

# Agenda

## Sheppey Area Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 6 June 2023

Time 7.00 pm

Venue: Warden Bay Village Hall, Warden Bay Road, Leysdown-on-Sea ME12 4NB\*

Membership:

Councillors Andy Booth, Hayden Brawn, Angela Harrison, Ken Ingleton (Chair), Elliott Jayes, Peter Marchington, Lee-Anne Moore, Pete Neal, Tara Noe, Tom Nundy, Ashley Shiel, Mark Tucker (Vice-Chair), Dolley White and Mike Whiting.

Quorum = 5

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Pages

### Information about this meeting

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- (b) Assemble outside where directed. Await instructions before re-entering the building.
- (c) Anyone who requires assistance in evacuating the building, should make themselves known during this agenda item.

## 2. Apologies for Absence

## 3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their families or friends.

The Chair will ask Members if they have any disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) or disclosable non-pecuniary interests (DNPIs) to declare in respect of items on the agenda. Members with a DPI in an item must leave the room for that item and may not participate in the debate or vote.

Aside from disclosable interests, where a fair-minded and informed observer would think there was a real possibility that a Member might be biased or predetermined on an item, the Member should declare this and leave the room while that item is considered.

Members who are in any doubt about interests, bias or predetermination should contact the monitoring officer for advice prior to the meeting.

## 4. Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 February 2023 (Minute Nos. 674 – 684) and the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 May 2023 (to follow) as correct records.

## 5. New Councillor Introductions

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|---|---------|
| 6. Matters arising from previous meetings | 5 - 12  |
| 7. Achievements Report                    | 13 - 32 |
| 8. Sheppey Area Committee Priorities      | 33 - 34 |
| 9. Public Forum                           |         |

10. Local issues to be raised
11. Matters referred to Area Committee by Service Committees
12. Matters referred to Service Committee Chairs for consideration

**Issued on Wednesday, 24 May 2023**

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**Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council,  
Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT**

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## Sheppey Area Committee meeting: 6 June 2023 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Progress on actions
1.	Coach Parking	Jenny Hurkett from the Criterion at Blue Town raised the matter of coach parking on the Isle of Sheppey.	This matter went to Community Committee on 1 March 2023 and it was agreed that a three-year trial be undertaken for providing chargeable coach parking in Minster. It was confirmed that the £35,000 required for preparation of the site for the coach park was available from the Kent Pool Economic Development Business Rates Reserve. However, the project does not yet have the staff resource allocated for delivery.
2.	Connectivity across Sheppey	A question was asked at the June 2021 meeting about transport issues on the Island. The Quality Bus Partnership has been suspended while Kent County Council (KCC) look at how to set up an Enhanced Partnership which will replace the QBP.	The Chairman to consider how to take this forward when more is known about the new group.

		The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods advised that the KCC Enhanced Partnership was still being formed. It would oversee the Countywide bus improvement plan. KCC have still not received notification from the DFT that the indicative funding amount awarded will be confirmed. As such they are unable to start work on any initiatives that require funding.	
3.	Dumping of spoil on the Eastchurch shoreline	KCC Councillor Andy Booth asked if a report could be brought back to a future Sheppey Area Committee meeting providing details about the spoil that has been dumped on the Eastchurch shoreline. He said that it was important that the public were aware of what was happening. The Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods reported that a multi-agency group continue to explore possible options for action led by the Environment Agency.	The multi-agency group continue to collect evidence for action led by the Environment Agency.
4.	Coastal Policies Group	Councillor Peter MacDonald asked what progress had been made by the Coastal Policies Group regarding the change from no intervention on erosion to one of protection.  The Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods advised a meeting between stakeholders and officers to progress this matter had taken place. A formal working group of the South-East Coastal group will be formed. Following initial fact finding, a report will be taken to Environment Committee detailing the options available to the Council and residents.	No further progress on this due to resource and capacity issues.
5.	Queenborough Guildhall	The condition of Queenborough Guildhall was discussed at the Regeneration & Property Committee and it was resolved that the inclusion of Queenborough Guildhall in the recommended programme of Condition Surveys be supported by the Committee.  The minutes of the Extraordinary Regeneration & Property Committee meeting can be found on the website or via this <a href="#">Link</a> .	The Buildings Manager advised the condition survey carried out was for the 'joint' building of Guildhall and 44 High Street.

		<p>The condition survey was commented on as it referred to central heating when the Guildhall does not have it.</p>	<p>Although there is no heating in the Guildhall part, there is heating in the offices part of 44 High Street &amp; the museum.</p> <p>A new &amp; updated condition survey will be carried out and will include a defining split of the building.</p>
6.	Scrapsgate Field, Minster	<p>A group of horse owners requested the horse-riding ring at Scrapsgate Field, Minster be brought back into use and they were willing to contribute to the cost. The Head of Leisure and Environment advised that the support of the Sheppey Area Committee should be sought in the first instance, before taking the matter to the Environment Committee.</p> <p>The Director of Regeneration &amp; Neighbourhoods advised that officers will be discussing the matter with the Chair of the Environment Committee as to if and when this is put on the agenda to consider.</p>	<p>The matter was taken to the Environment Committee on 2 March 2023 and regular grass cutting for an informal horse-riding area on Scrapsgate Field, along with reducing maintenance elsewhere on the site was agreed. The Head of Environment and Leisure, in consultation with the Environment Committee Chair, will review the</p>

			arrangements after a year to ensure the operational success and health and safety of the changes.
7.	New Road Play Park, Minster-on-Sea	<p>At the September 2022 meeting members agreed a bid of £20,000.00 submitted by Councillor Elliott Jayes for improvements to New Road Play Park, Minster-on-Sea.</p> <p>It has been agreed to leave all the existing play facilities in situ and look to integrate smaller pieces of equipment into the same area to provide different 'play values' than those already on site. An 'aerial runway' at the opposite end of the open space will be included as an additional 'option' when going out to design and tender.</p> <p>The Head of Environment and Leisure advised that he was confident the allocated funding for this project would be spent by May 2023.</p>	<p>A pre-start meeting with appointed contractors took place on 25 April 2023.</p> <p>Delivery of the equipment and site set-up is expected week commencing 29 May with installation taking place week commencing 5 June 2023.</p>
8.	Beach Hut proposal	<p>Further to the presentation of the beach huts proposal setting out SBC's intention to install a further 24 beach huts on the Isle of Sheppey. Concerns were raised about parking at Minster, the Head of Environment and Leisure said that officers would look into this further and report back.</p> <p>A meeting has since taken place with Leysdown Parish Council to try and alleviate concerns. Officers are working on amended proposals.</p> <p>As stated on the night, the problems of parking at Minster Leas are not solely as a result of beach huts and this first phase of 12 huts would not impact the situation.</p>	<p>A report is going to the next Regeneration and Property Committee with a new policy and summary of the consultation responses.</p>



9.	Trinity Road, Sheerness parking	Members of the public spoke about the problems residents were having with parking in Trinity Road, Sheerness, where they had to pay for parking permits. They also asked about Marine Parade Car Park which was free to park in but due to some of the vehicles permanently parked there, residents did not feel safe to use that car park. Currently there was no clarity about the rules and some residents had received penalty notices. The Head of Environment and Leisure confirmed that the local Ward Member had raised the issue with him and the residents could park in the Trinity Road Car Park whilst an investigation was carried out into the historic agreement. The penalty notices would be put on hold until the matter was resolved.	This matter went to the Community Committee on 1 March 2023 when it was resolved that those residents who lived in the affected properties at the time of the highway works in the year 2000, should be eligible for a parking permit in the Trinity Road Car Park at all times and on all days of the week. It was also confirmed that all the incorrect fines issued would be cancelled. Residents in receipt of a parking permit have been written to and a deadline set for applications by 1 June 2023.
10.	CCTV camera Queenborough Causeway	A Member spoke about the CCTV camera that had been installed to deal with the anti-social behaviour and jet skis off Queenborough Causeway. He said that the camera had been taken down and as a result the jet skis had returned. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods said she would look into the matter.	The camera in Queenborough was a mobile one and due to very few incidents in recent months, and as there was such a

			low stock of them, it has been redeployed elsewhere. Should incidents of ASB/crime in the area increase after its removal, or as weather improves another deployment or possibly a permanent camera could be considered.
11.	Beachfields lights	A member of the public spoke about the lights at Beachfields Gardens, Sheerness, which were not coming on at night. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods agreed to look into this as it was a safety issue.	The Head of Environment & Leisure advised that the lights need repair works. They are in the next tranche of LED replacements in the project.
12.	Sheerness town centre	Regular updates have been given on the works to Masters' House, Old Library at 44 Trinity Road and the Levelling-Up Fund bid.	The Interim Head of Planning Services advised SBC have been awarded Levelling-Up Funding for the restoration of the studios to the rear of Master's House. Two LUF Programme delivery officers joined SBC in April, and contracting these

			works is a priority. Heads of Terms have been agreed for the operator for the main house and the studios, and the leaseholder should be moving in shortly.
13.	Active Travel update	At the February 2023 meeting, the Active Travel Co-ordinator gave an update on the Sheppey Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 proposals.	The Sheppey bid made it to the KCC shortlist but did not go through to the final submission to Active Travel England. The Active Travel Co-ordinator will give a verbal update on the next steps.

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<b>Sheppey Area Committee Meeting</b>	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>6 June 2023</b>
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Area Committees Achievements Report</b>
<b>EMT Lead</b>	<b>Larissa Reed, Chief Executive</b>
<b>Head of Service</b>	<b>Philip Sutcliffe, Communications &amp; Policy Manager</b>
<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Janet Dart, Policy &amp; Engagement Officer</b>
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>To note the report</b>

## **1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 To provide Councillors with a summary of the achievements of the four Area Committees since they were implemented in September 2020.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 One of the objectives of the administration, which was formed at Swale Borough Council (SBC) following the 2019 local elections, was to diffuse power among Members and improve public engagement in decision-making. The administration put in place arrangements to establish Area Committees in Swale in order to help meet this objective.
- 2.2 Membership includes all ward Members in the area and the Committees' boundaries are aligned with those of the wards it covers. Substitute Members are not permitted on Area Committees and only those councillors who are Members of SBC are able to take decisions.
- 2.3 However, public attendance and participation in the Area Committees is an important feature of them. The Council have incorporated provisions in the Constitution for there to be a session for members of the public or local organisations, including Parish and Town Councils, to propose items for future agendas for consideration by the Committees to ask relevant questions and make relevant comments to the Committee.
- 2.4 The purpose of the Area Committees is to enhance the quality of life and of Council services in the relevant area and to bring local insight to bear in Council decision-making. Their terms of reference are to:
- develop a work programme to enhance core services within the area and take a report to Council on an annual basis to provide an update on progress;
  - agree spending decisions in relation to specific funding allocated to Members of the Area Committee;

- provide area intelligence to the Policy and Resources Committee and Heads of Service, and assist with policy development on relevant matters; and
  - make recommendations to Full Council, Policy and Resources Committee or any Service Committee on issues in the Committee's area and respond to any other specific matter referred to it by Full Council, a Committee or a senior Council officer.
- 2.5 The first round of Area Committees took place in September 2020 and due to the Coronavirus pandemic legislation, the meetings took place remotely via Skype. This continued until restrictions were relaxed and the September 2021 round of meetings were the first to take place face-to-face in community/village halls. As remote attendance had proved to be popular with members of the public and Parish/Town Councils, a remote conference call device was purchased so that hybrid meetings could take place in external venues. This has been very effective and allows for wider engagement with people across the Borough, regardless of their accessibility needs, giving them the choice to participate either in person or remotely.
- 2.6 As mentioned in paragraph 2.4, each Area Committee was allocated funding which equated to each member receiving an identical amount. This was established in each Annual Council budget and to be allocated to projects in consultation and agreement with the Area Committee at large. When allocations were made during the first year 2020/21, there were some occasions where some Area Committee Members were not able to vote on funding decisions as they had declared an interest in one or more applications. Following this, an Area Committee Review Working Group was established which put together a recommended process to avoid the need for members to recuse themselves from voting. This process is set out in Appendix I. Eastern, Sittingbourne and Sheppey Area Committees decided to adopt this process, but Western Area Committee found it was not necessary for their approach to allocating funding.
- 2.7 Before each funding scheme was launched, the Area Committees set work programmes where priorities were agreed on how funding should be allocated each year. The majority focussed on schemes that improved the appearance, environment and facilities of the areas along with contributing to Swale's strategic priorities. As local needs became apparent these priorities were refined to take into account the 'cost-of-living crisis' and how residents could be supported. Each Area Committee could support interventions that were most appropriate to the residents in their area. They were also able to bring forward planned projects within their areas by funding them so that residents could benefit from them sooner. Some examples are improvements to closed church yards, conservation area reviews and replacing street lighting.
- 2.8 A total of £534,000.00 was allocated by the four Area Committees over the period September 2020 to May 2023 to a wide variety of projects overseen by both external organisations and internally led projects managed by SBC. Appendix II lists all allocations made over the three years.

- 2.9 As part of the budget setting process for 2023/24, Members agreed at the Full Council Meeting in February 2023 measures to address the budget gap. This has resulted in funds no longer being available to allocate to the four Area Committees. Officers will work with Chairs and the new administration to develop a new approach to achieving Area Committee priorities without funding and where necessary amend the Terms of Reference in the SBC Constitution.

### **3 Achievements**

- 3.1 The Area Committees quickly established themselves as a mechanism for residents, Parish/Town Councils and community groups to bring matters to the attention of their Borough Councillors. Regular updates have been given about ongoing projects and residents, Parish/Town Councils have been consulted on proposals within their area. Partner organisations such as Kent County Council (KCC), the Police and Southern Water, have attended meetings to discuss ongoing issues in the areas and also to consult on proposals they are considering.
- 3.2 Many of the Area Committee's achievements so far have been as a result of Members, Parish/Town Councils and members of the public identifying issues within the area which needed escalating, with a view to resolving, either with SBC or partner organisations. Some examples of these are listed below:

#### ***Eastern Area Committee***

- 3.3 Highlighting the importance of defibrillators in public places being maintained and registered on relevant databases.
- 3.4 Specific anti-social behaviour problems were brought to the attention of the Police and the SBC Community Safety Unit to be monitored with a view to determining what wider action could be taken.
- 3.5 Tackling the increasing incidence of flooding in the Faversham area by involving the local MP Helen Whately who set up meetings with relevant agencies to identify an action plan. The Area Committee also liaised with KCC, Southern Water and officers at SBC to ensure that plans were put in place to resolve this issue.
- 3.6 The problems resulting from a change in the KCC travel provider for pupils with special educational needs were raised with the KCC Cabinet Member.
- 3.7 The lengthy waiting lists for families and children awaiting diagnosis for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism was raised with the KCC Cabinet Member.

### ***Sheppey Area Committee***

- 3.8 The issue of lack of coach parking on the Isle of Sheppey was raised and taken to the Community Committee where a three-year trial for chargeable coach parking in Minster was agreed.
- 3.9 The condition of the Queenborough Guildhall was brought to the attention of the Extraordinary Regeneration & Property Committee. A condition survey was recommended and carried out.
- 3.10 A group of horse owners requested the horse-riding ring at Scrapsgate Field, Minster be brought back into use. This matter was considered by the Environment Committee and it was agreed that regular grass cutting for an informal horse-riding area on Scrapsgate Field, along with reducing maintenance elsewhere on the site would take place. The success will be reviewed after a year.
- 3.11 Problems residents were having with parking in Trinity Road were resolved after they were raised at an Area Committee meeting.
- 3.12 The state of Blue Town was raised and the issues were addressed by the relevant SBC teams.
- 3.13 A site meeting with SBC, the Parish Council and the Environment Committee was arranged to look into flooding issues at Warden. Actions were agreed to clear the channel next to the village hall of overgrowth.

### ***Sittingbourne Area Committee***

- 3.14 Improvements to lighting in the Milton Regis town are being investigated.
- 3.15 Actions were put in place to brighten up the Roman Square and square opposite Swale House.
- 3.16 Safety concerns about ponds in Swale were raised with the Kent Fire and Rescue Service which have been escalated to their Education/Safety team to see what education programmes can be put in place in schools.
- 3.17 Residents raised an ongoing issue of vandalism taking place in the alleyway to the rear of their houses. SBC are continuing to work towards a Public Space protection Order to gate the alleyway.
- 3.18 Potential improvements to bus services in Sittingbourne are regularly discussed and local bus companies have been invited to a future meeting.
- 3.19 Difficulties connected to engagement with the Police were raised due to the Sittingbourne area being unparished. The Community Committee appointed two Members to sit on the Swale Community Safety Partnership, both are members



of Sittingbourne Area Committee and can raise strategic issues through that mechanism.

- 3.20 Problems with e-scooters were highlighted and reported to the Police.

### ***Western Area Committee***

- 3.21 The increased incidence of flooding in rural areas due to changing weather patterns was raised and subsequently discussed by the Environment Committee. It was agreed that the Chair of the Environment Committee would write to the Government to ask that a funding package was needed to deal with the issue.
- 3.22 The impact on surrounding roads/villages due to the improvement works at the Stockbury roundabout (M2 Junction 5) was raised. The Chair is gathering details about the impact with a view to write to KCC, the Police and Highways England.
- 3.23 A resident raised an issue about reduced funding for bus services and how this impacted residents living in villages. The Chair of the Western Area Committee wrote to the KCC Cabinet member for Highways and Transport who replied to explain the financial situation following budget cuts and to advise that funding has been made available to support Parish Councils and other Community groups if they want to find local solutions to transport needs in their area.
- 3.24 Following a matter raised by a Member, the Chair of the Western Area Committee wrote letters to Medway Council and KCC highlighting the implications of implementing the proposal to prohibit HGV's on the A2. Medway Council responded to say they would take the Committee's comments into account and KCC responded clarifying their position.
- 3.25 A Member raised concerns about the run-down state of the Western Area, highlighting footpaths, litter in hedgerows and road signs as particular issues. The issues were escalated to the partner organisations and SBC teams responsible who took action to resolve the issues.

## **4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

- 4.1 As this report is for noting there are no alternative options to be considered.

## **5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed**

- 5.1 The four Area Committee Chairs were consulted when preparing this report.

## **6 Implications**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Implications</b>
Corporate Plan	The achievements of the Area Committees support the Corporate Plan priority “ <i>Renewing local democracy and making the Council fit for the future</i> ”.
Financial, Resource and Property	This report is for noting but the funding awarded to the Area Committees since 2020 has been allocated and spent in line with the Terms of Reference as set out in paragraph 2.5.5 of the Constitution.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	None identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this stage.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	The implementation of hybrid meetings held in community venues ensures that people with varying needs are able to attend and participate in a way that is most suitable for them.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

## **7 Appendices**

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Area Committees funding process
- Appendix II: Area Committees funding allocations 2020-2023

## **8 Background Papers**

There are no background papers.

## Recommended processes for the operation of Area Committees

### Introduction:

After the first year of the Area Committee meetings taking place, the Area Committee Review Working Group were tasked with considering how the meetings went, looking at what went well and what improvements were required. This paper sets out their recommendations on the operation of Area Committees funding.

### Funding:

Area Committees are among the few committees in the Council which are quasi-executive which means they have the power to make decisions that could involve allocating funds. The decisions must be taken openly, impartially, with sound judgement and for justifiable reasons.

It is therefore very important that a robust process is established and adhered to ensure transparency, as well as to obviate issues of apparent bias which can arise when committee members are also involved in organisations bidding for funding.

To enable this there needs to be an element of impartial officer assessment. However, it is important to ensure that outcomes of decisions on what are and are not funded sit squarely with members.

This can be achieved using a three-stage process in which members decide on outcomes but not on individual applications. The table below sets out a proposed process:

Stage 1	<p>At the March meeting, members agree a short list of priorities they want to support in the forthcoming funding year, as a means of inviting bids.</p> <p>The Committee may decide to use the funding exclusively for a proactive theme/ambition or open the scheme up for external organisations to make bids or a combination of the two.</p> <p>Priorities need to be detailed enough to enable officers to evaluate bids against priorities without officers needing to exercise much or any decision-making authority beyond a technical assessment of the contribution each bid would</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application forms and guidance notes should make it clear what the required priorities are.</li> <li>• The full details of the funding priorities, to be publicised in the form of direct emails to organisations known by Swale Borough Council (SBC), press releases and internal member updates.</li> <li>• A deadline will be set for getting applications in for each round of meetings and this must be adhered to so that the checking process can take place. Bids presented on the night will not be accepted as they will not have gone through the three-stage process.</li> </ul>
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	make to the priority relative to other bids.	
Stage 2	<p>Officers to carry out an assessment of bids against the criteria established by members and using a methodology previously agreed by members.</p> <p>Committee members will have the opportunity to challenge the scoring before the options report is finalised.</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Policy &amp; Engagement Officer (PEO) to check that the form has been correctly completed and supporting quotes attached.</li> <li>• PEO to pass to the relevant officer/head of service to check that there is no cross over with other work being carried out by SBC or other organisations. Also, to check that there are no SBC financial/officer resource implications. Comments to be fed back to the PEO by an agreed deadline.</li> <li>• On the close of the application period, PEO to compile a report and pass to 3 impartial officers to carry out scoring process against the priorities.</li> <li>• The outcome of the scoring will be passed to Committee members to give them the opportunity to challenge the scores. Any challenges will go through a review process carried out by the PEO and one officer not involved in the scoring process.</li> </ul>
Stage 3	<p>Once any review has been completed the final report will be presented to members at the December meeting and voted on en-bloc.</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A report prepared by the PEO setting out the results of the assessment of the bids to be published with the agenda 5 clear working days before the meeting.</li> <li>• Officers will recommend options to vote on, these will depend on numbers of applications received but an example is set out below:</li> </ul>

		<p><i>Option 1 – the four top scoring applications receiving 100% of their bid.</i></p> <p><i>Option 2 – the six top scoring applications receiving 80% of their bid.</i></p>
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In addition to a clearly articulated and transparent process for determining individual bids in any given year, there is also a need for a general set of pass/fail criteria to be applied to all bids in any year, in order to ensure that only bids which meet the general intentions of the funding go forward for assessment. These criteria need to be agreed by members but should include both general restrictions on the type of activities which can be funded and any more specific exclusions such as ensuring organisations or activities are not double funded from council budgets.

Ideally there should be one set of guidance notes and one application form which will cover the general criteria and also include separate sections for the individual Area Committees priorities.

The principle aim is to prioritise external agencies for funding that deliver something in the area boundary, however each Area Committee during stage 1 of the process will decide if it will accept internal bids from members for funding.

The only realistic alternative to a system such as this, should members want to be able to vote on individual bids, is that any member with an interest which could give them an apparent bias, will have to recuse themselves from all such votes. In addition to unnecessarily disenfranchising members, this also runs the risk that meetings becoming inquorate for these agenda items.

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### Area Committee funding allocations summary report - September 2020 to May 2023

Below is a summary of the funding allocated by each Area Committee covering the period from their inaugural meeting in September 2020 up until the end of the electoral cycle in May 2023.

#### Western Area Committee – funding allocation over three years - £114,000.00

Applicant:	Project description:	Date approved by Area Committee:	Funding awarded:
Upchurch Parish Council	Replace fencing around Upchurch Recreation Ground	01/12/2020	£4,655.00
Newington Parish Council	Refurbish the car park and track at Newington Recreation Ground	01/12/2020	£4,000.00
Wyvern Heritage & Landscape	Conservation Area Reviews for Milstead, Rodmersham Green and Tunstall	01/12/2020	£6,270.00
Hartlip Parish Council	Installation of Kissing Gate on the Parkland, Lower Road, Hartlip to allow resident access	02/03/2021	£1,030.80
Sittingbourne in Bloom	Sensory garden refurb at King George V Playing Field	02/03/2021	£7,085.41
Member bid - Cllr Sarah Stephen	Walking & Cycling Routes project to commission a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP) for South-West Swale and its surrounding area	02/03/2021	£13,000.00
Member bid - Cllr James Hunt	Drafting of Woodland Management Plans and Work Plans for Rose Hill Woods and The Meads Community Woodland. To provide funding to Friends Groups set up to carry out some of the recommendations in the Work Plans for Rose Hill Woods and the Meads Community Woodland	02/03/2021	£2,758.79
Iwade at the Barn	Timber storage shed to be erected adjacent to Iwade Barn. This will allow the hire space to be clear of unused equipment and allow different types of equipment to be	01/03/2022	£5,000.00

	stored away from other items thus allowing for greater flexibility to types of hiring.		
Newington History Group	Design, print & install 3 lecturn frame interpretation boards on footpaths at key points south of the A2 to attract walkers and visitors to the unique historic remains of military defences built to protect London had the Axis powers invaded in World War I	01/03/2022	£4,041.00
Borden Parish Council	Install fencing to boundary of Nature Reserve	01/03/2022	£9,546.75
Newington Parish Council	To improve and add to the adult gym equipment at the recreation ground	01/03/2022	£9,546.75
Upchurch Parish Council	Installation of nature trail equipment in The Paddock at the Children's play area	01/03/2022	£2,349.50
Member bid – Cllr Mike Baldock	Bringing forward lower priority improvement works in closed churchyards sites within the Western Area Committee Area	01/03/2022	£9,516.00
Brogdale CIC	A youth provision activity carried out by VIBE project workers	01/09/2022	£6,930.00
Member bid – Cllr Mike Baldock	Hartlip and Bredgar Conservation Area Reviews	01/09/2022	£8,400.00
Member bid – Cllr Sarah Stephen	Refurbishment of the public toilet at the King George V Playing Field in Sittingbourne	01/09/2022	£5,054.00
Swale Foodbank	Donation to the foodbank to benefit the residents in the Western area	01/09/2022	£5,000.00
Swale Bus Shelter Foodbank	Donation to the foodbank to benefit the residents in the Western area	01/09/2022	£5,000.00
Kent Tree and Pond Wardens	Donation to provide equipment to assist the pond wardens with their work	01/12/2022	£292.87
Children & Families, Swale	Donation to the Fuel and Water Home Advisor Service to provide energy efficient packs to assist households in the Western area to reduce their use of energy and associated costs	01/12/2022	£4,523.13



**Sittingbourne Area Committee – funding allocation over three years - £125,000.00**

Applicant:	Project description:	Date approved by Area Committee:	Funding awarded:
Swale Media Arts Centre	Internal/External improvements to 34 High Street.	09/03/2021	£7,000.00
Brogdale CIC	Mill Skate park – purchase and installation of signage, benches and bins.	09/03/2021	£2,330.26
Milton Creek Country Park Trust	Purchase of additional park furniture at Milton Creek Country Park.	09/03/2021	£8,313.00
Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway	Signage at entrance to assist visitors to the heritage steam railway to find their way from the carpark to the station.	09/03/2021	£870.74
Kemsley Community Centre Trust	Replacement entrance and fire exit doors at Kemsley Community Hall	09/03/2021	£10,555.56
Member bid - Cllr James Hall	Flowers in Bloom – to fit flower beds in Murston Ward.	09/03/2021	£4,000.00
Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum	To provide a proper installation of electrical power to the wharf and workshop area via underground cabling and secured metal boxes.	09/03/2021	£4,537.20
Sailing Barge Raybel	To replace the Raybel bitt heads and diesel pump.	09/03/2021	£4,000.00
Member bid – Cllrs Davey and Winckless	Milton Rec Tennis Courts - to resurrect the floodlighting, separating the electricity and installing external switching	09/03/2021	£2,393.24
New Leaf Support	Continue with Healing together programme	01/02/2022	£3,080.00
Sittingbourne in Bloom (work to be carried out by SBC)	Improvements to Milton Regis High Street	01/02/2022	£9,649.25
Raybel Charters	Milton Creek navigation feasibility study proposal	01/02/2022	£12,000.00

Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway	Replacement firebox for the locomotive 'Superb' to comply with legal/safety requirements	01/02/2022	£8,170.00
Sittingbourne in Bloom	Installation of two signs on the wall in front of the library. Due to lack of funds to complete this project the Area Committee agreed to transfer the funding to the Milton Regis town sign project, which was underfunded.	01/02/2022	£568.80
Sittingbourne in Bloom (work to be carried out by SBC)	Replace damaged rail and bollard at Milton High Street	01/02/2022	£893.28
SATEDA	Provide a combined health and domestic response in Sittingbourne through the Iris initiative	08/03/2022	£2,994.55
Milton Creek Country Park Trust	Provide a community hub for Milton Creek Country Park	08/03/2022	£2,955.15
Diversity House	Three months pilot project aims to tackle Biodiversity and environmental topics	08/03/2022	£2,697.82
New Leaf Support	Support & Sing project with New Leaf	08/03/2022	£989.97
Youth Resilience UK CIC	Delivery of 1-1 support for young people in Swale schools	06/09/2022	£749.33
Diversity House	Happy to chat project – bench and ramp	06/09/2022	£4,111.71
Sittingbourne Community Radio	Continued delivery of radio service to the local community	06/09/2022	£3,386.39
Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum	Purchase of chairs and tables	06/09/2022	£943.58
Milton Creek Country Park Trust	Space in the Park – install trench for power and water supply	06/09/2022	£4,323.06
New Leaf Support	Activity days	06/09/2022	£3,158.24
Kemsley Community Centre Trust	Replace boilers	06/09/2022	£2,040.48
Ellie's Angels	Enhancements to Better-U app	06/09/2022	£1,921.36

Milton Regis Society	Improvements to Milton Regis town	06/09/2022	£3,841.71
Member bid – Cllr James Hall	Great Easthall shop feasibility work	06/09/2022	£1,921.36
Swale Media Arts Centre	Set up Visitor Information Centre at its premises at 34 High Street, Sittingbourne	06/09/2022	£4,338.43
Sittingbourne Christmas Lights & Sleigh Rounds	Purchase of new LED garland lights for Sittingbourne High Street.	06/09/2022	£1,556.30
Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway Ltd	Disabled/wheelchair accessible platform at SKLR Sittingbourne Viaduct Station	06/09/2022	£2,785.97
Member bid – Cllr James Hall	Shrubbery and flowerbeds in Murston	06/09/2022	£1,921.36

**Sheppey Area Committee – funding allocation over three years - £159,000.00**

Applicant:	Project description:	Date approved by Area Committee:	Funding awarded:
Queenborough Town Council	Queenborough Castle Site - Pye Play Park Access Path - installation of access paths	16/03/2021	£1,876.24
Teddy Bear Day Care Sheppey Ltd	Provision of a neuro-linguistic programming practitioner and wellbeing garden at the centre	16/03/2021	£7,000.00
Leysdown Parish Council	Contribution towards three CCTV cameras in Leysdown for the benefit of local residents to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime in Leysdown	16/03/2021	£6,092.40
Member bid - Cllr Cameron Beart	Reinstatement and extension of width of public footpath PROWZB50 between Stanley Avenue, Queenborough and Neats Court Retail Park	16/03/2021	£29,690.72
Member bid - Cllr Elliott Jayes	The provision of solar panels for Thistle Hill Community Centre	16/03/2021	£5,000.00
Member bid - Cllr Elliott Jayes	The Glen, Minster-on-Sea's village green improvements - replacement of the current benches and picnic tables	16/03/2021	£4,496.04
Member bid - Cllr Elliott Jayes	Thistle Hill Improvements - additional bins and dog waste bag dispensers	16/03/2021	£1,844.60
Warden Bay Playgroup	Resurface playgroup play area as current surface was unsafe	30/11/2021	£3,010.56
Sheppey District Scouts	Contribution to complete repairs to the Sheppey District Scout Hut	30/11/2021	£1,550.00
Queenborough Town Community Centre Ltd	Repairs and replacement flooring at the Castle Connections community hub	30/11/2021	£9,000.00
Member bid - Cllr Harrison	Installation of benches in shelters overlooking the gardens by the Sheerness leisure centre.	30/11/2021	£1,400.00
The Sheppey War Memorial Trust	Extend the Sheppey War Memorial wall to accommodate the names of all those from Sheppey who lost their lives in the two World Wars	30/11/2021	£21,464.00

Member bid Cllr Jayes	Repaint the Whitehouse toilet building	30/11/2021	£2,500.00
Blue Town Remembered	To contribute to the installation of a lift to provide disabled access to all floors of the Blue Town Remembered centre	30/11/2021	£2,000.00
Teddy Bear Day care Sheppey	To contribute to the replacement of the ceiling at the Centre to reduce heat loss and make the building more environmentally friendly and carbon neutral	30/11/2021	£2,798.00
Sheppey Heritage Trust for Eastchurch Aviation Museum	To provide an extension to existing Eastchurch Aviation Museum to provide new facilities and additional exhibition space	30/11/2021	£4,228.70
Member bid - Cllrs Eakin and Harrison	To contribute to the Sheerness Promenade replacement lighting project	15/03/2022	£8,048.74
Youth Resilience UK CIC	Delivery of 1-1 support for young people in Swale schools	22/09/2022	£1,560.00
Sheppey Matters	Sheppey Tourist Information Centre support	22/09/2022	£6,585.42
Queenborough Town Community Centre Ltd	Bump, Baby and Beyond community project	22/09/2022	£5,045.00
Song Signing	Starting a new community group in Eastern Sheppey	22/09/2022	£3,936.00
Member bid – Cllr Elliott Jayes	New Road Play Park, Minster-on-Sea improvements	22/09/2022	£20,000.00
Queenborough Town Council	Queenborough Railway Station Building Mural	22/09/2022	£1,285.68
Warden Parish Council	Replacement flooring in village hall	06/12/2022	£4,322.70
Curly's Farm	Extra staff resource for 'outpost' learning base	06/12/2022	£2,075.00
Friendly Faces of Kent	Warm hub funding for Rushenden	06/12/2022	£2,190.20

**Eastern Area Committee – funding allocation over three years - £136,000.00**

Applicant:	Project description:	Date approved by Area Committee:	Funding awarded:
Doddington Allotment Association	Replacement noticeboard and gates at Doddington allotments	17/12/2020	£837.00
Boughton under Blean	Install an outdoor gym at Bull Lane for residents and visitors of all ages to use free of charge	18/03/2021	£14,663.00
Gem72 – Faversham & Surrounding Area (St Mary of Charity)	Mobile youth project to engage with young people in local neighbourhoods	18/03/2021	£10,000.00
Abbey Physic Community Garden	To repair and refurbish an area near the APCG entrance that wraps around the front of the cabin using composite decking	18/03/2021	£5,000.00
Faversham Town Council	Parishes to Town Project to benefit all local residents by identifying good walking and cycling routes linking Faversham and neighbouring communities and producing a report with recommendations for a series of interventions to make walking and cycling on those routes easier and safer	18/03/2021	£12,500.00
Oare Parish Council	To contribute towards the regeneration and rewilding of the village	18/03/2021	£5,000.00
Green Cube CIC	Flowering up Teynham village project – to create a brighter, cleaner and greener environment for all of the local community	03/02/2022	£2,870.00
Member bid - Cllrs Gould, Saunders & Whiting	To carry out a public consultation on local bus services, the results to be used to influence KCC and local bus companies in renewing and developing local bus services	03/02/2022	£10,000.00
Doddington Parish Council	To contribute towards Wicksteed Simba toddler multiplay at the playing field	03/02/2022	£5,000.00
Faversham Town Council	To contribute towards the Swale Eastern Area Park and Pedal Project – an e-bike hire scheme	03/02/2022	£7,796.00

Faversham Town Council	To contribute to bike hanger supply and installation to provide secure cycle storage for individuals who live or work in the town centre with no space to securely store a bike within their building	03/02/2022	£7,580.00
Faversham Swimming Pools Management Committee Ltd	To purchase and install a new, energy-saving pool pump at Faversham Pools	22/03/2022	£8,670.00
Friends of Oare Gunpowder Works	To engage a specialist contract to restore the Leat system	22/03/2022	£4,800.00
Painters Forstal Community Association	Painters Forstal - cycle destination project to install bicycle racks and information boards at the community hall	22/03/2022	£1,266.37
Youth Resilience UK CIC	Delivery of 1-1 support for young people in Swale schools	22/09/2022	£1,560.00
West Faversham Community Association	Youth project	22/09/2022	£4,000.00
Faversham Swimming Pools	Replace lockers	22/09/2022	£10,000.00
Swale Friends of the Earth	"Lovely World" exhibition	22/09/2022	£1,233.00
Teynham Parish Council	CCTV system, Teynham	22/09/2022	£5,444.00
Oare Village Hall	Repairs to Oare Village Hall	22/09/2022	£5,000.00
Friendly Faces of Kent	Warm hub funding for Teynham	15/12/2022	£1,051.66
Painters Forstal Community Association	Painters Forstal – community hunger heroes project	15/12/2022	£533.79
Faversham Umbrella	Joint bid offering support in the community as part of the response to the cost-of-living crisis	15/12/2022	£4,393.44
Teynham Parish Council	Heat, light & power for the Teynham Warm Bank	15/12/2022	£138.38

Abbey Physic Community Garden	Supporting food resilience in the community	15/12/2022	£1,937.27
Faversham Salvation Army	Community Wardrobe	15/12/2022	£397.83
Brogdale CIC	Project working with vulnerable families	15/12/2022	£4,310.41



## **Sheppey Area Committee Priorities**

This discussion paper follows on from the previous item which reviewed the achievements of the Area Committees over the last three years.

As explained in that report, there is no longer funding available for Area Committees to allocate to support their priorities, however, Sheppey Area Committee can feed into and influence the corporate priorities and objectives that are relevant to their specific areas.

One of the first tasks for the new council will be create a corporate plan to set out what the council wants to achieve in the next four years. This will help make sure council resources are allocated in a coherent, accountable and effective way.

The current Corporate Plan priorities are:

- Building the right homes in the right places and supporting quality jobs for all;
- investing in our environment and responding positively to global challenges;
- tackling deprivation and creating equal opportunities for everyone; and
- renewing local democracy and making the council fit for the future.

Area Committees are being asked to have an input into the Corporate Plan at an early stage, by outlining their own aspirations for their individual areas, which will help inform the new Corporate Plan.

When considering what these aspirations should be, it is important to bear in mind the challenging budget position which is likely to continue over the next few years and the capacity of the organisation to deliver on them on top of previously agreed workloads.

The aspirations of the Area Committee could be issues that are the responsibility of Swale Borough Council to achieve, or things that are the responsibility of external organisations which we could try to influence. They could also be ambitions to work towards for the future.

### **Council Services:**

Examples of things that fall within the area of responsibility of Council services are:

- Identifying areas that would benefit from being prioritised for deep cleans;
- addressing problems that affect our open spaces; and
- working with the Swale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

### **External Services:**

Examples of things that fall within the area of responsibility of external partners are:

- Lobbying Kent County Council on matters such as education, youth provision and transport issues;

- lobbying the Government on the need for policy change specific to the needs of the borough;
- lobbying water companies and or/the Environment Agency on matters such as fresh water supply, waste water and flooding; and
- lobbying the Police on matters such as traffic management enforcement, rural crime or drug related crime.

**Activity:**

The Chair will invite those in attendance – including members of the public - to split into groups of 4 or 5 to talk about what is important for the Sheppey area and put a list of suggested priorities together. Ten minutes have been set aside for this task.

Please focus on answering the following questions:

1. What issues affect residents in your Ward that fall within the responsibility of Swale Borough Council?
2. What issues affect residents in your Ward that fall within the responsibility of an external partner?
3. What changes would you like to see that could improve the life of residents in the future?
4. What are the top three issues you would like to Area Committee to take forward in the coming year?

You will be provided with paper and pens to make a note of your suggestions, one person from your group will be asked to feed back at the end of this session.

Those attending remotely are invited to type their suggestions in the meeting 'chat'.

All suggestions will be collated and fed into the preparation of the Corporate Plan.

If anyone has further ideas after the meeting, please email them to [areacommittees@swale.gov.uk](mailto:areacommittees@swale.gov.uk)