

# Agenda

## Sheppey Area Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, 21 September 2023

Time 7.00 pm

Venue: The Criterion, 69 High Street, Blue Town, Sheerness ME12 1RW

Membership:

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

Quorum = 5

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Pages

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1. Election of Chair

## 2. Emergency Evacuation Procedure

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- (c) Anyone who requires assistance in evacuating the building, should make themselves known during this agenda item.

## 3. Apologies for Absence

## 4. 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.

## 5. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the meeting held on 6 June 2023 (Minute Nos. 64 – 74) as a correct record.

## 6. Engagement with Police

## 7. Levelling-Up Project update

## 8. Parking Policy

## 9. Corporate Plan update

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## 10. Matters arising from previous meetings

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## 11. Public Forum

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

**Issued on Monday, 11 September 2023**

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

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## **Area Committees - Corporate Plan update**

At the June 2023 round of Area Committee meetings, all those in attendance were asked to consider what were the priority issues for their Wards. These were to help inform the new Corporate Plan. Please see Appendix 1 for list of priorities suggested.

The Service Committee Chairs and their Vice-Chairs met on 11 July 2023 for a facilitated workshop, and on 3 August 2023 for a meeting with officers, to discuss their vision and ambition for the Borough and to consider what the priorities for the Council should be for the period 2023-2027.

Members agreed the following five proposed priorities and would like to hear Area Committees' comments before progressing further with work on the Corporate Plan:

### **Proposed Corporate Plan Priorities**

#### **Community:**

To enable our residents to live, work and enjoy their leisure time safely in our Borough; or  
Supporting and enabling our communities.

#### **Economy:**

Support a thriving economy; or  
Support the economy that helps businesses in a sustainable way; or  
Working with our businesses and charitable organisations to improve the economy.

#### **Environment:**

To prepare our Borough for the challenges ahead; or  
to provide a cleaner healthier more enjoyable environment.

#### **Health & Housing:**

Everyone to have access to a decent home and improved health and wellbeing

#### **Running the Council:**

To engage with communities and outside bodies to deliver our priorities in an open and efficient way, working within our resources.

The table below shows how the Corporate Plan proposed priorities take into account the themes put forward by Area Committees.

<b>Proposed Corporate Plan priority</b>	<b>Ambition</b>	<b>Themes arising from Area Committees:</b>
<b>Community</b>	To enable our residents to live, work and enjoy their leisure time safely in our Borough; or Supporting and enabling our communities.	Crime and Community issues
<b>Economy</b>	Support a thriving economy; or Support the economy that helps businesses in a sustainable way; or Working with our businesses and charitable organisations to improve the economy.	Employment, skills, tourism and Leisure
<b>Environment</b>	To prepare our Borough for the challenges ahead; or to provide a cleaner healthier more enjoyable environment.	Waste and environment issues including the cleaner/greener agenda
<b>Health &amp; Housing</b>	Everyone to have access to a decent home and improved health and wellbeing	Health provision in Swale Access to housing
<b>Running the Council</b>	To engage with communities and outside bodies to deliver our priorities in an open and efficient way, working within our resources.	Transport, roads, education, planning and utilities

### **Breakdown of Area Committee priorities by area and questions asked** - lists all priorities put forward by each Area Committee.

#### **Sheppey:**

##### **What issues affected residents in your Ward that fell within the responsibility of SBC?**

- Fly tipping including industrial waste;
- littering, more bins were needed (recycling and dog waste);
- use of CCTV and tackling anti-social behaviour especially in Queenborough and Thistle Hill, Minster;
- youth issues, addressing anti-social behaviour;
- the Planning application process, ensuring there was an opportunity for residents to respond;
- the cleaner and greener agenda; and
- refuse collection.

##### **What issues affected residents in your Ward that fell within the responsibility of external partners?**

- Education, Health and Care Plans for children with special educational needs;
- GP/health coverage across the Isle of Sheppey, in particular Leysdown;
- street-lighting;
- roads and transport links across the Isle of Sheppey;
- increased Police presence;
- employment;
- leisure;
- road safety including lack of routes for emergency services when roads are blocked by accidents;
- highway maintenance (potholes, drains);
- bus services, lack of services affected employment opportunities;
- cycle paths (new and improved existing);
- traffic calming/road humps;
- schools – lack of choice; and
- air quality affecting health – farmers burning plastics.

##### **What changes would you like to see that could improve the life of residents in the future?**

- Improved links from Lower Road to East Sheppey;
- improved transport links across the Isle of Sheppey;
- improved healthcare; and
- railings along Warden and Leysdown roads to protect pedestrians.

**What were the top three issues you would like the Area Committee to take forward in the coming year?**

- Transport;
- bus companies needed to improve services;
- youth/education;
- community maintenance (CCTV, lighting and roads);
- planning application process;
- healthcare, lack of services;
- environment;
- road safety; and
- providing an emergency access route to the eastern end of the Isle of Sheppey.

**Western:**

**What issues affected residents in your Ward that fell within the responsibility of SBC?**

- Transferring land assets to parish councils;
- promote rural tourism;
- fly-tipping, and litter;
- anti-social behaviour;
- parking/idling outside schools;
- planning – including input on the design of housing developments;
- grounds maintenance;
- landscaping SBC properties in the Western area;
- protection of conservation areas;
- social housing;
- air quality; and
- housing levels.

**What issues affected residents in your Ward that fell within the responsibility of external partners?**

- bus services – better provision to tackle isolation and loneliness;
- good schools in local areas, school places;
- speeding on roads;
- NHS, doctors, hospitals;
- maintenance companies on new developments;
- roads – potholes;
- pavements;
- water companies dealing with leaks;
- provision of high-speed Wi-Fi;
- local roads being used as ‘rat-runs’;
- youth services;
- lack of household waste collection centres;
- home to school transport;
- mis-use of quad-bikes;
- housing levels; and
- fly-tipping.



**What changes would you like to see that could improve the life of residents in the future?**

- Better air quality and environment;
- keep/protect green spaces;
- training and jobs – rural apprenticeships;
- education;
- health services;
- road safety and maintenance;
- Wi-Fi
- bus services;
- putting infrastructure in before building houses; and
- anti-social behaviour.

**What were the top three issues you would like the Area Committee to take forward in the coming year?**

- Buses;
- school placements;
- protection of countryside and wildlife;
- school parking/idling;
- highways – roads and pavements;
- health services;
- infrastructure to go in before building homes;
- fly-tipping, litter; and
- maintenance companies in new developments.

**Eastern:**

**What issues affected residents in your Ward that fell within the responsibility of SBC?**

- Planning;
- bins;
- litter;
- fly-tipping;
- graffiti;
- housing overcrowding;
- air quality;
- enforcement; and
- affordability of housing (social housing, social rent targets and self-build).

**What issues affected residents in your Ward that fell within the responsibility of external partners?**

- Anti-social behaviour;
- pot-holes;
- fly-tipping;
- air quality;
- flooding;

- public transport;
- climate change;
- loss of biodiversity;
- electric vehicle charging; and
- pushing back on the poor waiting lists for special educational needs provision.

**What changes would you like to see that could improve the life of residents in the future?**

- Better planning enforcement;
- improved public transport;
- youth provision;
- bring housing back into use;
- partnership working;
- air quality;
- water and sewage; and
- lobby government/passing things back up that were competing with our objectives.

**What were the top three issues you would like the Area Committee to take forward in the coming year?**

- Biodiversity gains through reduced mowing;
- recycling hub and centre for re-useable goods;
- better cross agency communication on travel and public transport to try to improve transport across the area;
- air quality;
- develop a problem solving approach to electric vehicle charging to be shared across our area;
- local discussions and input into Section 106 spending and finding a way for this to happen without the challenge of pre-determination;
- look into the possibility of area committees being able to crowd fund;
- look at how area committees could apply for external funding; and
- the Council to collate sources of external funding and disseminate to parish/town councils.

**Sittingbourne:**

**What issues affected residents in your Ward that fell within the responsibility of SBC?**

- Safety – use of closed circuit television (CCTV);
- speed limits – 20 mph;
- grass cutting;
- anti-social behaviour;
- parking;
- graffiti;
- vandalism;
- bins;
- parks and open spaces;

- homelessness;
- housing;
- fly tipping/litter;
- planting green spaces and grass cutting;
- parking particularly outside schools; and
- lack of toilets in Milton Recreation Ground.

**What issues affected residents in your Ward that fell within the responsibility of external partners?**

- Noise;
- pot holes;
- bus services;
- crime;
- school and school transport;
- GPs and health services;
- public transport;
- lack of bus service in Milton;
- leisure services;
- overgrown trees (bottom and top); and
- illegal use of e-scooters.

**What changes would you like to see that could improve the life of residents in the future?**

- Community Police, more police patrols;
- Swale road cleaning;
- heritage;
- improved situation for the homeless;
- empty shops, look to see if they could be used as a community asset;
- anti-social behaviour – use of CCTV;
- police community engagement; and
- more to do in Sittingbourne.

**What were the top three issues you would like the Area Committee to take forward in the coming year?**

- Increased CCTV;
- bins;
- pollution;
- anti-social behaviour including vandalism and policing, working with young people – constructive activities;
- tourism, leisure, hospitality and heritage offer – link together and provide information on attractions;
- bring rural element into the town, Milton Regis Country Park was an asset to the town;
- housing;
- employment;
- holistic approach to uniting the community (leisure, health, mental health services);
- condition and maintenance of roads;

- green spaces – improve and maintain;
- parking particularly outside schools;
- road safety;
- fly tipping; and
- improved transport to get around Swale.

**Sheppey Area Committee meeting: September 2023 – Matters arising**

No.	Item	Background	Progress on actions
1.	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.	<p>KCC finally received £19m at the end of March 2023 to deliver a reduced set of initiatives within its BSIP. This included £100k of fare initiatives that will be delivered over the summer county wide (e.g. Big Kent Weekend) and also £2.5m of network improvements. In July 2023, KCC were told they had received a further £16m to deliver BSIP initiatives for 2024/25. At the time of writing this a key decision at KCC Cabinet was needed to accept this money.</p> <p>As part of the funding, Government requires that each area (KCC) set up an Enhanced Partnership (EP). This is a statutory Board, without which KCC will not receive their funding. KCC have established their EP Board which is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Highways &amp; Infrastructure at KCC. It is an officer led meeting, high level and strategic. There are no representatives from districts. The bus operators do have representatives (including CEX Chalkwell).</p> <p>The EP will not cover any local district issues. To fill that gap, KCC are</p>

			<p>suggesting EP Local Focus Group (EP LFGs) meetings be set up in each district. They are happy to send representatives but cannot resource it like they used to do the QBP and so are asking districts to set up and resource them. These are not a statutory requirement.</p> <p>As such SBC are looking at if the local focus group should be set up and resourced. This is being discussed at Planning &amp; Transportation Policy Working Group on 19 September 2023. If it is set up it will be held every 6 months and be a forum for SBC, KCC and local bus operators to come together to discuss issues.</p>
2.	Dumping of spoil on the Eastchurch shoreline	<p>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 &amp; Neighbourhoods reported that a multi-agency group continue to explore possible options for action led by the Environment Agency.</p>	<p>Since the last Area Committee update, we are pleased to confirm that the multi-agency group, led by the Environment Agency, secured a restriction order at Third Avenue, Eastchurch. This has resulted in all dumping activity coming to a stop at the location. We continue to monitor other sites on the Isle of Sheppey that may still be active.</p> <p>The agency group continue to meet to look at the next steps.</p>
3.	Queenborough Guildhall	<p>The condition of Queenborough Guildhall was discussed at the Regeneration &amp; Property Committee and it was resolved that the inclusion of</p>	<p>The Director of Regeneration &amp; Neighbourhoods advised that condition surveys have now been carried out on</p>

		<p>Queenborough Guildhall in the recommended programme of Condition Surveys be supported by the Committee.</p> <p>The Buildings Manager advised the condition survey carried out was for the 'joint' building of Guildhall and 44 High Street.</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>	<p>both the Guildhall and 44 High Street with recommendations and associated costs for works. The Council is working on a programme of works depending on the budget available.</p>
4.	New Road Play Park, Minster-on-Sea	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.	The Play Improvement Project was completed on time and opened 30 June 2023.
5.	Beach Hut proposal	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, a report went to the July 2023 Regeneration and Property Committee with a new policy and summary of the consultation responses.	The decision to proceed with Phase 1 (Minster x 12 & Leysdown x 14) was agreed at the Regeneration & Property Committee on 6 July 2023. Review of tender documents is underway with procurement ahead of live tender. Target for live tender is the end of September 2023 with construction intended ready for the start of April 2024.
6.	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	The Community Services Manager advised the Community Services Unit continues to monitor the need for a

		<p>that the camera had been taken down and as a result the jet skis had returned.</p> <p>The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods said 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.</p> <p>At the June 2023 meeting Members spoke about anti-social behaviour incidents that had taken place recently at that location and asked for the CCTV camera to be put back as soon as possible. At a recent Community Safety Partnership (CSP) meeting the possibility of a camera funded jointly by the Town Council and Swale Borough Council (SBC) was mentioned.</p>	<p>camera in Queenborough and if there is the sufficient evidence required. Recent meetings have been taking place between partner agencies to improve responses to tackling jet ski issues in the area.</p>
7.	Active Travel update	<p>The Active Travel Coordinator advised that the Isle of Sheppey bid for the Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 had not made it through to the final submission to Active Travel England. However, SBC had received funding from the Capability and Ambition Fund for a feasibility study to improve connectivity between Minster, Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) was progressing, funding had been received to do detailed route mapping.</p>	<p>Consultants WSP have been fully briefed and started work on a Sheppey Towns Active Travel Connectivity Feasibility Study. This work is expected to be completed in November 2023.</p>



<b>8.</b>	Police presence on the Isle of Sheppey	A Member stated that Kent Police had removed the Police Community Support Officer presence from the Isle of Sheppey and suggested that a representative of the Police come along to Area Committee meetings. It was agreed that the Chair would write a letter to Kent Police inviting a representative to attend future meetings.	A Police representative will be attending the September 2023 meeting under a separate item.
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