

## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

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### ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT CABINET COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 15 June 2017.

PRESENT: Mr P J Homewood (Chairman), Mrs C Bell, Mr A Booth, Mr T Bond, Mr N J Collor, Mr A R Hills, Mr S Holden, Mr A J Hook, Mr B H Lewis, Mr R C Love, Mr P J Messenger, Mr J M Ozog, Mr M D Payne and Mr M E Whybrow

ALSO PRESENT: Mr M A C Balfour and Mr P M Hill, OBE

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs B Cooper (Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport), Mrs A Hunter (Principal Democratic Services Officer) and Miss E West (Democratic Services Officer)

#### UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

##### **2. Election of Vice-Chairman**

*(Item 2)*

- (1) It was proposed by Mrs C Bell and seconded by Mr S Holden that Mr M Payne be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Cabinet Committee.
- (2) Resolved that Mr M Payne be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Cabinet Committee.

##### **3. Apologies and Substitutes**

*(Item 3)*

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Cook and Mr I Chittenden. Mr K Gregory attended as a substitute for Mr A Cook.

##### **4. Declarations of Interest by Members in items on the Agenda**

*(Item 4)*

- (1) Mr Love made a voluntary declaration in respect of Dunbrik Waste Transfer Station (Item 12 on the agenda) as it referred to the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and he was Chairman of the Kent Resource Partnership which had published the strategy.
- (2) Mrs Bell made a voluntary declaration in respect of the Ashford District Deal (Item 18 on the agenda) as she was a Cabinet Member on Ashford Borough Council.

##### **5. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2017 and 25 May 2017**

*(Item 5)*

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 13 March and 25 May 2017 are correct records and that they be signed by the Chairman.

## **6. Verbal updates**

*(Item 6)*

- (1) Mr Hill (Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services) said that he provided updates to both this Cabinet Committee and to the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee. He said he was pleased to announce that four days after taking over responsibility for Public Rights of Way he was able to open a refurbished footpath in Willesborough, Ashford.
- (2) He also said that a campaign to recruit volunteer community wardens had been launched and, although parish councils had been very enthusiastic about the voluntary community warden scheme, it was proving to be challenging to recruit volunteers.

## **7. Cabinet Member Written Update**

*(Item 7)*

- (1) Mr Balfour (Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste) introduced his paper which provided an update on KCC's responses to recent consultations on Lower Thames Crossing, aviation and rail initiatives.
- (2) He also said that a Sub-National Transport Board was being established to advise on strategic transport issues and to provide a forum for highway authorities to work with Network Rail, the Highways Agency and other transport providers. He said a shadow stakeholder board had been established and Mr Carter (Leader of the Council) would attend its first meeting on 26 June 2017.
- (3) Mr Balfour said Phase 1 of the Pothole Blitz had been successful with over 11,500 square metres of patching and 1,200 individual potholes repaired since 8 May 2017. He also said that contractors would continue to do non-emergency repairs and general tidying up on secondary roads over the coming months.
- (4) The Keep Kent Clean was also a success and it was planned to renew the project in the autumn. It had been particularly successful in involving Highways England and it was hoped that Network Rail would be involved in the next phase.
- (5) Mr Balfour said that his portfolio encompassed a range of services and offered to provide more information on request to any Member. He also said that a number of informal groups would be required to consider a range of issues including household waste recycling, the Kent Minerals and Waste Sites Plan, the green agenda and heritage, and the commissioning of a new contract for highways term maintenance and encouraged Members from all parties to become involved.

- (6) In response to Members' questions, Mr Wilkin said that the initial distribution of funding for pothole repairs was based on road length, however this was reviewed during the year and adjusted based on need. He also said that he would expect any potholes marked with white lines on the road to be repaired within two months and would investigate specific instances if he were provided with the details.

## **8. Performance Dashboard**

*(Item 8)*

*Richard Fitzgerald (Business Intelligence Manager – Performance), Roger Wilkin (Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste), Stephen Gasche (Principal Transport Planner) Katie Stewart (Director of Environment, Planning and Enforcement) were in attendance for this item*

- (1) Mr Fitzgerald introduced the report which showed progress made against targets set for Key Performance indicators for 2016/17. He outlined his role in producing the report and referred, in particular, to the guidance notes and the Key Performance Indicator Summary at page 30 and 31 of the agenda pack.
- (2) In response to questions officers provided further information.
- (3) Mr Wilkin said there was not a reliable test to assess whether concrete columns were structurally sound and the conversion of street lights on such columns to LCD had been held back until the entire column could be replaced. He said a capital bid was being submitted to government for funding to replace concrete columns with steel across the whole of Kent including Thanet.
- (4) Mr Gasche said that the Ashford Spurs project that had been referred to in the Cabinet Member update was on time and on budget with an anticipated completion date of 28 February 2018 and a public launch at Easter 2018. There would be no gap in service. Mr Gasche said the London to Paris service was currently using the new trains with the exception of two class 373 trains which provided two services daily from London to Ashford and Paris and back. The new class E320 trains would be introduced over the coming months on the London – Brussels route without an adverse impact on the London - Ashford - Brussels service. A new service to Amsterdam was scheduled to start at Easter 2018 and had been conceived as a non-stop service from London with two trains per day. There were complex border issues for the return journey to the UK to be resolved. Eurostar had an ambition to expand the service further, after the Ashford Spurs project had been completed, and if there were a third train per day, efforts would be made to ensure it stopped at Ashford and possibly also at Antwerp.
- (5) Mr Wilkin said that the authority had a contract for the conversion of 310,000 tonnes of waste to energy at Allington and additional costs were incurred if that was not achieved. He said the amount of waste being recycled had increased significantly with Kent now being one of the top performing authorities and there was scope to increase recycling further which would reduce the amount being sent to Allington.

- (6) Ms Stewart said the LED street lighting conversion project was beginning to have a positive impact on the target relating to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (EPE13). She anticipated that this, together with further actions such as increasing awareness of staff, a recently launched e-learning programme, and the growing profile and effectiveness of the Internal Environmental Board would result in the target being met.
- (7) In relation to EPE02 (Trading Standards – Serious or persistent offenders prosecuted) Ms Stewart said the policies, procedure and capacity had been reviewed and the KPI changed for 2017/18 to better reflect work in reducing criminality and demonstrate the complexity of the investigations.
- (8) Resolved that the report be noted.

**9. 17/00044 Step Ahead of the Rest (StAR) - Sustainable Travel Revenue Programme**

*(Item 14)*

- (1) Mr Balfour (Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste) introduced the report which set out details of an award of £1,452,000 from the Department of Transport following a successful bid. Confirmation of the funding had been received in April 2017 and he had taken a decision between meetings of the Cabinet Committee to enable progress to be made in April, May and June 2017 towards mobilising partners and delivering the project.
- (2) Resolved that it be noted that decision number 17/00044 had been taken in accordance with the process set out in Appendix 4 Part 6 of the Council's constitution to accept the DfT funding to enable the StAR programme to be delivered. Specifically this comprised approval to spend this grant in order to:
  - i) Pay staffing costs associated with delivering the programme;
  - ii) Delegate authority to the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste to procure, award and amend contracts as necessary; and
  - iii) Make grants to transport operators, community interest companies and businesses, in accordance with our agreement procedures.

**10. 17/00060 - Dunbrik Waste Transfer Station and House Waste Recycling Centre (Sevenoaks)**

*(Item 12)*

*Roger Wilkin (Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste) was in attendance for this item)*

- (1) Mr Balfour (Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste) introduced the report which asked the Cabinet Committee to consider and endorse or make recommendations on a proposed decision to allow Waste Management extended occupation by continuing to operate a Waste Transfer Station and Household Waste Recycling Centre in Sevenoaks.

- (2) Mr Wilkin said the site owner wished to develop the wider site and secure extended tenure to 2030 and that KCC had negotiated more favourable terms and an additional operational area within the reduced lease cost.
- (3) Resolved that the proposed decision of the Cabinet Member to enter into a new leasing arrangement for Waste Services to occupy Dunbrik Waste Transfer Station and House Waste Recycling Centre (Sevenoaks) to 2030 be endorsed.

## **11. 16/00145 - Freight Action Plan for Kent** *(Item 9)*

*Joe Ratcliffe (Transport Strategy Manager) and Sam Yates (Transport Planner) were in attendance for this item*

- (1) Mr Balfour (Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste) said that the plan was appropriate with sufficient flexibility to enable any special cases to be considered.
- (2) The clerk read an email from Cllr Paul Bartlett (Ashford Borough Council) noting the objections from residents to the Stanford Lorry Park and the impact on local residents of proposals for further overnight lorry parking at Waterbrook near Sevington in Ashford. It also said that a network of smaller lorry parks needed to be brought forward by all districts simultaneously to avoid excessive demand at Waterbrook if it were brought forward first.
- (3) Mr Balfour said that Kent County Council were supporting the DfT and the Highways England to bring forward a lorry holding area near to the major trunk routes that could be used when Operation Stack was in place. He referred to the proposals in the Freight Action Plan and a pilot project to take place later in the year aimed at eliminating inappropriate parking.
- (4) Mr Balfour said the authority was working with the government to address the issue of lorry parking. He anticipated there would be changes in legislation to make it easier to deal with inconsiderate parking where there were no specific traffic regulations. He acknowledged the need for local lorry parking and that it should be as close as possible to the major trunk roads. He also said work was underway to produce a plan to restrict inconsiderate parking in the county and that he hoped to announce a test project later in the year to deal with parking.
- (5) The Chairman read an email from Mr Collor, who was not in attendance for the Cabinet Member update, on rail at item 7 of the agenda. Mr Collor wished to respond to the Cabinet Member update by asking about possible improvements in the journey time between Dover and London St Pancras. He also wanted it recorded in the minutes that he did not agree with officers' comments in the Kent County Council response to the DfT on 19 May specifying the service enhancements it was seeking for High Speed, Mainline and Metro services in the new franchise.
- (6) In response Mr Balfour read an email from Stephen Gasche (Principal Transport Planner) that said the current fastest running times in the peak

periods between Dover Priory and London St Pancras were 64 minutes on the train leaving Dover at 07:16 and 64 minutes on the trains leaving St Pancras hourly between 19:37 and 23:37. The normal running times were 67 or 68 minutes in both directions. In theory it might be possible to have one journey in each direction in the peak period which omitted Folkestone West and Ebbsfleet, thus saving four minutes in each direction and taking sixty minutes, but this would require omitting stations with significant passenger demand. The email also said that KCC had presented alternative options to the DfT for the new franchise specification, one of which would have one train per hour omitting Folkestone West, and the other one train per hour calling at both Westenhanger (when required by development at Otterpool Garden Town) and Folkestone West, but this would depend on the agreement of the DfT to enhance the off-peak service to two trains per hour. The journey time of fifty-three minutes reported in Mr Collor's emails was not in the scheduled timetable, and would not normally be attainable.

- (7) Mr Ratcliffe introduced the report which asked the Cabinet Committee to consider and endorse, or make recommendations on a proposed decision to adopt a Freight Action Plan for Kent. He said the original Freight Action Plan had been adopted in 2012, the new proposed plan had been updated and that it was a supporting document to the Local Transport Plan 4 – Delivering Growth without Gridlock. He referred in particular to paragraph 1.3 of the report which set out five on-going actions for managing freight in Kent and to paragraph 4.3 which set out specific actions included in the plan following an 8-week public consultation between January and March 2017. He also said the response to the consultation had been very good; however, 90% of respondents said that road freight had a negative impact on them or their local community and 70% said inappropriate lorry parking had a negative impact.
- (8) Mr Whybrow said he was unable to support the report as the paragraphs relating to moving freight from road to rail were not strong enough. He also said he and an experienced railway consultant's detailed consultation responses had not been incorporated in the report. IN addition he said he could not support proposals for a lorry park at Stanford.
- (9) The Chairman invited Mr Rayner to address the Cabinet Committee. Mr Rayner said that he held a certificate of proficiency in road transport awarded by the DfT. He said that Brexit presented an opportunity to introduce a licensing arrangement for trucks which would make it more attractive for lorries making deliveries in the midlands and north of the country to use ports such Hull, Harwich, Ipswich or Felixstowe and limit licences for trucks using the Channel Tunnel or Dover Port to lorries making deliveries in Kent or neighbouring counties. He also said that over the years the benefits accruing to Dover from being a port had reduced. He finished by urging the Cabinet Committee to recommend to the Cabinet Member that the authority lobbied central government to pursue a licensing arrangement for lorries crossing from the continent.
- (10) Members generally welcomed the report, however, the impact of large lorries on the rural areas and on small towns was raised, as was the importance of enforcement, the use of technology to prevent lorries coming to Kent when Operation Stack was in place; the need to protect local employment

opportunities including the export of fish from the Romney Marsh area; and the need not only to keep the M20 open when Operation Stack was in place but also to keep the motor-way junctions open.

- (11) Proposed by Mr Payne and seconded by Mr Ozog that the proposed decision be endorsed.
- (12) Resolved that the proposed decision of the Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transportation and Waste on the proposed decision to endorse and adopt the Freight Action Plan for Kent be endorsed.

(Voting: For 11; Against 3; Abstentions).

- (13) After the vote Mr Whybrow requested that it be recorded that he had voted against endorsing the decision.

**12. 17/00050 Westwood Relief Strategy Thanet - Tesco Link Road, construction of a strategic link road and associated roundabouts linking the A256 and A254**

*(Item 10)*

This item was withdrawn from the agenda and not considered.

**13. 17/00051 - Maidstone Integrated Transport Package - Phase 1. A274 Sutton Road at its junction with Willington Street, construction of dedicated directional lanes**

*(Item 11)*

*Russell Boorman (Major Capital Programme Manager) was in attendance for this item*

- (1) Mr Boorman introduced the report which provided an update on the progress on the design work for the Willington Street Junction Improvement Scheme. A preliminary scheme had been discussed by the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee at its meeting on 16 March 2017; however, since then additional work had shown that the preliminary scheme would not deliver the intended benefits and a re-design was required. The Cabinet Committee was, therefore, now being asked to consider and endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member on his proposed decision to approve a revised outline design scheme for the A274 Sutton Road at its junction with Willington Street.
- (2) Mr Balfour (Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste) said that most of the funding for the project was coming from the Local Enterprise Partnership and that engagement on the revised scheme had been delayed because of the local and parliamentary elections.
- (3) Mr Cooke said that the Maidstone Joint Transportation Board had not responded favourably to the revised scheme and wanted the decision to be deferred to allow full engagement with residents. Mr Cooke said the proposed expenditure would have little impact on relieving congestion and the removal

of hedgerows and mature trees would increase noise and other pollution for residents of Sutton Road and Bell Meadow.

- (4) Mr Cooke proposed and Mr Lewis seconded a proposal to defer consideration of this matter until the next meeting of the Cabinet Committee when the views of the Maidstone Joint Transportation Board and the results of the public engagement would be available.
- (5) In response to comments, Mr Balfour asked the Cabinet Committee to consider the scheme being proposed as the basis for public engagement. Officers provided additional information about planting schemes and other actions to mitigate the impact of noise and other issues.
- (6) Resolved that:
  - (a) The proposed outline design scheme for the A274 Sutton Road at its junction with Willington Street be noted;
  - (b) Engagement with residents be undertaken; and
  - (c) The proposal be re-considered at the next meeting of the Cabinet Committee on 21 September 2017 when the results of the public engagement and the comments of the Joint Transportation Board would be available.

**14. 17/00061 - A28/A291 Sturry Link Road, Canterbury**  
(Item 13)

*Richard Shelton (Major Capital Programme Project Manager) was in attendance for this item.*

- (1) Mr Shelton introduced the report which asked the Cabinet Committee to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member on a proposed decision to approve a revised outline scheme for the Sturry Link Road.
- (2) Mr Shelton said the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee had considered an initial overview of the scheme at its meeting in September 2015. He also said the design encompassed the entire link road but that KCC would deliver the section from the A28 over both arms of the Great Stour and railway to connect with a proposed new roundabout within the adjacent development site. The rest of the link would be delivered as part of the development of sites in Sturry and adjacent areas.
- (3) In response to questions and comments, Mr Balfour said that if there were any further significant changes to the proposed scheme Members would be advised. Mr Shelton said the developer had carried out a consultation in April in Sturry Village Hall and the outcome of that consultation would be used to inform the questions asked during the consultation to be carried out by KCC. He also said that: an off road cycling route would be provided throughout the scheme; the bus lane was being provided on the route into Canterbury as this was considered to be the most congested; modelling work had been done on



the junction; the views of residents would be sought about changes to the junction; and that he anticipated that journey times would improve when there was an alternative to the railway crossing.

- (4) Resolved that the Cabinet Committee endorsed the proposed decision of the Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport & Waste, to:
  - i) Give approval to the revised outline design scheme for the Sturry Link Road Drawing No. 430392/000/49 Rev 0;
  - ii) Delegate to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment & Transport, following consultation with the Cabinet Member, any further or other decisions as may be appropriate to deliver the Sturry Link Road scheme.

## **15. Country Parks Strategy**

*(Item 15)*

*Stephanie Holt (Head of Countryside, Leisure and Sport) and Tim Woodhouse (Country Parks and Countryside Partnerships Manager) were in attendance for this item*

- (1) Mr Hill (Cabinet member for Community and Regulatory Services) introduced the report which set out the context for and the draft of 2017-20121 Country Parks Strategy. He referred in particular to the success of the service in generating income equivalent to 74% of its direct costs compared with 40% in 2008-09 and to the exceptional customer satisfaction ratings. Mr Hill also paid tribute to the work done by the informal member board in developing the strategy.
- (2) Ms Holt said seven country parks had achieved Green Flag awards annually and referred to the customer satisfaction ratings.
- (3) Mr Woodhouse said the new strategy was supported by three strategic aims and ten objectives. He spoke in particular about Objective 5 which referred to working in partnership with the health sector to maximise the health benefits the parks bring to the community
- (4) Comments were made about the importance of making the country parks “bee-friendly” and about the absence of bridleways at some of the smaller parks.
- (5) Members supported the draft strategy and acknowledged the work done by the informal member board and officers in developing the strategy.
- (6) Resolved that:
  - (a) The draft Country Parks Strategy be endorsed;
  - (b) The proposed consultation process in Section 3 of the report be endorsed.

## **16. Medway Flood Partnership update**

*(Item 16)*

*Julie Foley (Environment Agency, Area Manager for Kent South London and East Sussex) and Max Tant (Flood and Water Manager) were in attendance for this item*

- (1) Mr Balfour (Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste) introduced the report which asked the Cabinet Committee to consider and endorse KCC's role on the Medway Flood Partnership. He also introduced Julie Foley from the Environment Agency.
- (2) Ms Foley gave a short presentation which is available on line as an appendix to these minutes. The Committee was generally supportive of the strategic and integrated approach being taken to mitigate the effects of flooding.
- (3) In response to questions Ms Ely outlined the methods used to warn the general public about flooding. She confirmed that all funding had been secured for the Leigh Storage Scheme, the design phase was underway and construction would start by 2020.
- (4) Mr Tant provided information about plans for property protection resilience to minimise the impact of low level flooding and to enable people to return home more quickly following a flood as well as the development of local flood barriers to protect homes where flooding could not be mitigated at the property level.
- (5) Mr Balfour thanked Ms Ely for her presentation.
- (6) Resolved that KCC's role on the Medway Flood Partnership be endorsed.

## **17. Air Quality**

*(Item 17)*

*Carolyn McKenzie (Head of Sustainable Business and Communities) and Tim Read (Head of Transportation) were in attendance for this item*

- (1) Mr Balfour (Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste) said that air quality was rising up the government's agenda and that while KCC had little ability to directly influence air quality it was important to maximise its influence.
- (2) Ms McKenzie introduced the report. She said air pollution was estimated to be the largest environmental risk to public health and resulted in 40,000-50,000 early deaths annually. She also said that improving air quality had been identified as a key challenge within the Kent Environment Strategy which was being co-ordinated across the county by KCC. The report suggested a potential twofold approach for KCC that would focus on improving the data and evidence base for action, and developing targeted action in partnership with public sector partners through the production of a Low Emission Strategy.
- (3) Members welcomed the report. Comments were made about the importance of data and monitoring, using data to drive actions, the desirability of involving the University of Kent, particularly Professor Stephen Peckham and his team

who were developing new ways of monitoring air quality; and the increase in air pollution as a result of traffic calming and urban congestion. It was also suggested that Kent should aim to be the forerunner for air quality nationally and should ask the manufacturers of HGVs to use “start – stop” technology as standard in all vehicles.

- (4) Mr Read said that making “start-stop” technology a requirement in the contract specification would increase the cost of KCC’s contracts for bus services. He also said that most buses were already using eco-friendly technology by being hybrids.
- (5) Members suggested that reports on air quality monitoring and actions be included as part of the district briefings.
- (6) In response to a question, Ms McKenzie said the Kent Air website included data from districts that had bought into the air contract system. She also undertook to provide information about the location of air quality monitoring stations in Dartford to Mr Ozog.
- (7) Resolved that:
  - (a) The recommended approach and the actions outlined in Section 4 of the report and specifically the production of a Kent Low Emissions Strategy be endorsed;
  - (b) Members be involved and that a Member Information Briefing be arranged.

**18. 17/00063 - Ashford District Deal - Review and Refresh**  
(Item 18)

*Katie Stewart (Director of Environment, Planning and Enforcement) and Katie Chantler (Programme Manager – Infrastructure) were in attendance for this item*

- (1) Mrs Cooper (Corporate Director of Growth Environment and Transport introduced the item. She said it was an excellent example of joint working and provided a template for future two-tier working.
- (2) Ms Stewart said the original Ashford District Deal had been signed in 2015 and at that time it had been considered by both the Environment and Transport and Growth Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committees. She said the proposed decision would be considered by the Growth Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 21 June 2017.
- (3) Miss Chantler drew Members’ attention to Conningbrook Lakes Country Park and the Newtown Works development which were new projects in the refreshed deal.
- (4) Mrs Bell said that Ashford Borough Council valued the arrangement and referred in particular to the governance arrangements that were set out in the report.

- (5) Resolved that the proposed decision of the Cabinet Member to enter into the refreshed deal with Ashford Borough Council as set out in the report be endorsed.

## **19. Work Programme 2017/18**

*(Item 19)*

Resolved that the work programme for 2017/18 be agreed.

## **20. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

*(Item )*

Resolved that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

## **21. 17/00064 Renewal of contracts for post mortems**

*(Item 20)*

*Katie Stewart (Director Environment, Planning and Enforcement) and Mike Overbeke (Group Head - Public Protection were in attendance for this item.*

- (1) Mr Hill (Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Affairs) introduced the report which asked the Cabinet Committee to consider and endorse or make recommendations on a proposed decision to award a four-year contract for post-mortems for the Mid Kent and Medway Coroner area to Medway NHS Trust for the period 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2021.
- (2) Mr Overbeke said that Kent County Council was responsible for meeting all the costs of the coroner service within its area; there were no other providers with sufficient capacity in Kent or nearby to provide the service and that the best option was to renew the contract through a single source tender.
- (3) He also answered Members' questions about the number of post mortems carried out and the service provided out of hours.
- (4) Resolved that the proposed decision of the Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services to award a four year contract for Post Mortems for the Mid Kent & Medway coroner area to Medway NHS Trust for the period 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2021 be endorsed.

## **22. 17/00048 - Technical & Environmental Services Contract**

*(Item 21)*

*Tim Read (Head of Transportation) and Roger Wilkin (Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste) were in attendance for this item*

- (1) Mr Balfour (Cabinet Member for Planning Highways, Transport and Waste) introduced the report which asked the Cabinet Committee to consider and endorse or make recommendations on a proposed decision to provide the Director of Highways Transportation & Waste the delegated authority to enter

into appropriate contractual arrangements for the provision of technical and environmental professional services.

- (2) Mr Read answered Members' question on the proposed decision.
- (3) Resolved that the proposed decision of the Cabinet Member to provide the Director of Highways Transportation and Waste delegated authority to enter into appropriate contractual arrangements for the provision of professional, technical and environmental services in accordance with the expectations set out in the report, be endorsed.

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# Medway catchment update

## Kent County Council Planning, Highways, Transport & Waste Cabinet Committee

Julie Foley, Area Manger

Kent, South London & East Sussex

15<sup>th</sup> June 2017

# Background



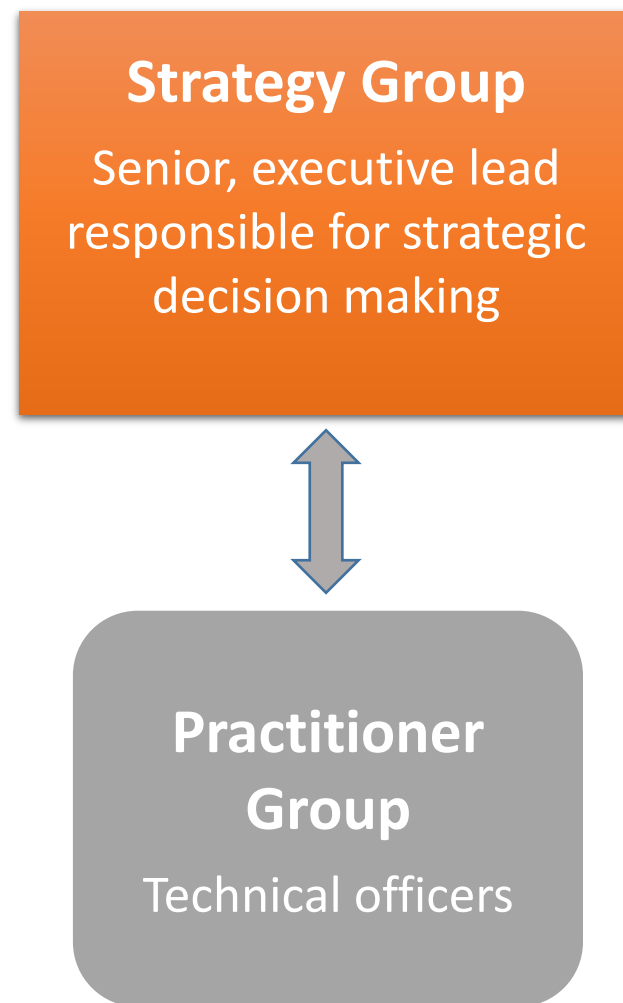
- The River Medway catchment has over 3,000 properties at risk of flooding
- There are 17 flood warning areas and 17,016 users registered for flood alerts
- The most recent widespread flooding occurred in winter 2013/14, flooding 938 properties
- The Environment Agency has the 'strategic overview' of flood risk
- Lead Local Flood Authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, water companies and landowners also have responsibilities for flood risk management



# Why create a Medway Flood Partnership?

- We all have a role to play in managing the risk of flooding and helping homes and businesses be better prepared for flooding
- It is a complex problem that can only be solved by working in partnership
- Communities have high expectations and want to see coordinated action
- The Medway Flood Partnership is bringing together the work of all organisations acting to reduce flood risk in the catchment
- Announced in Parliament in November 2016 – sponsored by Tom Tugendhat MP

Page 17



# Partnership benefits

We have already:

- Developed a **better understanding** of each other's organisational priorities and where these overlap
- Identified where we have **information and tools** we can share that help us all
- Identified opportunities for **joining up our activities** so we can deliver more for local communities

This will enable us to:

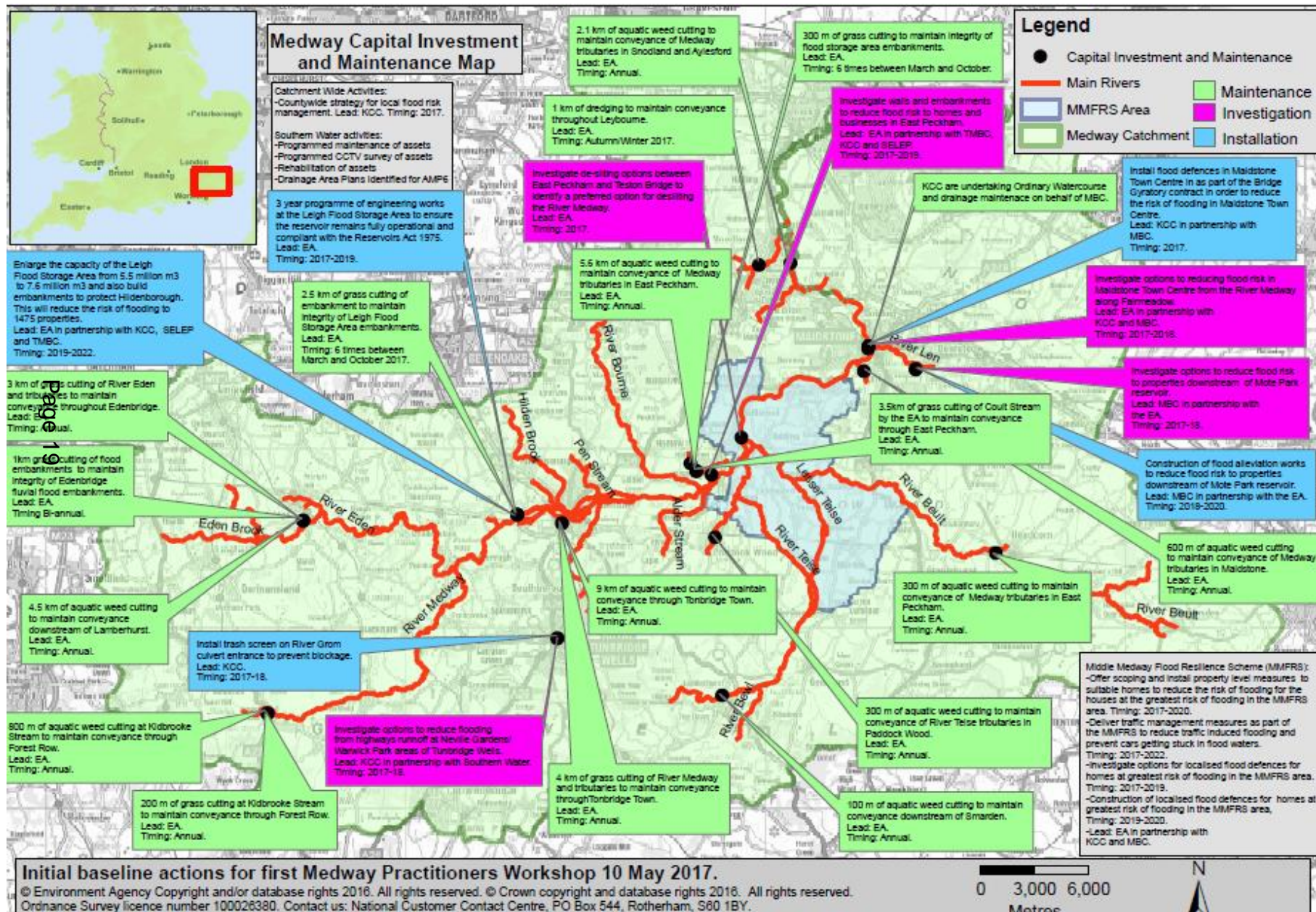
- Improve **communications and engagement** by adopting a joined up approach to engagement with communities, government and politicians
- **Broker strategic solutions** to problems identified through the partnership

Capital investment & maintenance

Natural Flood Management

Community resilience

# Developing the Medway Flood Action Plan



## Medway Capital Investment and Maintenance Map

**Catchment Wide Activities:**  
 -Countywide strategy for local flood risk management. Lead: KCC. Timing: 2017.

**Southern Water activities:**  
 -Programmed maintenance of assets  
 -Programmed CCTV survey of assets  
 -Rehabilitation of assets  
 -Drainage Area Plans identified for AMFE

3 year programme of engineering works at the Leigh Flood Storage Area to ensure the reservoir remains fully operational and compliant with the Reservoirs Act 1975. Lead: EA. Timing: 2017-2019.

Enlarge the capacity of the Leigh Flood Storage Area from 5.5 million m3 to 7.6 million m3 and also build embankments to protect Hildenborough. This will reduce the risk of flooding to 1475 properties. Lead: EA in partnership with KCC, SELEP and TMBC. Timing: 2019-2022.

3 km of grass cutting of River Eder and tributaries to maintain conveyance throughout Edenbridge. Lead: EA. Timing: Dual.

1km grass cutting of food embankments to maintain integrity of Edenbridge fluvial food embankments. Lead: EA. Timing: Bi-annual.

4.5 km of aquatic weed cutting to maintain conveyance downstream of Lambhurst. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

800 m of aquatic weed cutting at Kidbrooke Stream to maintain conveyance through Forest Row. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

300 m of grass cutting at Kidbrooke Stream to maintain conveyance through Forest Row. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

2.5 km of grass cutting of embankment to maintain integrity of Leigh Flood Storage Area embankments. Lead: EA. Timing: 5 times between March and October 2017.

2.1 km of aquatic weed cutting to maintain conveyance of Medway tributaries in Snodland and Aylesford. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

1 km of dredging to maintain conveyance throughout Leybourne. Lead: EA. Timing: Autumn/Winter 2017.

Investigate desilting options between East Peckham and Teston Bridge to identify a preferred option for desilting the River Medway. Lead: EA. Timing: 2017.

5.5 km of aquatic weed cutting to maintain conveyance of Medway tributaries in East Peckham. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

9 km of aquatic weed cutting to maintain conveyance through Tonbridge Town. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

4 km of grass cutting of River Medway and tributaries to maintain conveyance through Tonbridge Town. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

300 m of grass cutting to maintain integrity of flood storage area embankments. Lead: EA. Timing: 5 times between March and October.

Investigate walls and embankments to reduce flood risk to homes and businesses in East Peckham. Lead: EA in partnership with TMBC, KCC and SELEP. Timing: 2017-2019.

KCC are undertaking Ordinary Watercourse and drainage maintenance on behalf of MBC.

3.5km of grass cutting of Coult Stream by the EA to maintain conveyance through East Peckham. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

Investigate options to reduce flood risk to properties downstream of Mole Park reservoir. Lead: MBC in partnership with the EA. Timing: 2017-19.

Construction of flood alleviation works to reduce flood risk to properties downstream of Mole Park reservoir. Lead: MBC in partnership with the EA. Timing: 2019-2020.

600 m of aquatic weed cutting to maintain conveyance of Medway tributaries in Maidstone. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

300 m of aquatic weed cutting to maintain conveyance of Medway tributaries in East Peckham. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

300 m of aquatic weed cutting to maintain conveyance of River Teise tributaries in Paddock Wood. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

100 m of aquatic weed cutting to maintain conveyance downstream of Smarden. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

Install flood defences in Maidstone Town Centre as part of the Bridge Gyrotory contract in order to reduce the risk of flooding in Maidstone Town Centre. Lead: KCC in partnership with MBC. Timing: 2017.

Investigate options to reduce flood risk in Maidstone Town Centre from the River Medway along Farmmeadow. Lead: EA in partnership with KCC and MBC. Timing: 2017-2019.

Investigate options to reduce flood risk to properties downstream of Mole Park reservoir. Lead: MBC in partnership with the EA. Timing: 2017-19.

Construction of flood alleviation works to reduce flood risk to properties downstream of Mole Park reservoir. Lead: MBC in partnership with the EA. Timing: 2019-2020.

600 m of aquatic weed cutting to maintain conveyance of Medway tributaries in Maidstone. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

300 m of aquatic weed cutting to maintain conveyance of Medway tributaries in East Peckham. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

300 m of aquatic weed cutting to maintain conveyance of River Teise tributaries in Paddock Wood. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

100 m of aquatic weed cutting to maintain conveyance downstream of Smarden. Lead: EA. Timing: Annual.

**Middle Medway Flood Resilience Scheme (MMFRS):**  
 -Offer scoping and install property level measures to suitable homes to reduce the risk of flooding for the houses at the greatest risk of flooding in the MMFRS area. Timing: 2017-2020.  
 -Deliver traffic management measures as part of the MMFRS to reduce traffic induced flooding and prevent cars getting stuck in flood waters. Timing: 2017-2022.  
 -Investigate options for localised flood defences for homes at greatest risk of flooding in the MMFRS area. Timing: 2017-2019.  
 -Construction of localised flood defences for homes at greatest risk of flooding in the MMFRS area. Timing: 2019-2020.  
 -Lead: EA in partnership with KCC and MBC.





# Next steps

Develop a **shared action plan** for the next 5 years, and a 25 year vision for the future

Page 20

## Summer

- Draft short term actions (next 5 years)
- Draft 25 year vision and pathway to getting there
- July Strategic Group meeting



## Autumn

- Final draft action plan
- Agree monitoring & reporting process
- September Strategy Group meeting



## Dec 2017

- Publish Medway Flood Action Plan