Scrutiny Committee Recommendation Action and Implementation Plan (SCRAIP) reports for both of these visits can be seen in Appendices B & C.

1.3.2 Following the scoring of the play areas in 2011, it was identified that, with the average cost of installing a new play area being around £75,000, it could take up to forty years to replace all of MBC's play area with the current budgets. Taking into account that play areas last about 15 years on average it became obvious that the current situation was not sustainable and that the standard of play areas would continue to deteriorate.

1.3.3 With this in mind it was decided to be proactive and to carry out a complete review of all of the play areas in the borough. This play review, carried out in 2012, looked not only at the standard of all play areas but also the distribution of all play areas across the borough.

1.3.4 The objectives of this review were to come up with recommendation for future standards for play provision, identify the cost to implement these standards and identify potential funding sources.

1.3.5 A summary of the findings of the Play Review were as follows:

1.3.6 51 out of 69 MBC play areas needed, or would need work within 5 years to reach/maintain green or amber standard.

1.3.7 There was no set standard for play provision

1.3.8 There are some areas of potential over provision in the borough.

1.3.9 Prior to any decision being made, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Leisure decided to take the findings of the Play Area Review and potential future management options to Communities Overview and Scrutiny committee to get their input. At

this meeting on 22nd April 2013 future options were presented to the committee.

- 1.3.10 These options were as follows:
- 1.3.11 That MBC adopt the standard that "most residents across the borough will live within 12 minutes walk of a good standard play area".
- 1.3.12 £1.8 million would be needed to get all MBC strategically important play areas to green standard.
- 1.3.13 20 MBC Non strategically important play areas would not be invested in.
- 1.3.14 Non-strategically important play areas would be offered to Community Groups or Parish Councils.
- 1.3.15 MBC would offer support to these groups.
- 1.3.16 If these play areas are not taken on, equipment would be removed when it needed repair and all equipment removed within 5 years, and the area left as open space.
- 1.3.17 Community, Leisure Services and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting of 26th July 2013 made the following recommendations:
 - 1.3.18 A new borough wide standard of play provision being "that most residents across the borough will live within 12 minutes walk of a good standard play area".
 - 1.3.19 Available funding in future is targeted at these strategically important play areas.
 - 1.3.20 That any non-strategically important play areas be offered to the community and added to the community right to bid list of assets
 - 1.3.21 After one year any non- strategically important play areas that are not taken on by the public will have the equipment removed, but will be retained as open space for perpetuity.
- 1.3.22 With these recommendations in mind it is recommended that following consultation the Cabinet Member adopts the Maidstone Play Strategy – A Strategy for Outdoor Equipped Play Areas 2014-2024 and the actions within the document as detailed in this report.

1.4 Alternative Action and why not Recommended

1.4.1 The Cabinet Member could decide not to adopt the Maidstone Play Strategy – A Strategy for Outdoor Equipped Play Areas 2014-2024, however this is not recommended as this would result in the continuing decline of play areas across the borough.

1.5 Impact on Corporate Objectives

1.5.1 For Maidstone to be a decent place to live.

1.5.2 Continues to be a clean and attractive environment for people who live in and visit the Borough.

1.5.3 Residents are not disadvantaged because of where they live or who they are, vulnerable people are assisted and the level of deprivation is reduced

1.6 Risk Management

1.6.1 There may be objections to the disposal which would require the proposal to be reviewed and considered by the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services before making a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.

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

X
X
X
X
X



1.7.2 Financial

Adoption of the Maidstone Play Strategy 2014-2024 and associated works will involve considerable capital expenditure in the region of £1.8 million.

1.7.3 Legal

If non strategic play areas are to be transferred to other organizations then legal documentation would need to be prepared.

1.7.4 Equality Impact Needs Assessment

This would need to be prepared.

1.7.5 Procurement

All expenditure would have to comply with the Council's Procurement Policy.

1.7.6 Asset Management

The improvement of the Council Play Area stock would enable the Council to better manage its assets.

1.8 Relevant Documents

1.8.1 Appendix A - Maidstone Play Strategy – A Strategy for Outdoor Equipped Play Areas 2014-2024

Appendix B - Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Recommendation Actions and Implementation Plan 22nd April 2013

1.8.2 Appendix C - Community, Leisure Services and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Actions and Implementation Plan 26th July 2013

1.8.3 Background Documents

1.8.4 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: Downswood and Otham Ward; Otham Parish Council

.....

How to Comment

Should you have any comments on the issue that is being considered please contact either the relevant Officer or the Member of the Executive who will be taking the decision.

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'Maidstone Play Strategy'
**A Strategy for Outdoor Equipped
Play Areas**
2014 - 2024

1. Foreword

This will usually be provided by the relevant Portfolio Holder or the Chief Executive

To be completed following consultation with Scrutiny Committee on 14 January 2014.

2. Introduction

The provision of free outdoor play and sport opportunities is seen as a vital ingredient in ensuring the all-round, healthy development of children and young people in an era of declining levels of physical and social interaction and activity. Stimulating and challenging play and sport activity will enable young people to develop their physical, mental and social skills, find out more about themselves and their environment, and provide a form of therapy to help overcome emotional problems and the effects of other distressing pressures in modern day living.

In the Chief Medical Officer of England's report of 2012 'Our Children Deserve Better: Prevention Pays', published in August 2013, there are key messages for organisations forming strategies and policy that focus on providing facilities and services to young people that help to prevent physical, mental, educational and social health problems in later life.

In summary the report recommends approaches toward promoting and providing opportunities to access formal and informal physical activity in the local community. Children and young people should be enabled to build resilience and positive capacities through play and exercise. By specifically equipping children and young people with these opportunities they can fully explore their own personal and social behaviours. Furthermore the benefits of a healthy diet will be fully realised when complimented with physical activity and go a long way towards tackling long term obesity.

Additionally providing the environment for children and young people to build self-esteem, self-confidence, skills, physical and social experience and knowledge gives them the tools for coping with demands at home and school, and later on at work, whilst making the transition into adulthood.

This document sets out the background and basis from which the Maidstone Borough Council seeks to further review, develop and shape the Play Strategy and associated action plans, first proposed in 2004, for the future provision and maintenance of equipped play areas and teen areas. Thus forming the basis on which future play provision will be provided across the Maidstone Borough to ensure all children and young people are enabled to access freely available informal play and youth facilities. These facilities will offer the opportunity for children and young people to fully explore and play in their outside environments complementing the work of partners in the more formal health, community and education sectors.

Since the production of the MBC Play for Today document in 2004 major changes have taken place. 23 MBC play areas have been improved across the borough; Play England was formed to strengthen Play in the wider national context and the economic crisis has seriously harmed available resources.

The Maidstone Play Strategy 2014 addresses the impact of these developments and looks at taking the service forward to ensure future play provision covers the needs of the local community. The issues the strategy will focus on are:

- The volume of play provision for all age groups across the borough to identify those areas of under and over provision.

- Raising the overall quality and standard of MBC and Parish play area facilities within the borough including areas aimed at teenagers.
- Consider the financial position of providing play areas with currently available resources.
- Choosing a standard of provision to take forward alongside setting key objectives.

This strategy is aimed at local communities, residents, teenagers and children, who will benefit from MBC meeting the key objectives and outcomes set out in this strategy.

The strategy is linked to the corporate priority and outcome of 'For Maidstone to be a decent place to live, continuing to be a clean and attractive environment for people who live and visit the borough'.

3. The national, regional and local context

The National Context

In undertaking this fundamental review of children's equipped play spaces recognition needs to be taken of any existing national guidance and whether these impose any statutory obligations.

Most significantly, although there are a variety of standards applicable to the manufacture, installation and maintenance of play equipment, there are no statutory obligations regarding the amount of children's play space which the Council must provide; be it formal or informal play space.

In terms of the level of provision, the most relevant guidance comes in the form of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published by Government on 27 March 2012. This requires that each local planning authority takes account of the needs of its community for recreational activity and to identify where there may be deficiencies in such provision.

'Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.' (National Planning Policy Framework, 2012)

Further to the NPPF is the international legally binding instrument known as the 'Convention of the Rights of the Child' which sets out to protect the full rights of all people under 18, which is committed to by the British Government through international law. Article 31 of the Convention states 'Children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities'.

Additionally Play England sets out the definition of Play in their charter as: 'what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way, and for their own reasons.' Play England further expands on this by expressing that organisations should ensure children have time and space to play. 'Having time and space to play gives children the opportunity to meet and socialise with their friends, keeps them physically active, and gives the freedom to choose what they want to do'.

The Local Context

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. There are numerous smaller parks and squares across the borough including those in other towns and villages which have benefited from a major playground and sports facility investment programme in recent years.

Recent successes for the Parks and Leisure team include the regeneration of Mote Park through the lottery's Parks for People fund resulting in an increased footfall of 13.2% to over a million visits a year. Gaining the highest possible score for Green Flag status for Mote Park on the first time of applying. Mote Park being voted as the UK's third favourite park in the Green Flag People's Choice awards for 2013. Cobtree Manor Park has been regenerated through the addition of new play equipment, pathways and planned new visitor centre to become the latest destination park in Kent. This work is to be further supported by the advancement of commercial activities within Mote Park and introducing new parks services.

Maidstone's Local Strategic Partnership has carried out work in 2010 looking at how public money is spent locally. They have identified that £602 million has been spent in Maidstone in 2010 by various bodies including Kent County Council, Maidstone Borough Council, the Police and the local Primary Care Trust. Just over 35% of the money is spent on health and social well-being, nearly 17% is spent on education and 15% on housing.

Destination, district and local neighbourhood play areas

The previous Play for Today Play Strategy in 2004 classified play areas in terms of 'LAP's' (Local Area of Play), 'LEAP's' (Locally equipped area of Play) and 'NEAP's' (Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play).

These terms were based on regulation through Planning Policy Guidance 17 which referenced the use of national guidelines by The National Playing Fields Association. The use of Planning Policy Guidance notes has since been superseded by the development of the NPPF, as detailed above in the national context, which requires local authorities to develop their own definitions, based on local knowledge and experience.

Defining the scope and reach MBC play areas have across the borough is important to understand the context within which play areas provide opportunities for local communities to explore parks and open spaces further. The Council's play areas are defined by the following three categories.

- **Destination Play Areas** – These play areas are visited not only by the local community but by park users from outside the borough. They provide a much wider range of play activities to engage in, are located in heavily used open spaces and act as a brand for the Council. Park users identify with these areas for a family day out and are supported by other facilities such as car parking, toilets, café/food facilities and good walking routes. These parks also feature strong events calendars and volunteering. Mote Park and Cobtree Manor Park are classified as destination play areas.
- **District Play Areas** – these are larger locally placed play areas mainly used by their local communities and some passing visitors to the borough. Characterised by a large number of play activities aimed at a wide age range and supported by a large footfall. Some of these areas also have other supporting facilities such as car parks, toilets and other sporting facilities (tennis courts, bowling greens and multi use games areas). Examples include South Park, Penenden Heath and Whatman Park.

- Local Neighbourhood Play Areas** – These are play areas used by the immediate local community. Will feature a limited range of dynamic play equipment such as slides, swings and climbing frames. The open space acts as a green lung within the urban landscape allowing local families an area to partake in leisure and play activities, especially in high population density areas. These play areas are also found in local villages and parish areas. These areas are further subdivided into Larger and Smaller Local Neighbourhood Play Areas. Larger examples include Shepway Green, Barming Heath and Nettlestead Village Hall. Smaller examples include Albert Reed Gardens, Camden Street and Lime Trees at Staplehurst.

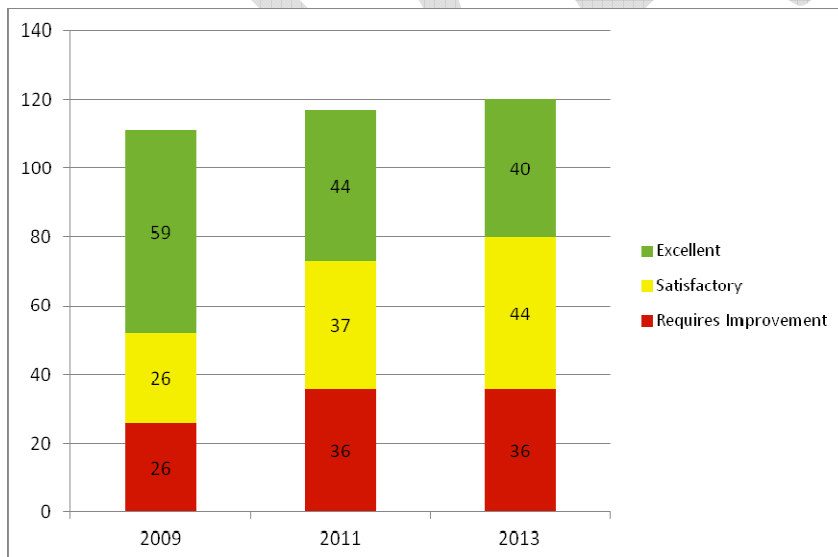
Each play area’s designation is highlighted in the Play Area Scoring Matrix in **Appendix 1** referred to below.

Quality

Play areas across the borough are gauged using the Play Area Scoring Matrix (PASM) introduced in 2009 which critically assesses the quality, accessibility and use of each area. This allows officers to robustly compare play areas against each other grading them as either Excellent/Green ($\geq 70\%$), Satisfactory/Yellow (56%-69%) or Requires Improvement/Red ($\leq 55\%$). **Appendix 1** shows the matrix scoring for 2013.

The PASM is applied bi-annually providing an overall picture of quality of play areas across the borough, the diagrams below shows a reduction in quality across all sites since 2009 as the level of available capital funding has reduced and more sites are graded as requiring improvement.

All Play Area Scoring Levels (including MBC, parishes, housing association, trusts and KCC)



Current Position

A costing analysis was undertaken to understand the true cost of ensuring play equipment in all current play areas is kept to a minimum standard. This standard being an Excellent/Green rating as per PASM scoring. The figures in the following table shows the required costs over the next 5 year period.

Financial assessment of required play area improvements

Current MBC play areas requiring work to become Green Standard	50 out of 74 (total no of 120 play areas in borough)
Cost of MBC improvements (up to Green Standard)	£2,726,000 over 5 years
Cost to maintain all play areas per annum	£45,540
Total cost over 5 years	£2,953,700

From 2009 the amount of capital funding available to play area improvements has been reduced on a sliding scale to a total of £50,000 per annum in 2011/12. Creating or refurbishing a play area requires substantial funding; on average a medium sized play area requires upwards of £65,000 - £80,000 to be completely renewed.

On this basis officers are currently carrying over capital to the following year to roll funds up so that one play area improvement scheme can take place every two years. Improvements are further supported by S106 developer contributions.

However there are 74 MBC play areas and with each area requiring refurbishment or renewal every 7 to 25 years depending on usage, many more areas will fall into disrepair. Consequently the current number of play areas is unsustainable based on existing capital support.

Setting Local Standards - 2013

Considering existing play provision in the context of the limited resources available to the council, the Community, Leisure Services and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee conducted a review in the Summer of 2013 of current policy and the service to shape future policy arrangements. This took a more comprehensive overview of the local picture taking into account resources, the quality of play equipment and the quantity of all public play areas in the borough.

Green and Blue Infrastructure

The MBC Green and Blue Infrastructure is currently at draft stage and is being consulted on with stakeholders. Green and Blue infrastructure is the green space and water environment essential to the quality of our lives. It is referred to as 'infrastructure' as it is as important as other types of infrastructure such as roads, schools and hospitals. It is taken to mean as green space and water of public value.

The types of green infrastructure included in this strategy are Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces, green corridors, outdoor sports space, parks and gardens, amenity green space, provision for children and teenagers - including play areas, skateboard parks, cemeteries and churchyards and accessible countryside and nature reserves.

The purpose of the Strategy is to promote, guide and co-ordinate investment in Maidstone Borough's green and blue infrastructure over the next 20 years. With the following specific aims:

- Mitigating and adapting to climate change Integrating sustainable movement and access for all
- Promoting a distinctive townscape and landscape. Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity, water and air quality.
- Providing opportunities for sport, recreation, quiet enjoyment and health
- Achieving a quality environment for investment and development
- Providing community involvement and opportunities for education

The Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy will be completed by Summer 2014.

Distribution and Mapping

To understand the distribution of play area provision for different age ranges in terms of quality, a mapping exercise was carried out in 2013 to identify the range of provision available. This showed where there were areas of over and under provision across different areas and which areas suffered from a lack of quality as recognised through the PASM. Maps from this exercise can be found in **Appendix 2**.

A walking time of 12 minutes from home was proposed to the Community, Leisure Services and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee in April 2013 as reasonable provision within easy reach for all age groups, with the large majority of households in the borough being within this range. Physical barriers such as the River Medway, main roads and railway were taken into account in the mapping process.

To ensure play area conditions are kept to a good standard it was proposed to Committee that a network of key sites be designated as 'Strategically Important Play Areas' (SIPAs) to ensure funding be driven towards these areas. Equally those areas not considered to be part of this network will be know as Non-Strategic Play Areas (NSPA). **Appendix 3** outlines the SIPA network.

Those MBC Play Areas considered to be NSPA, of which there are 20, highlighted in **Appendix 4**, will be offered to the Parishes, Housing Trusts and other Community Groups for one year to look at possible asset transfer of sites. If after one year no interested parties come forward, play equipment will be removed from these sites and the ground returned back to open space.

Thorough the mapping exercise it must be acknowledged the lack in provision of youth facilities in the areas of Headcorn, Detling, Lordswood, Harrietsham, Teston and Yalding; and the lack of children's play facilities in Detling. The majority of open spaces in these areas are Parish owned. The priorities outlined later in this document emphasize the provision of suitable play and teen equipment opportunities. Thus planning outdoor facilities for children and youth should be prioritised in the parish areas identified through Parish Plans.

Improvement Programme

Through analysis of quality, quantity of provision and financial position it is understood that to halt the decline of current provision further an improvement programme is required. The programme will bring the quality standards of equipped play areas back up to an Excellent/Green level as measured through the PASM. It was proposed to the Community, Leisure Services and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee that the capital programme will run for one year.

Adopting the improvement programme would safeguard the future quality of MBC play areas and ensure the play offer to the community is kept to an adequate level, providing

opportunity for better child and youth development and improving levels of physical activity and wellbeing.

Parishes

31 parish play areas form an important part of the SIPA network providing child and youth play opportunities to residents in rural areas not covered by MBC provision. In turn these areas also need to be maintained to an acceptable standard by the Parish Council's and as such are scored in the PASM. To support the SIPA network outside the scope of MBC play areas it is proposed £200,000 be made available from capital receipts for a Parish Play Area Grants Scheme over a five year period. Parish Council's will be able to apply for a grant of up to £10,000 to match fund with other funding sources to enable them to improve standards.

By applying the new SIPA network to the costing analysis the following table shows new revised figures for required play area improvements over the next year alongside running Parish Play Area Grants scheme for five years. This also includes an allowance in year 2 for removals of those non-strategic play areas not taken on by other organisations. The scale of work would require a temporary post of a new member of staff for one year to project manage these works.

Play Area Improvement Programme Costs

	Play area improvements (capital)	Management costs (capital)	Parish grants (capital)	Play area maintenance (revenue)	Play area removals (capital)	Totals
Year 1	£1,377,000	£25,000	£40,000	£31,600		£1,473,600
Year 2			£40,000	£31,600	£65,000	£136,600
Year 3			£40,000	£31,600		£71,600
Year 4			£40,000	£31,600		£71,600
Year 5			£40,000	£31,600		£71,600
Totals	£1,377,000	£25,000	£200,000	£158,000	£65,000	£1,825,000

4. The Corporate priorities

The Council is committed to and shares the vision for Maidstone, identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2020:

"We want Maidstone Borough to be a vibrant, prosperous 21st century urban and rural community at the heart of Kent, where its distinctive character is enhanced to create a safe, healthy, excellent environment with high quality education and employment where all people can realise their aspirations."

The Council has identified the following three priorities and seven outcomes for Maidstone over the next four years.

Priorities

1. For Maidstone to have a growing economy

Maidstone will have a growing economy, with a range of employment and business opportunities. In essence, Maidstone is a good place to work and do business.

Outcomes by 2015

- A transport network that supports the local economy.
- A growing economy with rising employment, catering for a range of skill sets to meet the demands of the local economy.

2. For Maidstone to be a decent place to live

Maidstone's urban and rural parts continue to be a clean, attractive and well designed and built environment, with proper respect paid to its diverse and valuable assets; a place where people want to live.

Outcomes by 2015

- Decent, affordable housing in the right places across a range of tenures.
- Continues to be a clean and attractive environment for people who live in and visit the Borough.
- Residents are not disadvantaged because of where they live or who they are, vulnerable people are assisted and the level of deprivation is reduced.

3. Corporate and Customer Excellence

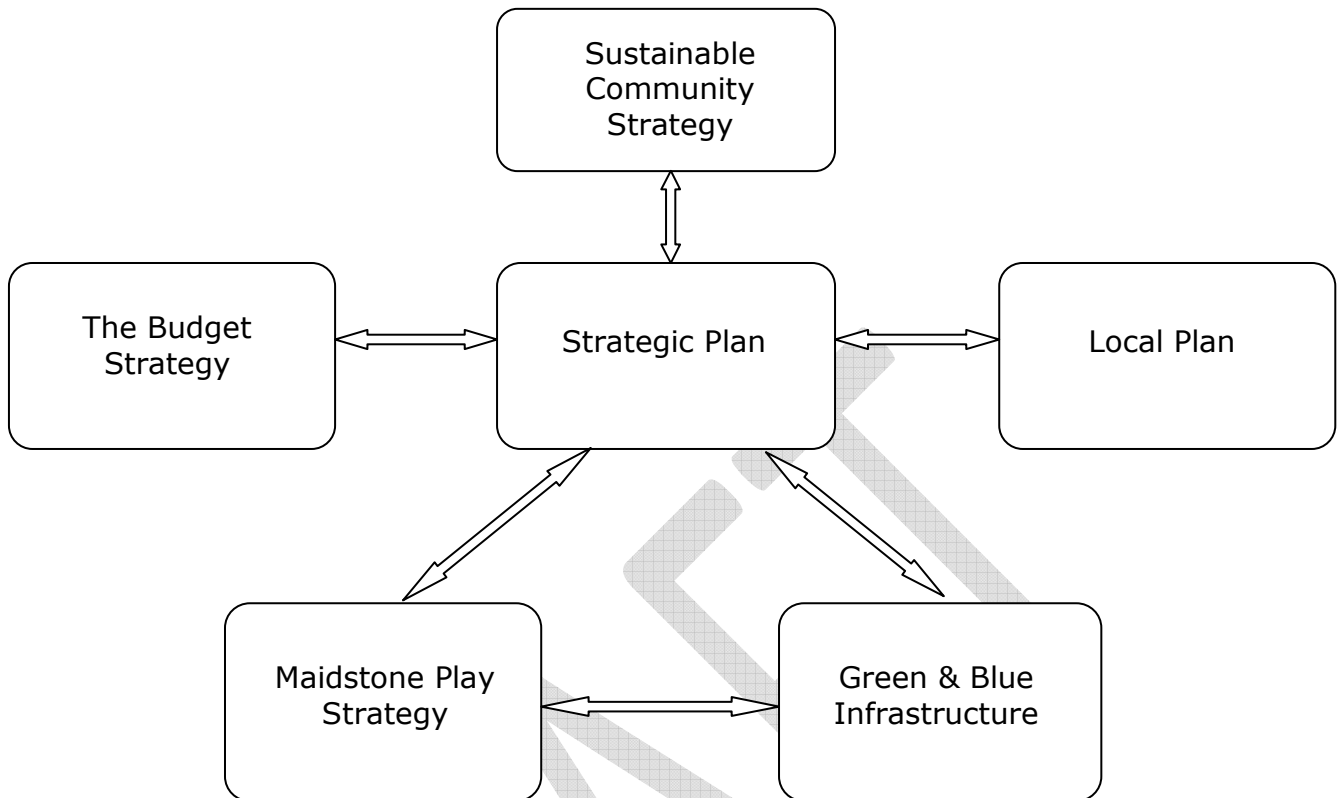
The Council will have a productive workforce with people in the right place at the right time, delivering cost effective services. Services will be affordable, delivered on time and to agreed standards in an accessible way. We will continue to support our most vulnerable residents and seek to reduce the different forms of deprivation across the Borough in both urban and rural areas.

Outcomes by 2015

- Services are customer focused and residents are satisfied with them.
- Effective, cost efficient services are delivered across the borough.

The Play Area Strategy fits into the corporate priorities by detailing the future plan for improving current play area provision and specifying the play area improvement programme in order to meet the aspirations of priorities 2 and 3.

5. Strategy map



6. Priorities and outcomes for this strategy

Priority One – To seek to provide an appropriate number of play areas throughout the borough.

Outcomes – what we plan to achieve

- A network of Strategically Important Play Areas (SIPAs) will be developed based on a 12 minute walking time across the borough that meets the needs of residents.
- Working alongside Planning colleagues we will embed the principles of the SIPA network into new development plans additional to the application of the NPFA standard. This in turn will determine the scope of on-site and off-site S106 contribution requests.
- Where there is an identified lack of provision through gaps in the SIPA network the creation of additional play sites will be undertaken, wherever possible, in partnership with others.
- The Non-Strategic Play Areas identified will be offered out to the community and partners for asset transfer, and where this isn't possible will be returned to open space.

Priority Two – improving the quality of play and outdoor activity facilities for all age groups.

Outcomes – what we plan to achieve

- When an area is being renewed or refurbished that, where possible, equipment aimed at all age groups are included in the design.
- Users and residents will be included in consultation to promote positive community participation in local projects.
- We will support the Parish Councils in their endeavour to improve their play areas in the SIPA network by implementing the Parish Play Area Grants Scheme for five years.
- We will upgrade the inspection and reporting process for the ongoing maintenance programme by proposing the introduction of hand held monitoring devices to make more effective use of resources.

Priority Three – maximising funding opportunities available

Outcomes – what we plan to achieve

- Use of the PASM identifying those play areas that require improvement to drive funding to these areas.
- Determining the capital receipts available to support the improvement programme proposed to improve standards and quality.
- That S106 off-site developer contributions will be recommended for the improvement of SIPAs where available.
- That all procurement options will be explored to obtain Best Value.

These priorities and outcomes are important to Maidstone as they support the outcomes laid out in the Strategic Plan, by planning to maximise our leisure and cultural offer to enhance the quality of life for our residents whilst attracting visitors, new residents and businesses.

Action Plan

Link to Sustainable Community Strategy	Link to Corporate Priorities	Task	Comments	Target Completion	Resources
Maidstone Borough to be a vibrant, prosperous 21st century urban and rural community at the heart of Kent, where its distinctive character is enhanced to create a safe, healthy, excellent environment with high quality education and employment where all people can realise their aspirations	For Maidstone to be a decent place to live	Publish the SIPA network map	Strategy and map on website and out to Cllrs, Parishes, Colleagues and other stakeholders	Quarter 3 2013/14	Officer time
	For Maidstone to be a decent place to live	Presentation to Planning colleagues on the new strategy	Session to be arranged	Quarter 4 2013/14	Officer time
	For Maidstone to be a decent place to live	Consultation of non-strategic play areas for asset transfer options	Potential stakeholders invited to presentation sessions	Quarter 4 2014/15	Officer time
	For Maidstone to be a decent place to live	Return of non-strategic play areas back to open space	Those areas not asset transferred to external stakeholders	Quarter 3 2015/16	Officer time and budget of £65,000
	For Maidstone to be a decent place to live	Determine the improvement works management option, 1 or 5 years.	To be determined by capital receipts	Quarter 1 2014/15	Cabinet Member and Finance Officer
	For Maidstone to be a decent place to live	Play Area Improvements Programme	Based on proposed management option	Quarter 4 2014/15 Or Quarter 4 2018/19	Officer time and agreed budget
	For Maidstone to be a decent place to live	Parish Play Area Grants Scheme	To run for five years	Quarter 4 2018/19	Officer time and £200,000 budget
	For Maidstone to be a decent place to live	Inspection and monitoring upgrade Scheme	Requires input from MBS colleagues	Quarter 1 2014/15	Officer time and agreed budget

	For Maidstone to be a decent place to live	Procurement options	To ensure Best Value is obtained	Quarter 4 2012/13	Officer time
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7. Implementation and monitoring arrangements

The Play Area Programme is to be run as a corporate project as detailed in the MBC Project Management Toolkit.

- Monthly meetings will take place to evaluate and monitor progression against the project plan between the Play Facilities Development Officer and the Parks and Leisure Manager

The Play Strategy will be reported on and managed through the following channels:

- Quarterly reporting on covalent by the Play Facilities Development Officer
- Annual review of strategy by the Play Facilities Development Officer and the Parks and Leisure Manager

DRAFT

Appendix 1

Analysis of Borough Wide Play Area Provision - Summary of Play Area scoring - Feb 2013

Red Areas = scores below 131 (55% of total achievable score)							Amber Areas = scores between 132 to 167 (56-69% of total achievable score)							Green Areas = scores above 168 (70% of total achievable score)													
Play Area	Ward	Ownership	Score	Details	T	J	Y	D	Play Area	Ward	Ownership	Score	Details	T	J	Y	D	Play Area	Ward	Ownership	Score	Details	T	J	Y	D	
Wallis Avenue	Parkwood	Golding	30	Do not replace	1				Albert Reed Gardens	South	MBC	132	Do not replace	1				Church Landway	Bearsted	Trust	168	Improved in 2009	1	1			
Ashurst Road	East	MBC	66	2012/13 Proposed	1	1	1	LLN	Hogg's Bridge	Headcorn	Parish	133	Do not replace	1	1			Bell Shaw	Park Wood	Golding	168	Built in 2010				1	
Woolley Road	Shepway South	MBC	71	Do not replace	1			SLN	Whatman Park Infant	Bridge	MBC	133		1	1		DIS	Shepherds Gate Drive	Boxley	MBC	169	Improved in 2009	1	1		SLN	
Stratford Drive (Qu Eliz Sq)	Park Wood	MBC	71	Do not replace	1			SLN	Mallards Way	Downswood & Otham	MBC	133		1	1		LLN	Giddyhorn Lane Teen Area	Allington	MBC	170	Improved in 2008			1	DIS	
Whatman Skate Area	Bridge	MBC	77	2012/13 Proposed	1			DIS	East Sutton	Headcorn	Parish	134	Improved in 2009	1	1			Mangravet	South	MBC	170	Improved in 2009	1	1		LLN	
Somerset Road	Shepway North	MBC	84		1	1		SLN	Ulcombe Rec	Headcorn	Parish	134	Improved in 2005/06	1	1	1		Stevenswood	Shepway South	MBC	172	Improved in 2009	1	1	1	LLN	
Courtenay Road	South	YMCA	85				1		Teston Village Green	Barming	Parish	135				1	1	Foley Park	East	MBC	173	Improved in 2009	1	1		LLN	
Juniper Close	Allington	MBC	85	Do not replace	1			SLN	Kintons, Yalding	Marden & Yalding	Parish	135				1	1	Langley Play Area	Sutton Valence & Langley	Parish	174	Improved in 2008/09	1	1	1		
Franklin Drive	Boxley	MBC	85	Do not replace	1			SLN	William Pitt Playing Field	Harrietsham & Lenham	Parish	135	Improved in 2008/09			1		Cherry Close	Lenham	Parish	175	Do not replace			1	1	
Woodbridge Drive	South	MBC	88	2011/12 S106	1			SLN	Hedley Street	East	Golding	137	Do not replace	1				Fountain Park	South	MBC	175	Do not replace	1	1		SLN	
Bedgebury Close	East	MBC	90		1	1		SLN	Chart Sutton	Boughton Monchelsea & Chart Sutton	Parish	137	Improved in 2006/07	1	1	1		Upper Fulling Pits	East	MBC	175	Improved in 2009	1	1		LLN	
Whitebeam Drive	Coxheath and Hunton	MBC	90	Do not replace	1	1		SLN	Dicken's Road	North	MBC	138	Improved in 2005	1	1	1	LLN	Penshurst Close	Boxley	Parish	175	Do not replace	1	1		SLN	
Foxden Drive	Downswood	MBC	94		1	1		SLN	Laddingford	Marden & Yalding	Parish	139	Improved in 2005/06	1	1			Parish	176	Improved in 2006/07	1	1			1		
Sunningdale Court	High Street	Golding	102	Do not replace	1	1			Whatman Park Junior	Bridge	MBC	140				1	DIS	Staple Drive	Staplehurst	MBC	176	Improved in 2010	1			SLN	
Westmorland Close	Shepway South	MBC	104	Do not replace	1	1		SLN	Marden Playing Fields	Marden & Yalding	Parish	141		1	1	1		Kingswood Sports Field	Headcorn	Parish	177	Improved in 2008/09	1	1	1		
Reinden Grove	Downswood	MBC	105	Do not replace	1	1		SLN	James Street	East	MBC	143		1	1		SLN	South Park Skate Area	High Street	MBC	177	Built in 2006			1	DIS	
Collier Street	Marden & Yalding	Parish	105	Improved in 2009	1	1			South Street	Barming	Parish	144				1		Stoneacre, Otham	Downswood & Otham	Parish	177				1		
Riverhead Close	Allington	MBC	107	Do not replace	1			SLN	Cardwell, Hollingbourne	North Downs	Parish	145		1	1	1		Brookbank	North	MBC	178	New roundabout 2010	1	1		SLN	
Gatland Lane	Fant	MBC	110		1	1		LLN	Senacre Square	Shepway South	MBC	146	Improved in 2006	1	1	1	LLN	Bridge Mill Way	South	MBC	178	Improved in 2010/11	1	1	1	LLN	
Hunton Village Green	Coxheath and Hunton	Parish	112		1	1			Crownfields	Detling & Thurnham	MBC	146	Do not replace	1	1		SLN	Cornwallis Avenue, Linton	Coxheath and Hunton	MBC	178	Improved in 2010/11	1	1	1	SLN	
Keswick Drive	Allington	MBC	117		1	1		SLN	Peveler Drive	Detling & Thurnham	MBC	146		1	1	1	LLN	Teston Country Park	Barming	KCC	180				1	1	
Queen Elizabeth Square	Park Wood	MBC	117	Improved in 2009	1	1		LLN	Bredhurst Village Green	Boxley	Parish	148				1	1	South Park Play Area	South	MBC	181	Improved in 2007	1	1		DIS	
The Tatt	Yalding	Parish	117	Do not replace	1	1			Vicarage Lane, East Farleigh	Coxheath and Hunton	Parish	148		1	1			King George V Play Area, Loose	Loose	Parish	181	Improved in 2005/06	1	1	1		
Timber Tops	Boxley	MBC	117	Improved in 2008/09	1	1		LLN	Jubilee Playing Fields	Staplehurst	Parish	149	Improved in 2006/07			1		Arundel Street	North	MBC	182	Improved in 2010	1	1		SLN	
Fairhurst Drive, Dean St	Coxheath & Hunton	MBC	119		1	1		SLN	Pested Bars	Park Wood	MBC	150				1	1	Collis Millenium	High Street	Trust	182	Improved in 2008	1	1	1		
Drawbridge Close	Shepway South	MBC	119	Do not replace	1			SLN	Lime Trees	Staplehurst	MBC	150		1	1		SLN	Sutton Valence	Sutton Valence & Langley	Parish	182	Built in 2011/12	1	1			
Adisham Drive	Allington	MBC	121	Do not replace	1	1		SLN	Leeds Rec	Leeds	Parish	151	Teen shelter in 2010	1	1	1		Cornwallis Park	Bridge	MBC	183	Improved in 2007	1	1	1	LLN	
Nettlestead Village Hall	Marden & Yalding	MBC	121		1	1		LLN	Penenden Heath	East	MBC	151	Improved in 2006	1	1		DIS	Coxheath Village Green	Coxheath & Hunton	Parish	183	Improved in 2006/07	1	1			
Napoleon Drive, Marden	Marden & Yalding	Developer	121		1	1			Freshlands Road	Heath	MBC	151		1		1	SLN	Allnut Mill	South	Golding	185	Do not replace			1		
Gallants Lane, Coxheath	Coxheath & Hunton	MBC	120		1	1		SLN	Mote Adventure Zone	Shepway North	MBC	152	Improved in 2005	1	1	1	DES	Tarragon Road	Heath	MBC	186	S106	1	1		SLN	
St Francis Close	North	MBC	125		1			SLN	Passmore Way	South	MBC	152		1		1	SLN	Midley Close	Allington	MBC	187	Improved in 2006	1	1	1	LLN	
Wormshill	North Downs	Parish	126				1	1	Groveswood Drive North	Detling & Thurnham	MBC	153		1	1		SLN	Mote Park Natural Play	Shepway North	MBC	190	Built in 2011			1	DES	
Cockpits, Marden	Marden & Yalding	MBC	126		1	1		SLN	West Farleigh	Coxheath & Hunton	Parish	153	Improved in 2008/09	1	1			Coombe Road	South	Golding	190	Built in 2011			1	1	
The Harbour	Sutton Valence & Langley	Parish	127		1	1	1	SLN	Boughton Monchelsea	Boughton Monchelsea & Chart Sutton	Parish	153	New springers in 2008/09	1	1	1		Park Wood Rec	Park Wood	MBC	192	Improved in 2009	1	1	1	DIS	
Roseholme	Fant	MBC	129	Improved in 2007	1	1		SLN	Bearsted Green	Bearsted	Parish	154	Improved in 2008/09	1				Camden Street	East	MBC	192	Improved in 2012			1	SLN	
Chillington Street	North	MBC	130		1			SLN	Corben Close	Allington	MBC	155				1	1	SLN	Glebe Field, Harrietsham	Harrietsham & Lenham	Parish	193	Built in 2012			1	1
									Barming Heath	Heath	MBC	157	Improved in 2005	1	1	1	LLN	Day's Green, Headcorn	Headcorn	Parish	196					1	1
									Weaving Heath	Boxley	MBC	157	Improved in 2008			1	LLN	Giddyhorn Lane Play Area	Allington	MBC	201	Improved in 2007	1	1		DIS	
									Stockbury	North Downs	Parish	157	Improved in 2008	1	1			Shepway Green	Shepway North	MBC	208	Improved 2013	1	1	1	LLN	
									Braunstone Drive	Allington	MBC	161	Improved in 2008	1			SLN	Cobtree Manor Park	Boxley	Trust	215	Completed 2013	1	1	1	DES	
									Shaw Close	East	MBC	162		1			SLN	School Lane, Mote Park	Shepway North	MBC	219	Built in 2012	1			DES	
									School Villas, Nettlestead	Marden & Yalding	Parish	164	Do not replace			1											
									Clare Park	Fant	MBC	164	Improved in 2009	1	1	1	DIS										
									Surrenden Road	Staplehurst	Parish	165		1	1	1											

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Key -	Red = Poor Scores below 131 (55% and below of the total achievable score)
	Amber = Satisfactory Scores between 132 to 167 (56-69% of total achievable score)
	Green = Excellent Scores above 168 (70% of total achievable score)
	The overall maximum score that can be attained is 240
	T = Toddler equipment
	J = Junior equipment
	Y = Youth equipment (not including football pitches or teen shelters on their own)
Play Area Definitions	DES - Destination Play Area
	DIS - District Play Area
	LLN - Larger Local Neighbourhood Play Area
	SLN - Smaller Local Neighbourhood Play Area

Appendix 3 - Draft

List of Strategic Play Areas 2014

Urban

Name	Servicing	Ward	Ownership	Toddler	Junior	Youth	Status	Details
Braunstone Drive	Allington North	Allington	MBC	1			Yellow	
Corben Close	Allington South	Allington	MBC	1	1		Yellow	
Giddyhorne Lane Play Area	Allington South	Allington	MBC	1	1		Green	
Giddyhorne Lane Youth Area	Allington South	Allington	MBC			1	Green	
Midley Close	Allington North	Allington	MBC	1	1	1	Green	
Adisham Drive	Allington North	Allington	MBC	1	1		Red	
Church Landway	Bearsted	Bearsted	Trust	1	1		Green	Ideal location for future youth provision
Weaving Heath	Grove Green	Boxley	MBC			1	Yellow	
Cobtree Manor Park	Borough Wide	Boxley	Trust	1	1	1	Green	
Whatman Toddler Area	River Walk	Bridge	MBC	1			Yellow	
Whatman Junior Area	River Walk	Bridge	MBC		1		Yellow	
Whatman Skate Area	Borough Wide	Bridge	MBC			1	Red	
Cornwallis Park	Tonbridge Road	Bridge	MBC	1	1	1	Green	
Groveswood Drive North	Grove Green	Detling & Thurnham	MBC	1	1		Yellow	
Mallards Way	Downswood	Downswood & Otham	MBC	1	1	1	Yellow	
Foxden Drive	Downswood	Downswood & Otham	MBC	1	1		Red	
Penenden Heath Play Area	Borough Wide	East	MBC	1	1		Yellow	Ideal location for future youth and adult fitness provision
Upper Fulling Pits	Vinters Park	East	MBC	1	1		Green	
Ashurst Road	Vinters Park	East	MBC	1	1		Red	Ideal location for future youth provision
Foley Park	Town Centre North East	East	MBC	1	1	1	Green	
Camden Street	Town Centre	East	MBC	1	1		Green	
Clare Park	Fant and Bridge wards	Fant	MBC	1	1	1	Green	
Gatland Lane	Barming and Fant wards	Fant	MBC	1	1		Red	Ideal location for future youth and adult fitness provision
Barming Heath	Heath and Barming wards	Heath	MBC	1	1	1	Yellow	
Collis Millennium Green	Town Centre South	High Street	Trust	1	1	1	Green	
South Park Skate Park	Borough Wide	High Street	MBC			1	Green	
King George V Play Area	Loose	Loose	Parish	1	1	1	Green	
Dickens Road	Ringlestone	North	MBC	1	1	1	Yellow	
St Francis Close	Penenden Heath	North	MBC	1	1		Yellow	
Chillington Street	Town Centre	North	MBC			1	Red	
Arundel Street	Town Centre	North	MBC	1	1		Green	
Brookbank	Sandling	North	MBC				Green	
Park Wood Recreation Ground	Park Wood	Park Wood	MBC	1	1	1	Green	Ideal location for future adult fitness provision
Queen Elizabeth Square	Park Wood	Park Wood	MBC	1	1		Red	
Stratford Drive	Park Wood	Park Wood	MBC	1			Red	
Pested Bars (Lockham Farm Avenue)	Park Wood	Park Wood	MBC	1	1		Yellow	
Mote Adventure Zone	Borough Wide	Shepway North	MBC	1	1	1	Yellow	Ideal location for future youth and adult fitness provision
School Lane Play Area	Shepway	Shepway North	MBC	1			Green	
Mote Park Natural Play Area	Borough Wide	Shepway North	MBC		1	1	Green	
Shepway Green	Shepway	Shepway North	MBC	1	1		Green	Ideal location for future youth provision
Senacre Square	Senacre	Shepway South	MBC	1	1		Yellow	

Appendix 3 - Draft

Stevenswood	Shepway	Shepway South	MBC	1	1	1		
South Park Play Area	East Tovil	South	MBC	1	1			Ideal location for future adult fitness provision
Mangravet Recreation Ground	Mangravet	South	MBC	1	1	1		
Bridge Mill Way	West Tovil	South	MBC	1	1	1		
Albert Reed Gardens	Tovil Green	South	MBC	1				

Rural

Name	Servicing	Ward	Ownership	Toddler	Junior	Youth	Status	Details
Teston County Park	Teston	Barming	KCC	1	1			
South Street	Barming	Barming	Parish	1				
Teston Village Green	Teston	Barming	Parish	1	1			
Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall Play Area	Boughton Monchelsea	Boughton Monchelsea & Chart Sutton	Parish	1	1	1		
Chart Sutton Play Area	Chart Sutton	Boughton Monchelsea & Chart Sutton	Parish	1	1			
Bredhurst Village Hall Play Area	Bredhurst	Boxley	Parish	1	1			
Timber Tops Play Area	Lordswood	Boxley	MBC	1	1			
Hunton Play Area	Hunton	Coxheath & Hunton	Parish	1	1			
West Farleigh Play Area	West Farleigh	Coxheath & Hunton	Parish	1	1			
Coxheath Village Hall Play Area	Coxheath	Coxheath & Hunton	Parish	1	1	1		Ideal location for future youth provision
East Farleigh Play Area	East Farleigh	Coxheath & Hunton	Parish	1	1			
Cornwallis Avenue	Linton	Coxheath & Hunton	Parish leased from MBC	1	1	1		
Gallants Lane	Coxheath	Coxheath & Hunton	Parish leased from MBC	1	1			
Stoneacre Play Area	Otham	Downswood & Otham	Parish	1				
Ham Lane Play Area	Lenham	Harrietsham & Lenham	Parish	1	1			
William Pit Youth Area	Lenham	Harrietsham & Lenham	Parish			1		
Glebe Field Play Area	Harrietsham	Harrietsham & Lenham	Parish					
Days Green Play Area	Headcorn	Headcorn	Parish	1	1			
East Sutton Play Area	East Sutton	Headcorn	Parish	1	1	1		
Ulcombe Play Area	Ulcombe	Headcorn	Parish	1	1	1		Basketball hoop situated in car park
Kingswood Village Hall Play Area	Kingswood	Headcorn	Parish	1	1	1		
Leeds Play Area	Leeds	Leeds	Parish	1	1	1		
Marden Playing Fields	Marden	Marden & Yalding	Parish	1	1	1		Ideal location for further youth provision
Collier Street Play Area	Collier Street	Marden & Yalding	Parish	1	1			
Laddingford Play Area	Laddingford	Marden & Yalding	Parish	1	1			
The Kintons	Yalding	Marden & Yalding	Parish	1	1			Ideal location for youth provision
Nettlestead Village Hall Play Area	Nettlestead	Marden & Yalding	MBC	1	1			
School Villas, Nettlestead	Nettlestead	Marden & Yalding	Parish leased from MBC			1		
Cardwell Play Area	Hollingbourne	North Downs	Parish	1	1	1		Ideal location for further youth provision
Wormshill Play Area	Wormshill	North Downs	Parish	1	1			
Stockbury Play Area	Stockbury	North Downs	Parish	1	1			
Surrenden Road Play Area	Staplehurst	Staplehurst	Parish leased from MBC	1	1	1		Ideal location for further youth provision
Jubilee Playing Field	Staplehurst	Staplehurst	Parish			1		
Lime Trees	Staplehurst	Staplehurst	MBC	1	1			
Sutton Valence Village Hall Play Area	Sutton Valence	Sutton Valence & Langley	Parish	1	1			Ideal location for youth provision
Langley Play Area	Langley	Sutton Valence & Langley	Parish	1	1	1		

Non Strategic Play Areas (NSPA)

Those MBC play areas not part of the strategic network of play areas to be offered to other organisations over the next year. If these areas are not transferred they will be removed.

Woolley Road, Senacre	Westmorland Cl, Shepway South	Juniper Close, Allington
Franklin Drive, Grove Green	Reinden Grove, Downswood	Riverhead Close, Allington
Somerset Road, Shepway	Whitebeam Drive, Coxheath	Keswick Drive, Allington
Cockpits, Marden	Perverel Drive, Grove Green	Crownfields, Grove Green
Fairhurst Drive, Dean Street	Bedgebury Cl, Vinters Park	Roseholme, Fant
Fountain Park, South	James Street, Town Centre	Shaw Cl, Penenden Heath
Freshlands Rd, Queens Rd	Shepherds Gate Dr, Grove Gn	

APPENDIX B

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SCRAIP)

Committee: COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 22 April 2013

Minute No: 84

Topic: Play Areas Review

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Recommendationⁱ	Cabinet Memberⁱⁱ	Responseⁱⁱⁱ	Timetable^{iv}	Lead Officer^v
<p>It was recommended that:</p> <p>The Committee agrees that the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services continue to investigate Option 3 and report back to the Committee with further details which should include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed costings about the proposals including potential savings relating to the economies of scale that may be achieved; 	<p>Councillor John A Wilson</p>	<p>Costings Current situation</p> <p>There are currently 69 MBC Play areas across the borough. On average play areas need complete replacement at least every 15 years with the busier ones, such as Mote Park, needing major refurbishment every 7-8 years.</p> <p>Currently 51 of MBC's play areas will need work of varying degrees in the next 5 years to get to and maintain them at green standard.</p> <p>The current capital budget for replacement/ refurbishment of MBC play areas is £100,000 a year.</p> <p>To replace all of the MBC play areas would cost over £3m and with current budgets would take over 40 years. This takes no account for increases in costs of equipment or budgets.</p> <p>This demonstrates that maintaining the</p>		<p>Jason Taylor</p>

		<p>current number of play areas, with the current level of capital, is not a realistic option.</p> <p>Currently not all of our play areas are in a position where they need total refurbishment but 51 out of the 69 MBC play areas do need work of varying degrees to get them up to green standard. The longer it takes to get a proactive programme in place the greater the speed at which the quality of the councils play areas will decrease.</p> <p>Information on costings for proposed</p> <p>In the last meeting a number of options for managing MBC Play Areas in the future were discussed.</p> <p>The third option discussed at the meeting would mean instigating a new standard of play provision across the borough of "the majority of residents being a maximum of 12 minutes walk from an amber or green play area"</p> <p>In this option once a play area decreased to the amber standard it would then be targeted for improvement, before it dropped to red standard. These green, amber and red standards refer to the current standards detailed in the play area scoring matrix.</p> <p>The mapping exercise carried out identified that if the standard of "the majority of residents being a maximum of 12 minutes walk from an amber or green</p>		
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		<p>play area” were to be adopted then there would potentially be 20 MBC play areas that were not strategically important in achieving this standard. These non Strategically Important Play Areas (SIPA’s) would be offered to the community to take over or closed in time.</p> <p>The cost to bring the SIPA’s from their current to green standard would be approximately £1.8m as detailed in the presentation. There is a slight variation in whether this is done in 1 or 5 years.</p> <p>This £1.8m is based on the standard of all of the play areas when they were last scored at the beginning of 2013 and further deterioration will have an effect on the cost of getting them back to green standard.</p> <p>Information showing the standard of all of the play areas across the borough when they were inspected in January this year is enclosed with this response. Information detailing what is required to bring all MBC play areas to green standard is held by the Parks section.</p> <p>The current revenue budget for play area maintenance would also need to be increased as detailed in the presentation to scrutiny.</p> <p>The 12 minute standard refers to toddler and Junior play areas. Youths facilities such as Skate Parks and Multi Use Games areas were not included, as teenagers travel further to use the facilities that they want to use rather than the one which is local to them. However all</p>		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on ownership and different ownership models for play areas, this should include Parish ownership and the support through the Parish Service Scheme; 		<p>existing youth facilities will be brought up to green standard as part of this proposal.</p> <p>Ownership</p> <p>Currently 40 play areas in the borough belong to parish councils, KCC and housing associations. A number of the SIPA's network will belong to the parishes and these other bodies. Currently if a parish council provides a play area in an area that MBC does not, a revenue payment is given to that Parish council, as they are effectively providing play on behalf of MBC.</p> <p>If in the future MBC were to no longer provide a play area and the Parish Play area became the SIPA then the Parish Council would receive a revenue payment from MBC through the parish services scheme</p> <p>Option three also proposes that a grant of £10,000 be available to Parish Councils that provide SIPA's to be used toward new equipment.</p> <p>Currently the parishes receive no contribution from MBC towards the improvement of their play areas.</p> <p>Non-SIPA's that are owned by MBC will be offered to community groups, such as parishes, Housing Association, Community Groups, Trusts, etc, to take on. MBC cannot offer financial support to these groups, as these play areas would not be strategically important, they would provide help and support to these groups in areas such as play area management, maintenance suppliers and sources of funding. It may also be possible to carry</p>		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further information on the 12 minute standard for most residents; and Clarity on which payments are from the Capital Budget and which monies are from the Revenue Budget. 		<p>out safety inspections.</p> <p>These non SIPA's could be taken on either by lease from MBC or the Freehold ownership could be passed on.</p> <p>Walking Distances</p> <p>GIS mapping of all play areas was carried out to establish walking distances between play areas and homes. This identified areas of over and under provision.</p> <p>Using an average walking speed of 3 miles an hour the following distances were tested as reasonable walking times from the play areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 804m = 10 minutes walking time 965m = 12 minutes walking time <p>When mapping this out boundaries such as the river, main roads and the railways were taken into account.</p> <p>GIS maps were built showing the walking distances from play areas and the overall provision of each play area.</p> <p>Capital and Revenue</p> <p>Revenue is used for repairs of play equipment or safety surfacing</p> <p>Capital is used to refurbish, replace or renew play equipment, safety surfacing, supplementary items or whole play areas.</p>		
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Notes on the completion of SCRAIP

ⁱ Report recommendations are listed as found in the report.

ⁱⁱ Insert in this box the Cabinet Member whose portfolio the recommendation falls within.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Officer/Cabinet Member responsible for responding to the recommendation should indicate in this box either the acceptance or rejection of the recommendation.

If the recommendation is rejected an explanation for its rejection should be provided. The 'timetable' and 'lead officer' boxes can be left blank

If the recommendation is accepted an explanation of the action to be taken to implement the recommendation should be recorded in this box. Please also complete the 'timetable' and 'lead officer' boxes.

^{iv} The Officer/Cabinet Member responsible for responding to the recommendation should indicate in this box when the action in indicated in the previous box will be implemented.

^v The Officer/Cabinet Member responsible for responding to the recommendation should indicate in this box the Officer responsible for the implementation of the action highlighted in the 'response' box.

**APPENDIX C
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SCRAIP)**

Committee: Community, Leisure Services and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date: 26 July 2013

Minute N^o: 19

Topic: Draft report: APPROVAL OF A NEW PLAY AREA STRATEGIC STANDARD

Recommendation ⁱ	Cabinet Member ⁱⁱ	Response ⁱⁱⁱ	Timetable ^{iv}	Lead Officer ^v
<p>It was resolved that the Committee agree the following recommendations, as set out in paragraph 2 of the draft report with some additional wording added which is highlighted in bold.</p> <p>That the Cabinet Member agrees to:</p> <p>a) A new borough wide standard of play provision being "that most residents across the borough will live within 12 minutes walk of a good standard play area".</p> <p>b) Available funding in future is targeted at these Strategically Important Play Areas.</p>	<p>Councillor John A Wilson</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p>	<p>April 2014</p>	<p>Jason Taylor.</p>

c) That any non Strategically Important Play Areas be offered to the community and added to the Community Right to Bid list of Assets		Agreed	Following implementation of above	
d) After one year any Non Strategically Important Play Areas that are not taken on by the public will have the equipment removed, but will be retained as open space for perpetuity.		Agreed		

Notes on the completion of SCRAIP

ⁱ Report recommendations are listed as found in the report.

ⁱⁱ Insert in this box the Cabinet Member whose portfolio the recommendation falls within.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Officer/Cabinet Member responsible for responding to the recommendation should indicate in this box either the acceptance or rejection of the recommendation.

If the recommendation is rejected an explanation for its rejection should be provided. The 'timetable' and 'lead officer' boxes can be left blank

If the recommendation is accepted an explanation of the action to be taken to implement the recommendation should be recorded in this box. Please also complete the 'timetable' and 'lead officer' boxes.

^{iv} The Officer/Cabinet Member responsible for responding to the recommendation should indicate in this box when the action in indicated in the previous box will be implemented.

^v The Officer/Cabinet Member responsible for responding to the recommendation should indicate in this box the Officer responsible for the implementation of the action highlighted in the 'response' box.

Maidstone Borough Council

Community, Leisure Services and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 14 January 2014

Future Work Programme

Report of: Orla Sweeney, Overview & Scrutiny Officer

1. Introduction

- 1.1 To consider the Committee's future work programme.
- 1.2 To consider the information update given by the Chairman.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee considers the draft future work programme, attached at **Appendix A**, to ensure that it is appropriate and covers all issues Members currently wish to consider within the Committee's remit. Any items on the draft future work programme, highlighted in bold, are provisional items for the Committee to approve.
- 2.2 That the Committee considers the sections of the List of Forthcoming Decisions relevant to the Committee at **Appendix B** and whether these are items that require further investigation or monitoring.
- 2.3 That the Committee considers its continuous professional development needs and recommends possible training or development sessions it would like to undertake.

3 Future Work Programme

- 3.1 Throughout the course of the municipal year the Committee is asked to put forward work programme suggestions. These suggestions are planned into its annual work programme. Members are asked to consider the work programme at each meeting to ensure that it remains appropriate and covers all issues Members currently wish to consider within the Committee's remit.
- 3.2 The Committee is reminded that the Constitution states under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules number 9: Agenda items that 'Any Member shall be entitled to give notice to the proper officer that he wishes an item relevant to the functions of the Committee or Sub-Committee to be included on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Committee or Sub-Committee. On receipt of such a request the proper officer will ensure that it

is included on the next available agenda, the Member must attend the meeting and speak on the item put forward.'

4 List of Forthcoming Decisions

- 4.1 The List of Forthcoming Decisions (**Appendix B**) is a live document containing all key and non-key decisions.
- 4.2 Due to the nature of the List of Forthcoming Decisions, and to ensure the information provided to the Committee is up to date, a verbal update will be given at the meeting by the Chairman. The Committee can view the live document online at:
<http://meetings.maidstone.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPIId=443&RD=0>

5. Impact on Corporate Objectives

- 5.1 The Committee will consider reports that deliver against the following Council priority:
 - 'For Maidstone to be a decent place to live.'
- 5.2 The Strategic Plan sets the Council's key objectives for the medium term and has a range of objectives which support the delivery of the Council's priorities.

Community, Leisure Services & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2013-14

Meeting Date	Agenda Items	Details and desired outcome
11 June 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman • Work programming workshop • Leader & Cabinet Member Priorities for 2013/14 Municipal Year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2013-14 • Ascertain work plan for the year and strategic direction for the Council & Select and develop review topics focusing on achievable outcomes.
16 July 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member Priorities for 2013/14 Municipal Year • Draft report: Approval of a new Play Area Strategic Standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the Cabinet Update and make recommendations as appropriate • To consider the report and make recommendations as appropriate
13 August 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV Protocol • Collective Switching of Energy Supplier Service for Householders • Eco Pilot • Draft Health Inequalities Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the report and make recommendations as appropriate
10 September 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Inequalities (Mental Health) Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To interview the witness invited to the meeting and participate in a 'act finding' discussion as part of evidence gathering for the review topic.
8 October 2013	CANCELLED	CANCELLED
29 October 2013	<p><i>Acting as the Crime & Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health and the Police and frontline services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee will be acting as the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee interviewing the witness invited to the meeting and participate in a 'fact finding' discussion as part of evidence gathering its review topic (Mental Health). Witnesses will include the Safer Maidstone Partnership.
12 November 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness Strategy Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee to consider the findings of the Homelessness Strategy Review, interviewing witnesses from a national and local level to

		establish the needs of Maidstone. The Committee will need to consider when the Homelessness Strategy will return to it, pre-decision, before its adoption.
10 December 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POSTPONED Pilot Street Triage Scheme – Health Inequalities (Mental Health) Review • UPDATE Eco Homes Pilot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To interview the Mental Health nursing staff and Police Officers involved in the pilot scheme. To establish the positive outcomes of the scheme and any gaps that have been identified. • To consider the update from officers, making recommendations as appropriate.
14 January 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Play Areas Strategy <p>INFORMATION UPDATE: Health Inequalities (Mental Health) Review – follow up interviews with the Clinical Commissioning Group. To take place on 30 January at 7pm (Town Hall, Room B).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the report and make recommendations as appropriate
11 February 2014	<p><i>Acting as the Crime & Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee</i></p> <p><i>(Possible topics: Road Safety in response to the KCC Consultation - Road Casualty Reduction Strategy for Kent & Revisions to Maidstone Protocols for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Overview and Scrutiny)</i></p>	
11 March 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality Action Plan • Draft Homelessness Strategy (TBC) 	

Appendix A

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow up on Scrutiny Waste Review and the new Waste Contract.	
8 April 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluations of Cabinet Member Priorities for 2013/14 Municipal Year	



LIST OF FORTHCOMING DECISIONS

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Democratic Services Team
E: democraticservices@maidstone.gov.uk

Publication Date: **3 December 2013**

List of Forthcoming Decisions

INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the decisions to be taken by the Executive and various Committees of Maidstone Borough Council on a rolling basis. This document will be published as updated with new decisions required to be made.

KEY DECISIONS

A key decision is an executive decision which is likely to:

- Result in the Maidstone Borough Council incurring expenditure or making savings which is equal to the value of £250,000 or more; or
- Have significant effect on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards in Maidstone.

At Maidstone Borough Council, decisions which we regard as “Key Decisions” because they are likely to have a “significant” effect either in financial terms or on the community include:

- (1) Decisions about expenditure or savings which equal or are more than £250,000.
- (2) Budget reports.
- (3) Policy framework reports.
- (4) Adoption of new policies plans, strategies or changes to established policies, plans or strategies.
- (5) Approval of portfolio plans.
- (6) Decisions that involve significant service developments, significant service reductions, or significant changes in the way that services are delivered, whether Borough-wide or in a particular locality.
- (7) Changes in fees and charges.
- (8) Proposals relating to changes in staff structure affecting more than one section.

Each entry identifies, for that “key decision” –

- the decision maker
- the date on which the decision is due to be taken
- the subject matter of the decision and a brief summary
- the reason it is a key decision
- to whom representations (about the decision) can be made

List of Forthcoming Decisions

- whether the decision will be taken in public or private
- what reports/papers are, or will be, available for public inspection

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Cabinet collectively makes its decisions at a meeting and individual portfolio holders make decisions independently. In addition, Officers can make key decisions and an entry for each of these will be included in this list.

DECISIONS WHICH THE CABINET INTENDS TO MAKE IN PRIVATE

The Cabinet hereby gives notice that it intends to meet in private after its public meeting to consider reports and/or appendices which contain exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). The private meeting of the Cabinet is open only to Members of the Cabinet, other Councillors and Council officers.

Reports and/or appendices to decisions which the Cabinet will take at its private meeting are indicated in the list below, with the reasons for the decision being made in private. Any person is able to make representations to the Cabinet if he/she believes the decision should instead be made in the public Cabinet meeting. If you want to make such representations, please email janetbarnes@maidstone.gov.uk. You will then be sent a response in reply to your representations. Both your representations and the Executive's response will be published on the Council's website at least 5 working days before the Cabinet meeting.

ACCESS TO CABINET REPORTS

Reports to be considered at the Cabinet's public meeting will be available on the Council's website (www.maidstone.gov.uk) a minimum of 5 working days before the meeting.

HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE TO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS?

The Council actively encourages people to express their views on decisions it plans to make. This can be done by writing directly to the appropriate Officer or Cabinet Member (details of whom are shown in the list below).

Alternatively, the Cabinet are contactable via our website (www.maidstone.gov.uk) where you can submit a question to the Leader of the Council. There is also the opportunity to invite the Leader of the Council to speak at a function you may be organising.

List of Forthcoming Decisions

WHO ARE THE CABINET?



© 2011 Kent Messenger

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Tel: 01622 720989

List of Forthcoming Decisions

Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary:	Key Decision and reason (if applicable):	Contact Officer:	Public or Private (if Private the reason why)	Documents to be submitted (other relevant documents may be submitted)
<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Due Date: Wednesday 4 Dec 2013</p>	<p>Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy</p> <p>Approval of Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for public consultation (to be undertaken at the same time as the Maidstone Borough Local Plan).</p>	<p>KEY</p> <p>Reason: Policies, Plans, Strategies</p>	<p>Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management</p> <p>Robjarman@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Green spaces for Maidstone strategy, 2005.</p> <p>Maidstone Open Space DPD, 2006.</p> <p>Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy</p>
<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Due Date: Wednesday 4 Dec 2013</p>	<p>MAIDSTONE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION DRAFT – GROUP 2 POLICIES</p> <p>2nd group of local plan policies for approval by Cabinet</p>	<p>KEY</p> <p>Reason: Affects more than 1 ward</p>	<p>Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management</p> <p>Robjarman@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>MAIDSTONE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION DRAFT – GROUP 2 POLICIES</p>
<p>Licensing Committee</p> <p>Due Date: Wednesday 4 Dec 2013</p>	<p>Street Trading Application for Jubilee Square, Christmas Market</p> <p>Street Trading Application for Jubilee Square, Christmas Market</p>		<p>Lorraine Neale</p> <p>lorraineale@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Private - Paragraph 3 – because of the financial and business affairs of the applicant</p>	<p>Street Trading Application for Jubilee Square, Christmas Market</p>


Forthcoming Decisions
December 2013 - June 2014

Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services Due Date: Tuesday 10 Dec 2013 49	Transfer of former Oakwood Cemetery To consider agreeing to the freehold transfer to the Council of the land known as the former Oakwood Cemetery site, Oakapple Lane, Maidstone		Zena Cooke zenacooke@maidstone.gov.uk	Public	Transfer of former Oakwood Cemetery Enc. 1 for Transfer of former Oakwood Cemetery Enc. 2 for Transfer of former Oakwood Cemetery
General Purposes Group Due Date: Wednesday 11 Dec 2013	Nominations to Outside Bodies To consider nominations received for Outside Bodies.		Caroline Matthews carolinematthews@maidstone.gov.uk	Public	Nominations to Outside Bodies

Forthcoming Decisions
December 2013 - June 2014

Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
<p>General Purposes Group</p> <p>Due Date: Wednesday 11 Dec 2013</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">50</p>	<p>Council Tax Tax Base 2014 15</p> <p>This report advises Members of the information currently available on the Tax Base for 2014/15 for Council Tax purposes. It identifies potential changes to that Tax Base, particularly those that are brought about by the Localisation of Council Tax Support Scheme for 2014/15. It also recommends the Tax Base for 2014/15.</p>		<p>Paul Riley, Head of Finance & Customer Services paulriley@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Council Tax Tax Base 2014 15</p>
<p>Council</p> <p>Due Date: Wednesday 11 Dec 2013</p>	<p>Local Council Tax Discount Scheme</p> <p>Decision on the local council tax discount scheme to be applied for 2014/2015.</p>		<p>Stephen McGinnes stephenmcginnes@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Local Council Tax Discount Scheme</p>

Forthcoming Decisions
December 2013 - June 2014

Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
Council Due Date: Wednesday 11 Dec 2013	Committee Membership To consider changes to committee membership		Janet Barnes janetbarnes@maidstone.gov.uk	Public	Committee Membership
Council Due Date: Wednesday 11 Dec 2013 	Visiting Members at Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meetings Amendment to the Constitution		Christian Scade christianscade@maidstone.gov.uk	Public	Visiting Members at Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meetings
Council Due Date: Wednesday 11 Dec 2013	Calendar of Meetings To consider an amendment to the Calendar of Meetings for 2013/14 and the new calendar of Meetings for 2014/15.		Janet Barnes janetbarnes@maidstone.gov.uk	Public	Calendar of Meetings
Council Due Date: Wednesday 11 Dec 2013	Urgent Decisions Taken by the Executive To note the urgent decisions taken by the Executive.		Janet Barnes janetbarnes@maidstone.gov.uk	Public	Urgent Decisions Taken by the Executive Urgent Decisions Taken by the Executive

Forthcoming Decisions
December 2013 - June 2014

Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
Council Due Date: Wednesday 11 Dec 2013	Exempt Appendix to Urgent Decisions Taken by the Executive Exempt Appendix to report		Janet Barnes janetbarnes@maidstone.gov.uk	Private - 3 - Financial Info/Business Affairs - contains commercially sensitive information	Exempt Appendix to Urgent Decisions Taken by the Executive
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services Due Date: Friday 13 Dec 2013 52	Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefits Overpayments write offs Approval of write offs for irrecoverable debts of Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefit Overpayments		Sheila Coburn sheilacoburn@maidstone.gov.uk	Public	Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefits Overpayments write offs
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services Due Date: Friday 13 Dec 2013	Discretionary Housing Payment Future policy for the award of discretionary housing payments.		Stephen McGinnes stephenmcginnes@maidstone.gov.uk	Public	Discretionary Housing Payment

Forthcoming Decisions
December 2013 - June 2014

Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Due Date: Wednesday 18 Dec 2013</p> <p style="text-align: right;">53</p>	<p>Budget Strategy 2014 15 Onwards Capital</p> <p>To determine the strategy for developing the future Capital Programme, for 2014/15 onwards, as part of the consideration of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).</p>	<p>KEY Reason: Budget Reports</p>	<p>Paul Riley, Head of Finance & Customer Services paulriley@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Budget Strategy 2014 15 Onwards Capital</p>

Forthcoming Decisions
December 2013 - June 2014

Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Due Date: Wednesday 18 Dec 2013</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">54</p>	<p>Refresh of the Corporate Improvement Plan for 2014-17</p> <p>To consider the draft Corporate Improvement Plan 2014-17 before consultation with Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny in January 2014 and adoption of the plan by Cabinet in February 2014. The Corporate Improvement Plan details the Council's improvement journey in terms of the key improvement workstreams and the priority services and projects for improvement.</p>	<p>KEY Reason: Policies, Plans, Strategies</p>	<p>Georgia Hawkes, Head of Business Improvement georgiahawkes@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Refresh of the Improvement Plan for 2014-17 AppA_RefreshofImprovementPlan.pdf Refresh of the Corporate Improvement Plan for 2014-17</p>

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Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
Cabinet Due Date: Wednesday 18 Dec 2013	Maidstone Enterprise Hub To consider allocating £700,000 to progress the project at the former Crown Post Office, King Street.	KEY Reason: Expenditure > £250,000	Karen Franek karenfrank@maidstone.gov.uk	Public	Maidstone Enterprise Hub
Cabinet Due Date: Wednesday 18 Dec 2013	Exempt Appendix - Maidstone Enterprise Hub Consider proposal to allocate £700,000 to progress the Enterprise Hub Project at the former Post Office building, King Street		Karen Franek karenfrank@maidstone.gov.uk	Private - contains commercially sensitive information	Maidstone Enterprise Hub
Cabinet Due Date: Wednesday 18 Dec 2013	Maidstone Partnership Board Changes to the Maidstone Locality Board and proposals for the establishment of a Maidstone Partnership Board	KEY Reason: Policies, Plans, Strategies	Sarah Robson, Community Partnerships Manager, sarahrobson@maidstone.gov.uk	Public	Maidstone Partnership Board

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Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
Cabinet Due Date: Wednesday 18 Dec 2013	Budget Strategy 2014/15 Onwards To agree a draft Council Tax and Budget Strategy for 2014/15 onwards.	KEY Reason: Budget Reports	Paul Riley, Head of Finance & Customer Services paulriley@maidstone.gov.uk	Public	Budget Strategy 2014/15 Onwards

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Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Due Date: Wednesday 18 Dec 2013</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">57</p>	<p>Budget Strategy 2014 15 Fees & Charges</p> <p>To consider the appropriate level of fees and charges for 2014/15 for services where the Council raises income by charging the user of a service and where the setting of the fee to be charged is discretionary. The Council has adopted a policy on the setting of fees and charges to ensure that a rational approach is used that takes account of all factors and creates a result that supports the priorities set out in the strategic plan.</p>	<p>KEY Reason: Fees & Charges</p>	<p>Paul Riley, Head of Finance & Customer Services paulriley@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Budget Strategy 2014 15 Fees & Charges</p>

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Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services Due Date: Friday 20 Dec 2013	Lease of Giddyhorn Lane Tennis Courts Lease renewal to Maidstone Lawn Tennis Club of the tennis courts at Giddyhorn Lane Playing Fields		Lucy Stroud lucystroud@maidstone.gov.uk	Private because of commercially sensitive information.	Lease of Giddyhorn Lane Tennis Courts
Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services Due Date: Tuesday 31 Dec 2013	Warm Homes Eco Pilot Review Describes progress, upcoming issues and seeks decision on next steps for the Warm Homes scheme in Maidstone	KEY Reason: Affects more than 1 ward	Helen Miller helenmiller@maidstone.gov.uk	public	Warm Homes Eco Pilot Review
Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services Due Date: Before Tuesday 31 Dec 2013	Cabinet Report Heather House Future Options Future options for Heather House community hall, Park Wood, Maidstone		John Littlemore, Head of Housing & Community Services johnlittlemore@maidstone.gov.uk	Public	Cabinet Report Heather House Future Options

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Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services Due Date: Friday 3 Jan 2014	Health Inequalities Action Plan Action plan detailing work on reducing health inequalities in Maidstone	KEY Reason: Affects more than 1 ward		Public	Health Inequalities Action Plan
Cabinet Due Date: Wednesday 15 Jan 2014	Licensing Peer Challenge Findings and Next Steps		John Littlemore, Head of Housing & Community Services johnlittlemore@maidstone.gov.uk	Public	Licensing Peer Challenge
Cabinet Member for Planning, Transport and Development Due Date: Wednesday 15 Jan 2014	Solar energy advice notes To consider two planning policy advice notes to be used as guidance in determining solar energy applications.	KEY Reason: Policies, Plans, Strategies	Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management Robjarman@maidstone.gov.uk	Public	Solar energy advice notes

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Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
<p>Cabinet Member for Corporate Services</p> <p>Due Date: Friday 24 Jan 2014</p>	<p>Bankruptcy Policy for Council Tax and Business Rates Debt</p> <p>The approach to be adopted by the council in collecting unpaid council tax and business rates through the use of bankruptcy proceedings.</p>	<p>KEY Reason: Policies, Plans, Strategies</p>	<p>Sheila Coburn sheilacoburn@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Bankruptcy Policy for Council Tax and Business Rates Debt</p>
<p>Cabinet Member for Economic and Commercial Development</p> <p>Due Date: Friday 24 Jan 2014</p>	<p>Maidstone Museums' Collections Development Policy 2013 - 2018</p> <p>To consider the approval of a revised Collections Development Policy for the Council's museums</p>	<p>KEY Reason: Policies, Plans, Strategies</p>	<p>Dawn Hudd, Head of Commercial and Economic Development, dawnhudd@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Maidstone Museums' Collections Development Policy 2013-2018 Maidstone Museums' Collections Development Policy 2013-2018</p>

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Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Due Date: Monday 27 Jan 2014</p> <p>61</p>	<p>Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)</p> <p>The purpose of the IDP is to identify the infrastructure required to meet the spatial objectives and growth anticipated in the Local Plan and thus demonstrate that the Plan is both realistic and deliverable.</p>	<p>KEY Reason: Affects more than 1 ward</p>	<p>Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management Robjarman@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)</p>

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Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Due Date: Monday 27 Jan 2014</p> <p>62</p>	<p>Maidstone Borough Local Plan Draft Spatial Strategy</p> <p>The report will consider the borough's objectively assessed needs arising from the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. It will seek Member approval of the draft local plan spatial strategy for public consultation, including the targets for new dwellings and employment/retail floorspace.</p>	<p>KEY Reason: Policies, Plans, Strategies</p>	<p>Sue Whiteside suewhiteside@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Maidstone Borough Local Plan Draft Spatial Strategy</p>
<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Due Date: Monday 27 Jan 2014</p>	<p>Integrated Transport Strategy 2011-31</p> <p>To consider the Integrated Transport Strategy 2011-31 for public consultation</p>	<p>KEY Reason: Affects more than 1 ward</p>	<p>Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management Robjarman@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Integrated Transport Strategy 2011-31</p>

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Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Due Date: Monday 27 Jan 2014</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">63</p>	<p>Maidstone Borough Local Plan Public Consultation Draft - Group 3 Policies</p> <p>This final group of local plan policies will comprise the housing target and spatial distribution of development for the borough, and a number of transport based policies.</p>	<p>KEY Reason: Affects more than 1 ward</p>	<p>Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management Robjarman@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Maidstone Borough Local Plan Public Consultation Draft - Group 3 Policies</p>
<p>Cabinet Member for Environment</p> <p>Due Date: Before Friday 31 Jan 2014</p>	<p>Review and Progress Update of Waste Strategy</p> <p>To review the progress which has been made towards the objectives of the Council's 5 year Waste Strategy in preparation for a new Waste Strategy for 2015-2020.</p>		<p>Steve Goulette Stevegoulette@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Waste Strategy 2010-2015 Review and Progress Update of Waste Strategy</p>

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Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted <i>(other relevant documents may be submitted)</i>
<p>Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services</p> <p>Due Date: Friday 31 Jan 2014</p>	<p>Play Area Improvements Programme 2013/14</p> <p>A report to consider the allocation for the Play Area Improvements Programme for 2013/14</p>		<p>Amanda Scott amandascott@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Play Area Improvements Programme 2013/14</p>
<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Due Date: Wednesday 12 Feb 2014</p>	<p>Budget Monitoring - Third Quarter 2013/14</p> <p>Revenue and capital budget monitoring</p>		<p>Paul Riley, Head of Finance & Customer Services paulriley@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Budget Monitoring - Third Quarter 2013/14</p>

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<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Due Date: Wednesday 12 Feb 2014</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">65</p>	<p>Refresh of the Corporate Improvement Plan 2014-17</p> <p>To consider the refreshed Corporate Improvement Plan for 2014-17, which details the Council's improvement journey in terms of the key improvement workstreams and the priority services and projects for improvement.</p>	<p>KEY Reason: Policies, Plans, Strategies</p>	<p>Georgia Hawkes, Head of Business Improvement georgiahawkes@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Refresh of the Corporate Improvement Plan 2014-17 AppA_RefreshofImprovementPlan.pdf Refresh of the Corporate Improvement Plan 2014-17</p>
<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Due Date: Monday 24 Feb 2014</p>	<p>Maidstone Borough Local Plan Public Consultation Draft (Regulation 18)</p> <p>Report seeking approval to undertake public consultation (Regulation 18) on the draft Maidstone Borough Local Plan</p>	<p>KEY Reason: Policies, Plans, Strategies</p>	<p>Sue Whiteside suewhiteside@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Maidstone Borough Local Plan Public Consultation Draft (Regulation 18)</p>

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Decision Maker and Date of When Decision is Due to be Made:	Title of Report and Brief Summary	Key Decision and reason (if applicable)	Contact Officer:	Public or Private <i>if Private the reason why</i>	Documents to be submitted (other relevant documents may be submitted)
Council Due Date: Wednesday 26 Feb 2014	Strategic Plan Refresh 2014-15 update for the final year of the strategic plan	KEY Reason: Policy Framework Document	Angela Woodhouse, Head of Policy and Communications angelawoodhouse@maidstone.gov.uk	public	Strategic Plan Refresh 2014-15