

Agenda

Community and Leisure Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 5 March 2025

Time 7.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT

Membership:

Councillors Derek Carnell, Shelley Cheesman, Elliott Jayes (Vice-Chair), Mark Last, Charlie Miller, Lee-Anne Moore, Pete Neal, Tara Noe, Tom Nundy, Hannah Perkin, Carrie Pollard, Ashley Shiel, Terry Thompson, Karen Watson and Tony Winckless.

Quorum = 5

Pages

Recording and Privacy Notice

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1. Emergency Evacuation Procedure

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- (c) In the event of the alarm sounding, leave the building via the nearest safe exit and gather at the assembly point on the far side of the car park. Do not leave the assembly point or re-enter the building until advised to do so. Do not use the lifts.
- (d) Anyone unable to use the stairs 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 January 2025 (Minute Nos. 559 – 569) as a correct record.

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------|
| 5. | Empowering You in Swale - Community Development Strategy 2024-2027 | 5 - 34 |
| 6. | Household Support Fund - prioritisation framework | 35 - 44 |
| 7. | Overnight Parking in Sheppey Consultation and Options | 45 - 62 |
| 8. | Swale Leisure Contract - Faversham Pools | 63 - 70 |
| 9. | Forward Decisions Plan | 71 - 72 |
| 10. | Exclusion of the Press and Public | |

To decide whether to pass the resolution set out below in respect of the following item:

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of

business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3.

3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

11. Swale Leisure Contract - Faversham Pools - Exempt Appendix

73 - 76

Issued on Tuesday, 25 February 2025

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in alternative formats. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, please contact democraticservices@swale.gov.uk To find out more about the work of this meeting, please visit www.swale.gov.uk

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

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Community & Leisure Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	Wednesday 5 th March 2025
Report Title	Empowering You in Swale – Community Development Strategy 2024-2027
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Charlotte Hudson, Head of Housing & Community Services
Lead Officer	Sarah-Jane Radley, Community & Partnerships Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. The committee is asked to approve the Empowering You in Swale Strategy for onward adoption by the Policy & Resources Committee.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Empowering You in Swale strategy document is being developed to provide Swale with a Community Development Strategy to outline how the council intends to support the community over the next 3 years in line with Swale’s Corporate Plan. We ask the committee to adopt the Empowering You in Swale Strategy for.

2 Background

- 2.1 In March 2024 the Health & Housing Committee agreed to the closedown of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy due to the restructure of the community team and the deletion of the Health & Wellbeing post. The committee proposal included the development of a new strategy that encompasses key delivery for community services in line with the existing Corporate Plan and Service Plan.

A cross party member working group took place to discuss ideas and suggestions for the key priorities of the strategy and how members would like the strategy to be set out. The name Empowering You in Swale was agreed as the title for the document and an outline of items that should be included.

In addition to the members working group, the Cost of Living Partnership Group were engaged in a workshop to discuss the key themes and priorities within the strategy and valuable input from our statutory and VCS partners has helped to start to shape the document.

Community & Leisure Committee reviewed the strategy overview documentation at the meeting held on the 4th September 2024 and agreed to proceed with public consultation.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 We propose to use the Empowering You in Swale Strategy as the roadmap for delivery of community development led activities. The Community & Partnerships Team will continue to deliver against the priorities set out within the strategy and utilise existing mechanisms to promote innovation and new opportunities for the benefit of Swale residents.
- 3.2 The committee is asked to approve the Empowering You in Swale Strategy for onward adoption by the Policy & Resources Committee.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 The alternative option of continuing to deliver the Health & Wellbeing Plan was dismissed by the Health & Housing Committee due to a lack of resources. The work of the Community & Partnerships Team has evolved since the development of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy to encompass a wider area of delivery and so this is reflected within the new strategy.

We do not feel that the option to ‘do nothing’ is the best option as although we have a commitment to community within the Corporate Plan, this strategy enables us to provide a level of detail for how we intend to improve the lives of Swale residents through community development.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 An 8-week public consultation has been carried out to enable public feedback to be collected and used to refine the strategy. A cross-party members working group discussed ideas and proposals for the document and made suggestions for its name. In addition, we have delivered workshops, online, and face to face sessions including presenting at all four Area Committees to enable multiple opportunities to feed into the document.
- 5.2 We received 16 responses to the external consultation. The responses contained some constructive feedback of which we have adjusted some of the strategy details to reflect and some we are able to utilise in the forward planning of the work of the team. We also noted the comments that were made at Area Committees, however some of the overall comments were outside of the scope of the work or were not appropriate to the delivery of the strategy.
- 5.3 In general, the feedback and comments were supportive of the strategy priorities and in favour of our commitment to the strategy.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
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Corporate Plan	Empowering You in Swale links to the four key objectives of the Corporate Plan through the delivery activities being proposed within the strategy.
Financial, Resource and Property	Delivery of the work associated to the Empowering You in Swale Strategy will be committed to from the existing delivery resources of the Community & Partnerships Team and wider team input where there is a cross over of service delivery, no additional funding for projects outside of this area of work has been agreed.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage
Crime and Disorder	The Empowering You in Swale Strategy outlines collaborative projects that aim to improve the lives of communities and links to the delivery plan for the Community Safety Executive.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	The Empowering You in Swale Strategy outlines collaborative projects that aim to improve the lives of communities through community development, and this includes tackling fuel and water poverty in the borough.
Health and Wellbeing	The Empowering You in Swale Strategy outlines collaborative projects that aim to improve the lives of communities through community development, and this includes tackling health inequalities in the borough.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	The Empowering You in Swale Strategy outlines collaborative projects that aim to improve the lives of communities through community development, and we ensure that all partners we work with comply with safeguarding policies and we are delivering according to our own policies.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage
Equality and Diversity	The EQIA is currently being finalised, however there were no immediate concerns raised through the consultation.
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: Empowering You in Swale – Community Development Strategy for Swale 2024-2025

8 Background Papers

Community & Leisure Committee - Agreement to proceed to consultation
[Agenda for Community and Leisure Committee on Wednesday, 4 September 2024, 7.00 pm](#)

Empowering You in Swale

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Community Development Strategy for Swale

2024-2027

Forward

Welcome to Swale Borough Councils Empowering You in Swale Strategy which sets out our priorities for community development until 2027. The strategy aims to cement the work to improve the lives of residents in the borough and tackle inequalities.

It cannot be denied that it has been a tough few years for communities, dealing with the after effects of the pandemic, Cost of Living, Fuel, and Housing Crises, which are just some of the issues that are being faced. Sadly, we know households in the borough need our help and advice more than ever and are turning to emergency support such as the Household Support Fund, food banks, the voluntary, community and enterprise sectors to deal with the day to day issues that families are facing.

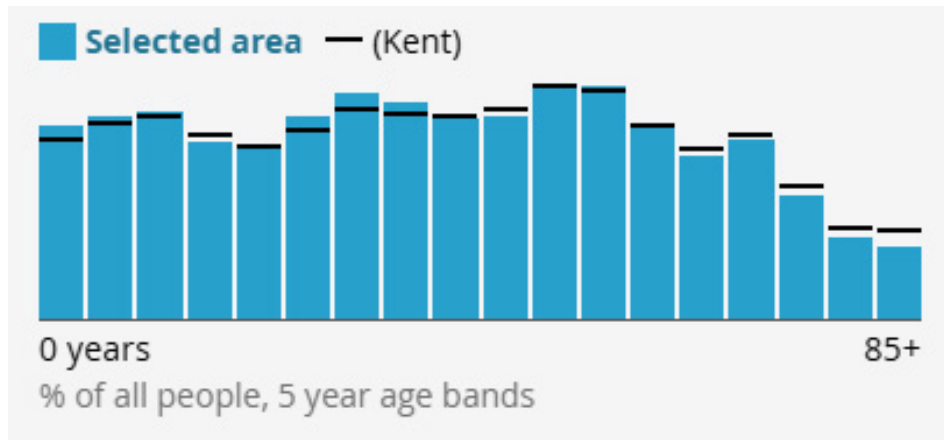
The strategy outlines our continued commitment to help families where we can through a partnership approach, engaging with residents and services through well-established groups and networks to ensure that we are properly informed and well positioned to be able to create innovative community projects that are sustainable for the future.

We believe the priorities in this strategy, on skills, health, sustainability and partnership are the right ones on which to focus our efforts, to be effective and improve the lives of our residents.

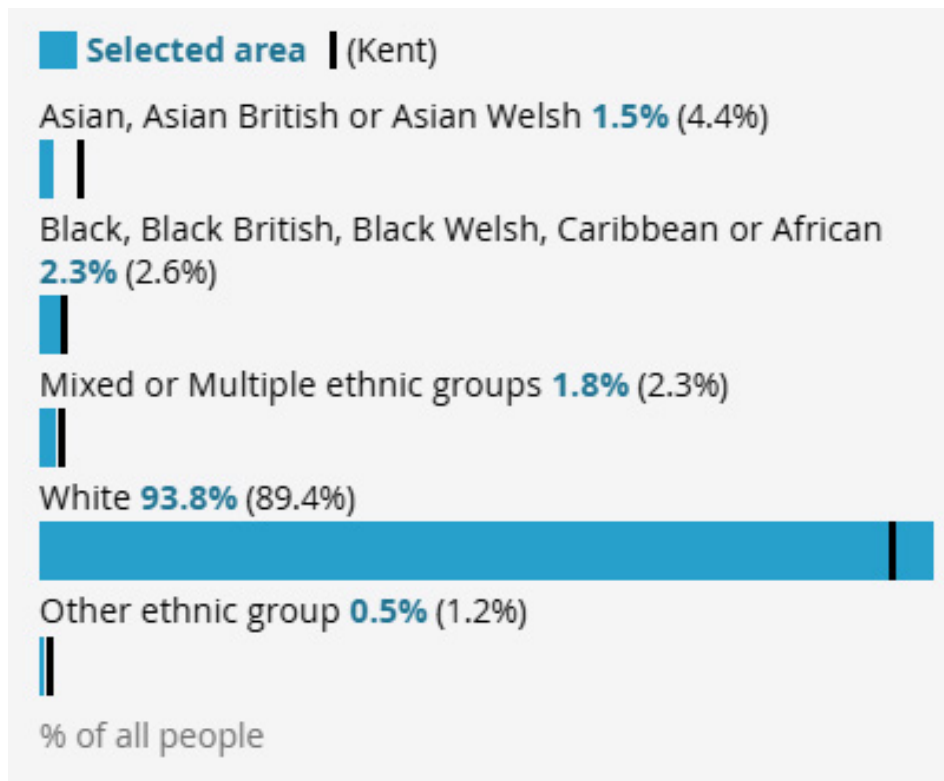
Cllr Tim Gibson *Leader of Swale Borough Council*

Cllr Elliott Jayes *Community & Leisure Committee Chair*

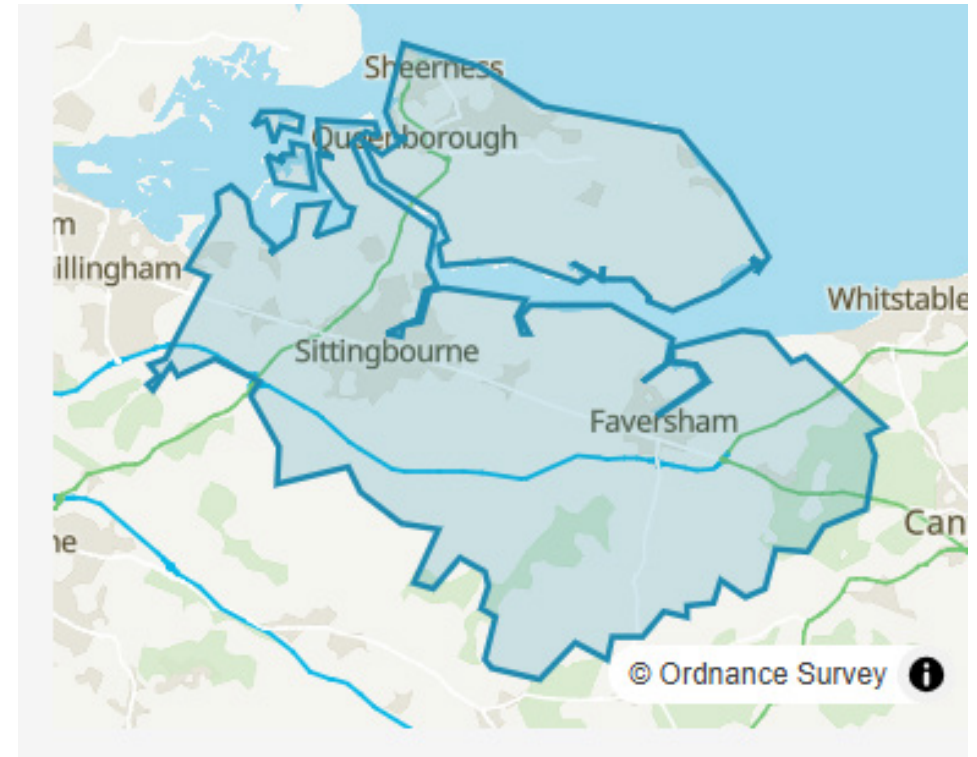
Age profile



Ethnic group



Area map



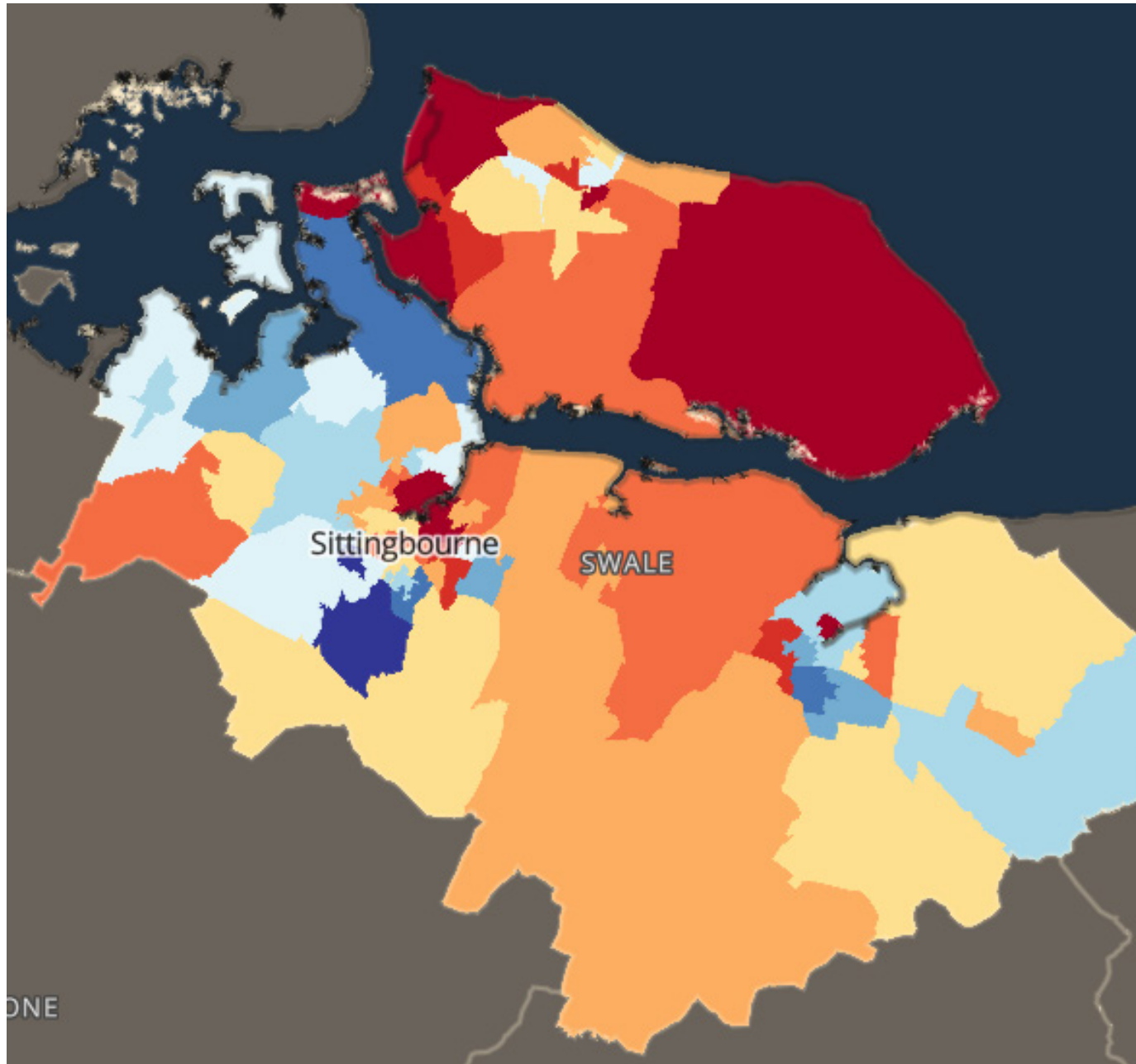
Population

151,700 people

1,576,100 people in Kent

Rounded up to the nearest 100 people

Overview of the borough

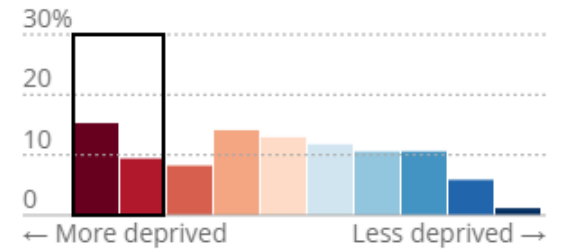


CDRC Harmonised 2019 IMD

- No data
- Most deprived decile
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th
- 6th
- 7th
- 8th
- 9th
- Least deprived decile

Swale

Neighbourhoods by income deprivation



Of the 85 neighbourhoods in Swale, 21 are among the 20 percent most deprived in England.

Introduction

Introduction

The Empowering You in Swale Strategy has been developed with the aim of contributing towards Swales Corporate Plan and to bring together a set of priorities that guide us in our aims to reduce inequalities and support Swales communities to thrive and be more sustainable for the future.

The priorities have been selected through engagement with communities and our partners to identify the key issues and develop projects that will look to address these by working together over the next three years. You will read throughout this strategy how we will work closely through community development projects and partnerships to find new ways to improve the lives of Swale residents. We know that lasting change cannot be achieved by the Council on its own, and we hope this strategy shows what can be achieved when we work collectively.

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What do we mean by Community Development?

Community development brings people together to take collective action and work on solutions for common problems. It is an important part of the work we do with communities to improve people's quality of life and bring about positive change.

What have we been doing?

Back in 2021, in the aftermath of COVID 19 pandemic, communities in Swale were struggling with a number of serious issues and with poverty hitting hard there didn't seem to be a light at the end of the tunnel for many. We saw how the voluntary, community and enterprise sector rallied together throughout the pandemic. We worked together to provide an emergency response that would change the way the

council works with the voluntary sector and develop new ways of delivering support to residents.

The Cost of Living Crisis that followed hit families hard and we knew that we had to be smart with the resources available to help residents who had reached crisis point, unable to feed their families, heat their homes or pay the mounting bills. We used the process of community development to bring everyone along on a journey with us to create a new way of working that would make sure that our communities are at the heart of what we do.

The creation of the Cost of Living Partnership Group and a number of other smaller working groups has enabled the council to develop a partnership that uses data and evidence to deliver support to our most vulnerable families in collaboration with frontline organisations that residents trust and know.

Cost of Living Community Development

The last 3 years has laid the foundations for the development of partnerships and a more collaborative approach to delivering community projects that look to improve the lives of Swale families and build more sustainable communities.

- ↓ Cost of Living Crisis affecting families, working in partnership to identify community needs
- ↓ Work with individuals and organisations within the partnership to develop solutions that can be delivered effectively
- ↓ Implement community led projects collaboratively
- ↓ Monitor and evaluate projects ensuring all voices are heard

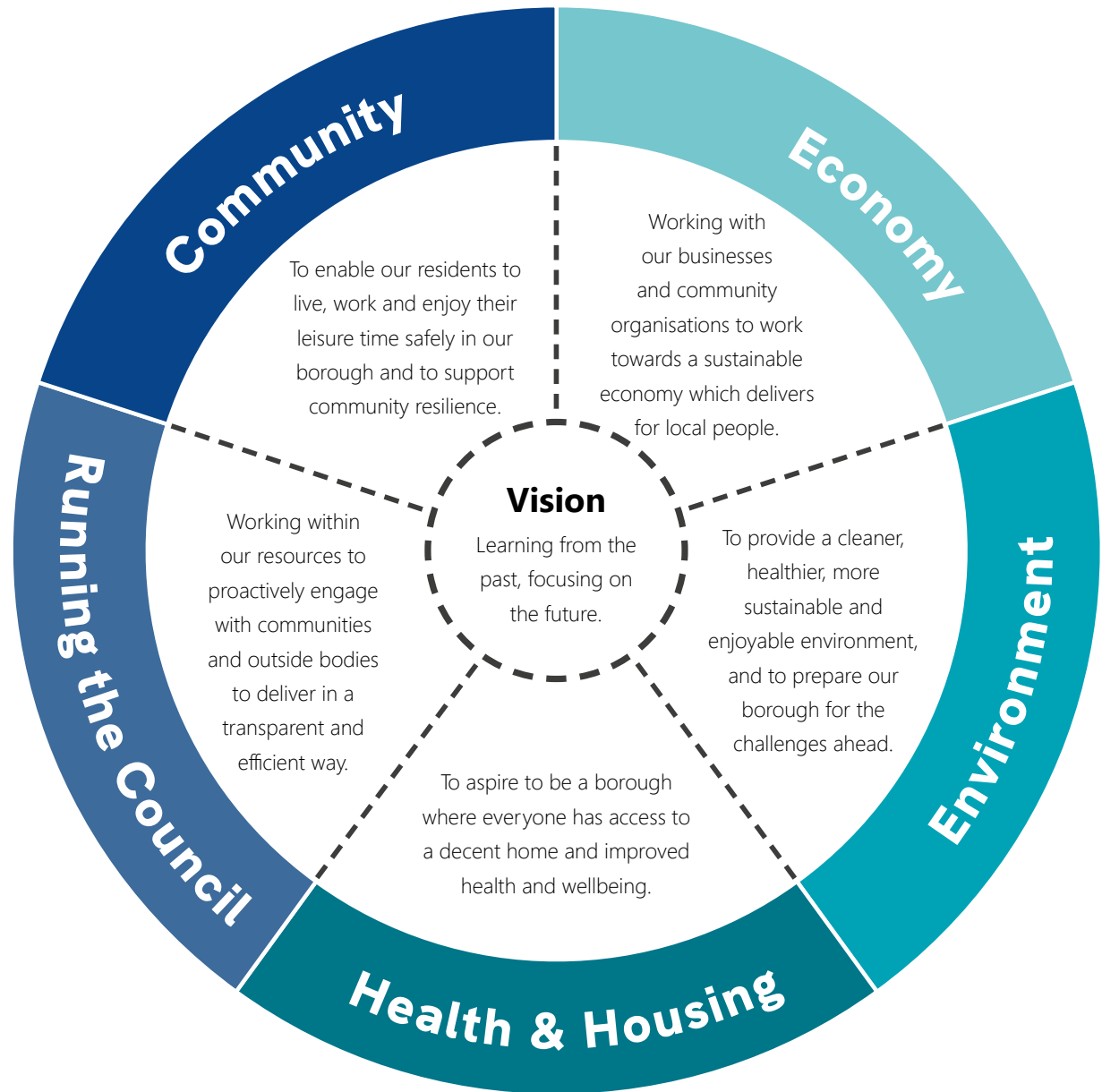
This strategy outlines the work we are developing collaboratively and informs our approach to continued community development and building new opportunities.

Corporate plan 2023-2027

Swale – Learning from the past, focusing on the future

[Council - Corporate Plan \(swale.gov.uk\)](https://www.swale.gov.uk/council/corporate-plan)

The Corporate Plan sets out the council's ambitions and priorities up to 2027. Empowering You in Swale is intended to link in with the overarching priorities of the Corporate Plan to ensure that we are delivering the best for our communities and consistently linking service delivery to overall priorities.



Engagement

We have worked collaboratively with residents, Councillors, representatives from Swale's Voluntary, Community and Enterprise Sector, and our statutory partners to ensure that local voices are heard in the creation of this strategy, as well as holding an eight week public consultation process and discussed at the four Area Committees to capture feedback and comments.

We will continue to engage throughout the life of the plan to ensure we have a clear understanding of the local landscape and remain engaged with our communities and partners.

“

Comments

'Strong partnerships and good communication is the key to providing a more cohesive approach'

'As a local resident these I would agree are key priorities for Swale'

'Based on health inequalities data, the priorities will enable greater community cohesion'

'You will need a KPI method for assessment along with regular updates to guide future public opinion surveys.'

”

Priority 1:

**Creating skilled, educated
and working communities**

Supporting improved access to education and training through continued development of engagement pathways that encourage increased confidence and promotion of activities through a partnership approach.

Key areas of work:

- Supporting the development and promotion of good skills, training and apprenticeships in the borough
- Improved access to education and training, including supporting projects regarding the ongoing issue of transport
- Working collaboratively to improve school attendance figures and related issues
- Supporting young people Not in education, employment or training 'NEET'

Kent District Unemployment - December 2024

Area	Number	Rate	Number change since last month	Percentage change since last month	Number change since last year	Percentage change since last year
Ashford	2,685	3.30%	65	2.50%	225	9.10%
Canterbury	3,320	3.40%	10	0.30%	95	2.90%
Dartford	2,425	3.20%	50	2.10%	205	9.20%
Dover	2,520	3.70%	-10	-0.40%	-190	-7.00%
Folkestone & Hythe	2,700	4.20%	60	2.30%	105	4.00%
Gravesham	3,025	4.60%	40	1.30%	220	7.80%
Maidstone	3,610	3.30%	40	1.10%	345	10.60%
Sevenoaks	1,520	2.10%	5	0.30%	50	3.40%
Swale	3,480	3.70%	0	0.00%	15	0.40%
Thanet	4,655	5.70%	110	2.40%	125	2.80%
Tonbridge & Malling	1,870	2.30%	25	1.40%	95	5.40%
Tunbridge Wells	1,850	2.60%	-30	-1.60%	220	13.50%
Kent	33,655	3.50%	360	1.10%	1,505	4.70%
Medway	7,540	4.30%	130	1.80%	770	11.40%

Area	Number	Rate	Number change since last month	Percentage change since last month	Number change since last year	Percentage change since last year
Kent	33,655	3.50%	360	1.10%	1,505	4.70%
Great Britain	1,690,595	4.10%	4,885	0.30%	182,620	12.10%

Pupils Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

NEET is an acronym meaning 'not in employment, education or training'. The category usually represents people in the age group from 16 to 24 years old.

CYPE - MI Report

County NEET and Not Known (NK) Breakdown

MI Reporting Month: Select District: Select Academic Age:

38,787 Overall Cohort **4.0%** NEET **1,539** NEET Cohort **3.9%** Not Known **1,518** Not Known Cohort **7.9%** NEET and Not Known **3,057** NEET and Not Known Cohort

District	Total Cohort Y12&Y13	No. of NEET Y12&Y13	% of NEET Y12&Y13	NEET Target Y12 & Y13 (Sep 2022)	No. of NEET Y12	% of NEET Y12	No. of NEET Y13	% of NEET Y13	No. of NK Y12&Y13	% of NK Y12&Y13	No. of NK Y12	% of NK Y12	No. of NK Y13	% of NK Y13	NEET and Not Known %	NEET & NK Ranking
Ashford	3,504	122	3.5%	3.2%	47	2.6%	75	4.5%	118	3.4%	50	2.7%	68	4.1%	6.8%	4
Canterbury	3,439	161	4.7%	2.4%	70	4.2%	91	5.2%	97	2.8%	30	1.8%	67	3.8%	7.5%	7
Dartford	3,284	93	2.8%	2.3%	28	1.7%	65	3.9%	149	4.5%	51	3.1%	98	5.9%	7.4%	6
Dover	2,681	134	5.0%	2.7%	51	3.8%	83	6.2%	131	4.9%	39	2.9%	92	6.9%	9.9%	13
Folkestone and Hythe	2,470	89	3.6%	3.4%	35	2.8%	54	4.5%	127	5.1%	48	3.8%	79	6.6%	8.7%	10
Gravesham	2,967	120	4.0%	2.3%	38	2.6%	82	5.5%	107	3.6%	40	2.7%	67	4.5%	7.7%	8
Maidstone	4,313	185	4.3%	3.0%	83	3.8%	102	4.8%	202	4.7%	68	3.1%	134	6.3%	9.0%	11
Sevenoaks	2,595	82	3.2%	1.7%	30	2.3%	52	4.1%	104	4.0%	43	3.2%	61	4.8%	7.2%	5
Swale	3,808	196	5.1%	3.6%	90	4.7%	106	5.6%	165	4.3%	74	3.9%	91	4.8%	9.5%	12
Thanet	3,507	173	4.9%	4.0%	79	4.4%	94	5.5%	61	1.7%	23	1.3%	38	2.2%	6.7%	3
Tonbridge and Malling	3,272	111	3.4%	2.7%	47	2.9%	64	3.9%	160	4.9%	71	4.4%	89	5.4%	8.3%	9
Tunbridge Wells	2,947	73	2.5%	1.9%	29	2.0%	44	3.0%	97	3.3%	45	3.1%	52	3.5%	5.8%	2
Kent	38,787	1539	4.0%	2.8%	627	3.2%	912	4.7%	1,518	3.9%	582	3.0%	936	4.9%	7.9%	

NEET Length of Time

MI Reporting Month: Select District: Select Academic Age:

NEET Length of Time by District

District	0-6 Weeks	7-13 Weeks	14-26 Weeks	27-52 Weeks	52+ Weeks	Total
Swale	21	32	92	27	24	196
Kent	21	32	92	27	24	196

NEET Length of Time by District

District	0-6 Weeks	7-13 Weeks	14-26 Weeks	27-52 Weeks	52+ Weeks
Swale	10.7%	16.3%	46.9%	13.8%	12.2%
Kent	10.7%	16.3%	46.9%	13.8%	12.2%

Free school meals data

District	% of Pupils Eligible for Free School Meals				% of Pupils whose First Language is not English/Believed to be not English			
	Primary	Secondary	Special	Overall	Primary	Secondary	Special	Overall
National	24.3	24.1	47.4	24.6	22.8	18.6	14.5	20.8
Kent	26.6	23.1	46.2	25.5	15.2	12.2	5.9	13.6
Ashford	25.1	24.8	43.0	25.4	14.6	16.6	6.4	15.3
Canterbury	27.7	24.0	53.6	26.6	15.0	10.9	7.2	12.8
Dartford	21.7	20.1	61.6	21.2	27.8	19.1	0.0	23.3
Dover	36.5	30.0	75.4	34.1	9.3	8.1	1.5	8.6
Folkestone and Hythe	30.9	29.6	55.4	31.0	10.0	8.6	5.7	9.3
Gravesham	28.7	23.6	46.3	26.6	27.3	20.4	19.9	24.0
Maidstone	22.8	18.0	44.2	21.6	18.4	14.1	5.1	15.8
Sevenoaks	18.8	22.7	35.6	20.3	9.3	6.1	9.3	8.6
Swale	31.5	28.0	45.5	30.4	8.9	6.2	3.6	7.7
Thanet	41.3	34.5	45.4	38.5	12.6	10.1	4.9	11.2
Tonbridge and Malling	19.3	16.5	39.9	18.4	8.7	6.4	5.2	7.5
Tunbridge Wells	17.9	12.2	37.2	15.6	17.8	11.9	4.6	14.3

52.2% of children were eligible for free school meals across Swale

Where are we now?

Due to the end in European Social Funding we have seen a huge reduction in the number of providers supporting those at risk of becoming NEET or are already in the NEET category across Swale. Funding is an issue for providers to be able to deliver meaningful and sustainable work within the borough and it is becoming increasingly more difficult for NEETs who are experiencing a lot of mental health issues preventing them from actively engaging. However, we have been working closely with partners on a number of projects that look at tackling this issue and improving the employment and education prospects of young people in the borough.

Schools now have to adhere to a set of benchmarks when it comes to positive interactions and engagements with employers right the way from Year 7 to years 12/13, these are known as the [Gatsby Benchmarks](#). This is to enable greater career guidance and understanding from an earlier age and better local labour market information. It's about directing individuals with a particular sector interest to the correct information so they are aware of what's involved.

It is known that the VCSE are well engaged to our communities and can interact with residents through exciting and different ways. Using UK Shared Prosperity Funds, we have been able to link skills projects to residents who need support building confidence and to enable them to access training and skills to build a brighter future.

Looking forward

In the last academic year, we have seen significant changes to the school provision on the Isle of Sheppey, two new providers have taken over secondary school education and are at the start of their journey. We will continue to work alongside them by utilising the VCSE sector and others, to assist them to embed into the community.

To understand fully the local landscape, we intend to continue to engage with existing groups, such as the Local Childrens Partnership Meetings, Vulnerability Panel, Family Hubs and Youth Services meetings as part of the Community Safety Partnership to ensure that we can work together to find solutions to the issues our children and young people are facing.

We will champion apprenticeships and skills offers through existing council departments as well as utilising our relationship with local businesses and other agencies such as the Department for Work and Pensions to raise awareness and promote new opportunities.

Through our partnership approach, we will continue to seek opportunities for funding to enable activities that will support communities to access skills and employment and continue to engage in conversations that support new ideas.

We know that transport has been a long standing issue for residents living in rural areas. We will lobby for change, exploring all options, including tapping into new initiatives, to remove this barrier to work and training opportunities.

Priority 2:

Growing healthy communities

Working collectively to reduce health inequalities in the borough by supporting place based solutions that fit outside of the statutory health profession and making the most of our voluntary, community and enterprise sector to deliver localised projects.

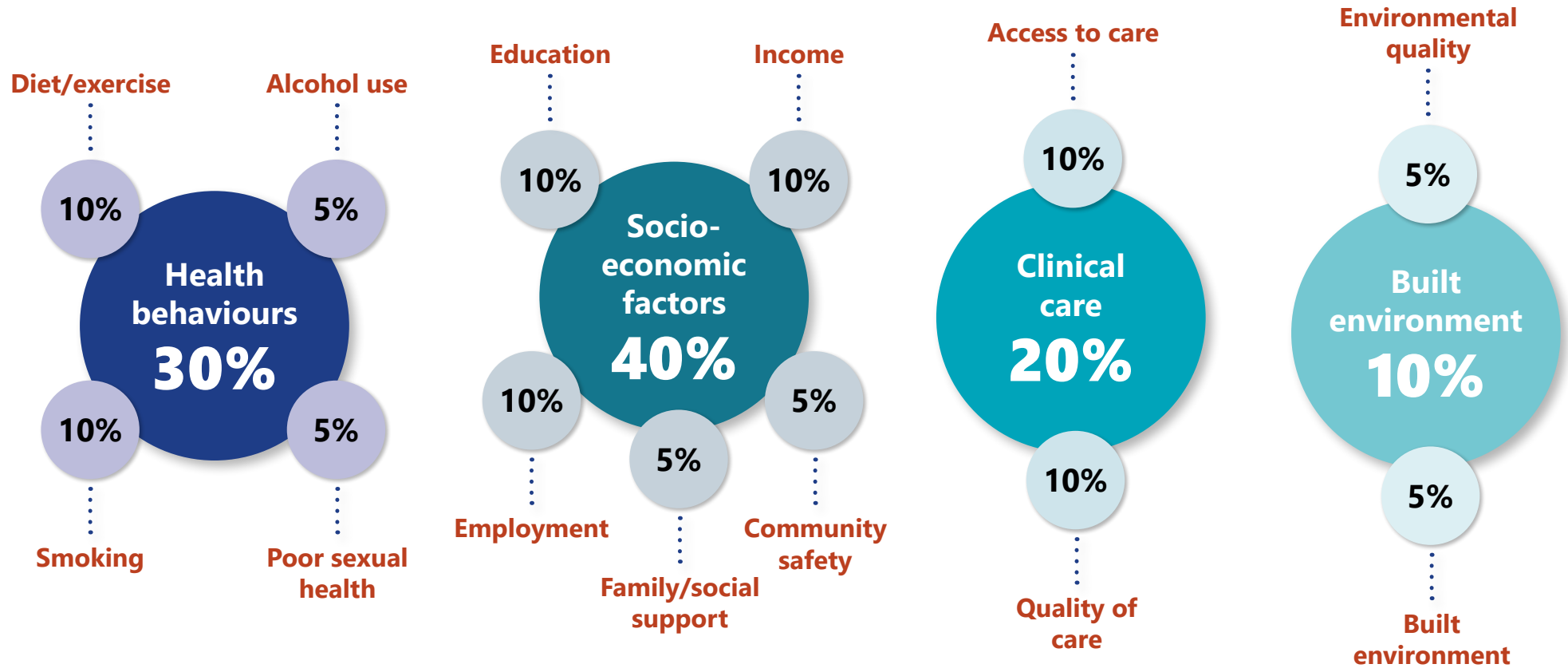
Suggested key areas of work:

- Working collaboratively to reduce health inequalities in the borough and reduce loneliness
- Improved access to health care, including transport to appointments
- Promoting access to leisure facilities, as well as parks and open spaces within the borough
- Promoting better living conditions in the borough with an aim of reducing damp and mould in people's homes



Indicator	Period	Swale			Kent	England	England		
		Recent Trend	Count	Value	Value	Value	Worst	Range	Best
A01b - Life expectancy at birth (Male, 3 year range)	2020 - 22	-	-	78.1	79.0	78.9	73.4		83.7
A01b - Life expectancy at birth (Female, 3 year range)	2020 - 22	-	-	82.0	83.0	82.8	79.0		86.3
A01b - Life expectancy at birth (Male, 1 year range)	2022	-	-	78.8	79.5	79.3	73.8		83.8
A01b - Life expectancy at birth (Female, 1 year range)	2022	-	-	82.0	83.3	83.2	79.2		87.0
A02a - Inequality in life expectancy at birth (Male)	2018 - 20	-	-	7.3	7.8	9.7	17.0		0.7
A02a - Inequality in life expectancy at birth (Female)	2018 - 20	-	-	4.4	5.6	7.9	13.9		-1.8
Overarching indicators at age 65									
A01b - Life expectancy at 65 (Male, 3 year range)	2020 - 22	-	-	17.8	18.4	18.4	15.8		21.2
A01b - Life expectancy at 65 (Female, 3 year range)	2020 - 22	-	-	20.4	21.0	20.9	18.2		23.3
A01b - Life expectancy at 65 (Male, 1 year range)	2022	-	-	18.4	18.8	18.7	16.1		21.5
A01b - Life expectancy at 65 (Female, 1 year range)	2022	-	-	20.7	21.3	21.2	18.7		23.7
A02a - Inequality in life expectancy at 65 (Male)	2018 - 20	-	-	3.1	4.0	5.2	12.7		-0.9
A02a - Inequality in life expectancy at 65 (Female)	2018 - 20	-	-	2.5	3.1	4.8	9.5		-1.1

There are a wide range of things that determine someone's health and wellbeing, with clinical care only accounting for 20 per cent of the impact. We call the factors that affect health, the wider determinants of health.



Based on: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, US County health rankings model 2014
www.countyhealthrankings.org/sites/default/files/media/document/CHRR_2014_Key_Findings.paf

Health inequalities are a result of a number of different causes, such as:

- The long term effects of a deprivation
- Differences in access to information, services and resources
- Differences in exposure to risk
- Lack of choices over your own life circumstances
- A health system that may reinforce inequalities

These factors all contribute to a variety of ill health triggers and that can affect communities and increase reliance on health and other services.

Where are we now?

We are not formally responsible for public health as this sits with the County Council under the Social Care Act 2012, however we have a huge role to play in promoting better health outcomes within the community and we have been working hard with our partners in the NHS and many others to ensure that we are collectively working together to tackle health inequalities.

The new Sheppey Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) is a community hub delivering the provision of imaging, physiological measurement, and pathology tests and scans it will deliver a significant increase in access for residents of Swale. The centre will be part of the existing community hospital and provide improved access for those locally who struggle to attend appointments at places like Medway Hospital. We will continue to work alongside our colleagues at the Health & Care Partnership to ensure that opportunities such as this are developed and where needed lobbied for.

Improving health in the early years of life contributes considerably to better health outcomes in later life, with reduced levels of diabetes, coronary heart disease and hypertension, all of which have a significant impact on the NHS as well as wider society, children and their families. We have been working closely with Kent County Council to feed into the development of the Kent Family Hub model, of which Swale has 6 centres, all of which play a pivotal role with supporting families in Swale. We will continue to develop opportunities for young and families to ensure there is appropriate provision in Swale going forwards.

Shaping the physical environment of the community so that it can better promote healthier lifestyles is central to borough's 'regulatory health improvement role. The new National Planning Policy Framework highlights the role of the planning system in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. This includes measures aimed at reducing health inequalities, improving access to healthy food and reducing obesity, encouraging physical activity, improving mental health and wellbeing, and improving air quality to reduce the incidence of respiratory diseases.

Looking forward

Tackling health inequalities in the borough is a priority thread that runs through all 4 priorities. We will continue to encourage new initiatives to the borough, linking closely with our partners in health settings, we will continue to drive change and increase opportunities for families to access services more easily and frequently.

We will work with our partners to improve loneliness in the borough, which is experienced throughout the full lifespan from young right the way through to elderly. By improving loneliness and linking this to things such as transport to hospital appointments, we can start to make a difference to the lives of our residents.

Working with council departments such as Leisure and Planning, we will promote the use of facilities in the borough such as our parks and open spaces, and leisure centres to increase activity and promote healthier lifestyles.

Working with Swales Private Sector Housing Team we will promote the Healthy Homes project which is addressing health issues associated with damp and mould in the home, as well as raising awareness with landlords and using enforcement activities where necessary.

Medway & Swale Health & Care Partnership are driving forward change through place-based solutions that fit outside of the statutory health and care profession and in the wider determinants of health. We will continue to play a role in ensuring a joined-up approach to transforming the health and wellbeing of our communities through Social Regeneration.

Continuing our drive to influence and empower change within the borough we are similarly linked to Kent County Councils [Integrated Care Strategy](#), of which we are committed to integrating key themes of the strategy through our Corporate Plan and in localised Service Plans to collaborate on key themes such as Supporting families and communities so children thrive and tackling the wider determinants of health making the most of our VCSE and community links.

Priority 3:

Empowering stronger, more sustainable communities

We will continue to develop innovative solutions to the difficulties faced by our communities, including the aftereffects of the COVID 19 pandemic, Cost of Living, Fuel Crisis, and day to day hardship. We will continue to work with the voluntary, community and enterprise sector to improve resilience and enable organisations to grow and thrive in the borough.

Suggested key areas of work:

- Delivering a collective response to Cost of Living, fuel and other crisis
- Data led targeted interventions such as benefit uptake campaigns and direct mailings to promote opportunities
- Improved awareness and information sharing of available services
- Development of a more resilient and sustainable voluntary, community and enterprise sector in Swale

Where are we now?

Sadly, we know some residents of Swale are still feeling the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic and continue to struggle on a day to day basis with basic needs such as feeding their families and fuelling their homes as Cost of Living continues to have an impact to the boroughs most vulnerable residents, this includes those on a low income, those with disabilities, refugees, as well as pensioners.

Domestic Abuse remains at a high level across the borough, albeit there has been a slight reduction since the peaks seen following the pandemic. Support services, which are largely delivered by the voluntary, community and enterprise sector, these organisations are continuing to see high demand; often increasingly more complex needs; and a reduction in funding available continues to put strain on

services. Overall levels of crime remain steady, with seasonal increases in Anti-Social Behaviour. There are high levels of youth ASB, which does correlate with reductions in diversionary activities due to funding loss.

The voluntary, community and enterprise sector in Swale offer services which are recognised to improve and change the lives of the residents they support. We have been working closely with the sector over the last 2 years to identify areas of specific need to help the organisations within this group become stronger and more sustainable. There has been a number of social and economic factors including the pandemic which has had a huge impact on things such as access to funding and volunteers which has in part seen some of these organisations closing their doors.

We have transformed the way that community services are delivered to ensure that we are providing innovative solutions to difficult and complex issues within our communities. We have learned through the evolution of Household Support Fund the power of two-way conversations and the strength of doing things in partnership. We will continue to value this way of working going forwards recognising the ever-changing landscape in Local Government.

Looking forward...

We will continue to prioritise improving the lives of our residents, whether that be through targeted interventions such as Benefit Uptake Campaigns, through crisis response grants such as Household Support Fund or working with the voluntary, community and enterprise sector and other statutory partners to ensure every resident has awareness of what is available to them in their time of need, through activities such as the One Swale Roadshows.

Through the existing Cost of Living Partnership Group, we will continue to meet with organisations from across the borough to agree how to tackle localised issues, monitor data and trends and provide a platform to enable lobbying for change.

We want to support the voluntary, community and enterprise sector through the delivery of Swale Voluntary Alliance (SVA) to be able to collaborate with not only the Local Authority but with other organisations within the sector. The sector said they wanted change and so we will continue to support them to deliver this through SVA and foster relationships with statutory bodies as well as Swale Borough Council.

Using existing platforms and a collaborative approach we will promote easy access to services for our residents to ensure families can find information easily and quickly, whilst working with our communications teams to promote relevant information through a variety of channels.



Priority 4:

**Developing strong
partnerships that deliver
for our communities**

Strong relationships, not only with our communities but with our partners, are powerful in driving forward change and helping to initiate sustainable, long-lasting transformation. We are committed to continuing to build upon the footings we have made through existing partnerships and look to make meaningful new ones that will support our vision to tackle health inequalities, promote community safety, reduce poverty and create sustainable communities.

Suggested key areas of work:

- Continued development of the relationship with Swale's voluntary, community, and enterprise Sector
- Delivery of the Community Safety Partnership and associated projects
- Develop relationships with Swales Business community to promote corporate social responsibility
- Continued strengthening of partnerships with health partners including Medway & Swale Health & Care Partnership, East Kent Health & Care Partnership and the Kent Integrated Care Board

Where are we now?

We have been building relationships with our partners for many years and a good example of how this can work well is the borough's Community Safety Partnership, consisting of partners such as Police, Probation, NHS, the VCSE and others. This successful partnership has been delivering targeted projects collaboratively to tackle issues such as Crime, antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse for many years.

A powerful relationship has formed between the council and the various organisations across the borough that came together to respond to the issues created by the Cost of Living and Fuel crisis as well as other outside impacts. This group has effected change by collaborating and creating a strong voice for the vulnerable residents who need us to defend and provide for them. In conjunction with this, our work has seen a relationship form with the VCSE in Swale that will enable us to be creative in our outlook and design new and innovative ways of working together for the benefit of Swale residents.

Our partnership with Medway & Swale Health & Care Partnership (NHS) has grown, and we are excited to be working closely with them within the boundaries of our expertise and driving forward projects tackling Obesity, Living Conditions and Self-harm to name a few.

Looking forward...

We will continue to build the partnership with communities in the borough, ensuring that we are engaging through Area Committees, through our frontline service delivery and through engagement opportunities such as the One Swale Roadshows, opening opportunities for residents to have a voice on the things that matter to them.

We know that we can't deliver change within our communities without the support and collaboration of our partners, whether that be statutory bodies such as NHS and Police, or our vibrant voluntary, community and enterprise sector. We must partner and develop our vision together, allowing the voices of our partners to be heard in the development of our services and supporting others to fulfil their own priorities.

Internally within the organisation we seek to ensure that there are improved linkages between departments meaning that we can be sure that when a planning development is underway, or the housing crisis is being tackled, we are collectively acting in the best interests of the communities affected.

We know there is always work to be done to sustain and improve partnership working in the community and we look to continue this important work creating new relationships for the benefit of all.

How will we monitor progress?

We will monitor progress of the intended work being undertaken within this document through key performance targets set out below. Progress will be reported yearly to the Community & Leisure Committee and through the councils KPI monitoring.

- School attendance figures
- NEET stats
- Health inequality stats
- Healthy Homes targets
- Diagnostic centre outcomes
- Data led campaign figures
- Household Support Fund or equivalent emergency support- food/ fuel bank data
- Swale Voluntary Alliance progress reporting
- Update on new/old collaborative projects

How will we resource delivery?

Utilising the One Council approach the Community & Partnerships Team will look for opportunities to link in with internal service delivery to ensure that we are making the most of all available resources and to ensure a joined-up approach to service delivery. We will utilise existing resources within the council to deliver as per agreed Service Plans.

The team will engage and collaborate with external organisations and partners to seek external funding opportunities to develop projects within the boundaries of officer time and the resources available.

Communities and Leisure Committee	
Meeting Date	5 th March 2025
Report Title	Household Support Fund – prioritisation framework
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Charlotte Hudson, Head of Housing and Communities
Lead Officer	Sarah-Jane Radley, Community & Partnerships Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. The committee is asked to provide a steer on priorities for funding for the delivery of Household Support Fund – Round 7.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 Provide an update on the delivery outcomes to date for Household Support Fund and a prioritisation framework to allow members to prioritise funding for Round 7 (April 25-March 26).

2 Background

- 2.1 Household Support Fund has provided vital Government funding to deliver critical services to the residents of Swale who are impacted by the current Cost of Living Crisis and energy prices. Over the six rounds (Oct 2021 – Mar 2025), we have developed support packages by working with local voluntary, community, and enterprise sector organisations (VCSE) and have delivered support through a network of frontline delivery.

2.2 Funding Allocations

Household Support Fund is a Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) provision which is funded to Kent County Council and then we receive local allocations dependant on a variety of measures including poverty levels.

- Round 1 (6th October 2021-31st March 2022) – £244,416.22
- Round 2 (1st April 2022-30th September 2022) – £558,940.00 (In-house voucher scheme delivered & pensioner payments)
- Round 3 (1st October 2022-31st March 2023) – £279,923.87
- Round 4 (1st April 2023-31st March 2024) – £505,445.00
- Round 5 (1st April 2024-30th September 2024) £252,722.45
- Round 6 (1st September 2025 – 31st March 2025) £252,722.45

2.3 Current funding position

The current round of funding will end on 31st March 2025 and Government have announced a further round of funding will be forthcoming for the period 1st April 2025-31st March 2026. We do not currently know the value of the allocation or if

the guidance for the delivery of HSF will change, however we are future planning for Round 7 to ensure that we can deliver efficiently as soon as we receive the allocation details.

2.4 Delivery model and Funding Allocation

The current delivery model provides funding to Swales voluntary, community and enterprise sector to deliver a number of emergency support packages and advice services. The Community & Partnerships Team manage the service offer and support internal departments such as Housing to access the fund.

Organisation	Service offer
Age UK (Faversham & Sittingbourne)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hot meals & food shopping Information & Advice Service for pensioners
Age UK (Sheppey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hot meals & food shopping
Children & Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency food parcels
Children & Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £100 Mastercard (Billed fuel support)
Citizens Advice Swale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuel advice (and other advice services) Information & Advice Service for pensioners
Diversity House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency food parcels (Multicultural)
Fuel & Water Advice Service (Children & Families)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuel and energy advice (inc. fuel vouchers)
Swale Foodbank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency food parcels
West Faversham Community Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hot meals (children) Emergency food parcels

Food: Currently the majority of funding is allocated to services that deliver emergency food support to residents, through parcels, hot meals and shopping. These are vital food support services that ensure families receive the food they need to be able to eat.

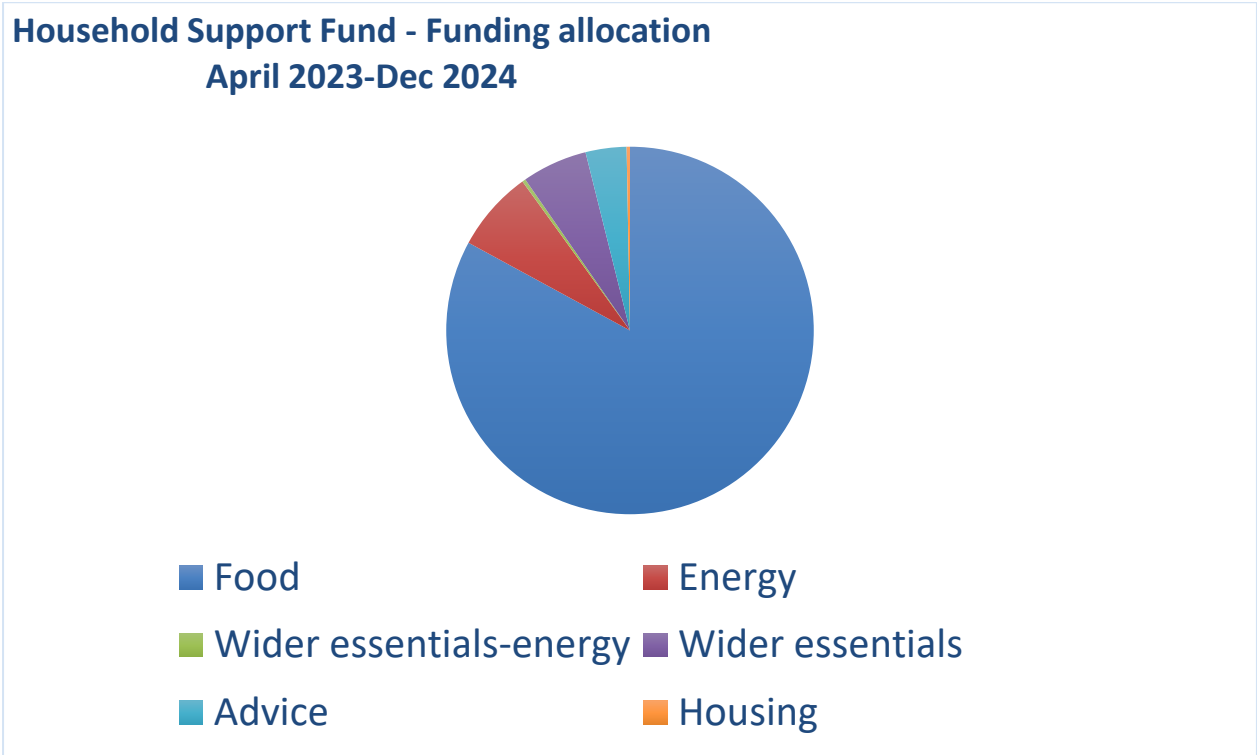
Fuel: In addition to food, we provide a service whereby residents can access £100 in the form of a digital card that can be used to contribute towards their energy bills and help them to reduce fuel debt or receive a pre-payment fuel voucher so that they can heat their homes.

Advice: Other areas of support include advice services; these play a vital role to ensure that residents have access to the right information and advice to ensure they can resolve issues and better their circumstances.

Other: Additionally, we work closely with our internal housing teams to provide support to residents who are in exceptional circumstances and require

emergency funds such as payments for rent arrears to help them advance into permanent living conditions, vouchers or essentials such as sleeping bags and hats/scarves.

Not currently funded: Dedicated prevention services, of which options for these are being discussed at the February Cost of Living Group as this could potentially be included as criteria for Round 7.



The Cost of Living Group held a workshop on the 11th February to discuss the ongoing delivery of HSF and the priorities for delivery in Round 7. The key areas that they felt should be included are more preventative services such as resident education activities, targeted delivery to ensure that those who are digitally excluded or find it difficult to access services have the support they need, to review repeat access by offering alternative support options, information or data sharing for services such as food banks and peer support offers.

Other areas of discussion included looking at employment and support into work, skills, and lobbying for changes to LHA, UC and National Minimum Wage as the group felt that all of these contribute to the financial shortfall that many find themselves in and therefore reliant on emergency support each month.

2.5 Partnerships

The Fuel and Water Advisor service was created in 2019 through SBC Special Projects Fund after we declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency. The

development of this contract included providing support to residents to tackle fuel and water poverty in the borough.

Children & Families have delivered this successful project over a period of years, and we have been able to contribute towards an extension of this much needed service through HSF until the end of March 2025. Changes to funding for Children & Families means that there is a possibility that this service may end, however we have included funding of this service (in part) as an option within the framework.

Through our partnership with the VCSE we have been able to implement short term projects such as this winter we introduced an Information & Advice service with Citizen Advice Swale and Age UK Kent Rivers to specifically support those who were affected by the removal of the Winter Fuel Payment to ensure pensioners are accessing support and benefit reviews.

In addition, development of HSF in conjunction with the local VCSE has allowed us to strengthen the relationship we have as an authority with the VCSE and wider statutory partners. There is a collaborative voice through the Cost of Living Partnership Group and working closely with frontline partners helps us to get a true picture of the issues and experiences our residents are facing and be creative in how we tackle these issues.

2.6 **One Swale Roadshows**

Through the collaboration of our external Cost of Living Partnership Group we have been successfully delivering pop-up sessions around the borough in each of the three main geographical areas, Sheppey, Sittingbourne and Faversham.

The sessions are a successful way of bringing a variety of services into the community to give residents access to face to face support on key issues. Through this work, not only have residents been able to access services such as fuel advice, debt and benefit advice, children's services, clothes and food, the organisations themselves have used the opportunity to network and form relationships in the borough to enable a more cohesive approach to service delivery.

We are keen to ensure we continue to deliver these sessions across the borough post March – funding dependant.

Date	Location	Number of partners in attendance	Number of resident interactions
April 2024	Sheerness	13	84
May 2024	Sittingbourne	15	35
June 2024	Faversham	11	60
July 2024	Sheerness (Seashells)	15	201
August 2024	Leysdown	12	62
September 2024	Sheerness	14	86

October 2024	Faversham	10	77
November 2024	Sittingbourne	18	134
January 2025	Leysdown	12	4
February 2025	Sittingbourne		
March 2025	Faversham		
March 2025	Sheerness		

2.7 Data

The following data has been collected over the lifespan of HSF and shows the numbers of households that the scheme has assisted.

Although the service delivery differs the data collection has remained similar for reporting. The number of households differs from the volume of support provided as we have provided multiple support to the same household in some instances.

Final data for Round 6 (Sep24-Mar25) is still being collated.

Full Data set can be seen in **Annex I**

1.8 Funding outlook

Across Swale there are a variety of services that are reliant on contracts and funding that are due to end either before or on the 31st March 2025. Many of the contract holders are voluntary sector organisations who do not have the capacity to deliver services without the guarantee of future funding. This will have a significant impact to communities if these services must close their doors.

Included within these are Children & Families (Seashells) who deliver a number of services to Swale residents. Age UK Kent Rivers and the IMAGO services which in the long term will have a huge impact on our aging residents. SATEDA and the domestic abuse services, and cuts to Youth Services are to name a few.

3 Proposals

3.1 Request member input to prioritise the key elements of the funding allocation for HSF Round 7. The funding landscape has changed significantly since the inception of HSF, however the level of need for emergency support within the community has not reduced, if anything it is more than ever. Food banks are seeing vast numbers of complex cases, and the fuel support services are still overrun with applications for vouchers.

3.2 The following sets out proposals for funding options in Round 7 – Subject to confirmation of funding allocation from Government and Guidance Criteria.

Funding category	Delivery mechanism	Priority option
Food Support	Vouchers, Food Parcels, Food Shopping, Hot Meals	Continue as main service offer – review delivery providers to ensure value for money

Energy and Water	£100 Mastercard - billed account fuel support	Continue at a reduced service offer – reduce number of vouchers available per month
Wider Essentials linked to energy and water	Fuel & Water Advisor - warm packs, hygro meters etc	Continue with current service offers
Wider Essentials	White goods	Deliver to households only referred by housing – voucher
Advice Services	Information and advice services, including benefit uptake, energy advice and general advice	Continue with current service offers
Prevention	Specific delivery of prevention services - for example budgeting advice, benefit support,	Include new service offer – value and delivery model tbc
Housing Costs	Exceptional circumstances- rent arrears, emergency support for homeless/TA	Continue at reduced service offer – introduce a set criteria for priority households

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 An alternative option would be to deliver HSF internally by SBC Officers and not utilise the VCSE. This option has been rejected as there are not enough resources within the current team to be able to deliver services, there would be a vast amount of work required to set up delivery and the current model delivers value for money by utilising the VCSE.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 The Cost of Living Partnership Group has a high number of attendees from across multiple sectors and services from around the borough. The group meet on a bi-monthly basis and a workshop was held at the February meeting to delve into the current issues and gather ideas and insights for Round 7.
- 5.2 We conducted a brief survey to members of the External Cost of Living Group to ask their views on the reasons why people are accessing HSF and if they feel we should be concentrating our efforts on a dedicated prevention service. Of the 12 responses received the majority felt that we should include a specific service relating to prevention and the top reasons for people accessing HSF are negative budget, sudden change in circumstances and health conditions worsening or changing.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	HSF aligns to Community within the Corporate Plan – enabling community resilience through access to food, fuel and other emergency support.
Financial, Resource and Property	HSF currently provides funding to multiple partner agencies to assist them in supporting the most vulnerable households in the borough through a variety of functions that SBC does not deliver. The funding currently helps to reduce the pressure on SBC frontline services by providing residents with access to emergency support, without this service residents will look to SBC for support, of which is limited.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage
Crime and Disorder	Crime and disorder can be linked to poverty as those who are struggling can turn to crime.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	None identified at this stage
Health and Wellbeing	The long-term effects of deprivation are key to the high level of health inequalities in the borough. HSF supports residents to feed and heat their homes which are essential.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	Without HSF we could potentially see and increase in Safeguarding cases due to lack of services and increased pressures on families to feed and heat their homes. As well as potential increased suicide rates and increase in mental health issues.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage

7 Appendices

- Annex I – HSF Data

8 Background Papers

Website link to Household Support Fund: www.swale.gov.uk/hsf

Household Support Fund								
Total Value of Awards Split by Category								
Round 1								
	Food Support <i>(Vouchers, Food Parcels, Food Shopping, Hot Meals)</i>	Energy and Water <i>(fuel vouchers, essentials linked to energy/water ie. warm packs, hygro meters)</i>		Wider Essentials	Advice Services	Housing Costs	Total Volume	Total Households
Time Period								
06/10/21-31/03/22	443	155	0	258	0	0	856	683
Round 2								
	Food Support <i>(Vouchers, Food Parcels, Food Shopping, Hot Meals)</i>	Energy and Water <i>(fuel vouchers, essentials linked to energy/water ie. warm packs, hygro meters)</i>		Wider Essentials	Advice Services	Housing Costs	Total Volume	Total Households
01/04/22-30/09/22	1753	3982	0	0	0	0	5735	1773
Round 3								
	Food Support <i>(Vouchers, Food Parcels, Food Shopping, Hot Meals)</i>	Energy and Water <i>(fuel vouchers, essentials linked to energy/water ie. warm packs, hygro meters)</i>		Wider Essentials	Advice Services	Housing Costs	Total Volume	Total Households
07/10/22-30/03/23	6380	2313	0	33	0	4	8730	5861
Round 4								
	Food Support <i>(Vouchers, Food Parcels, Food Shopping, Hot Meals)</i>	Energy and Water <i>(fuel vouchers, essentials linked to energy/water ie. warm packs, hygro meters)</i>		Wider Essentials	Advice Services	Housing Costs	Total Volume	Total Households
01/04/2023-31/03/2024	20937	1761	0	730	615	6	24049	22818
Round 5								
	Food Support <i>(Vouchers, Food Parcels, Food Shopping, Hot Meals)</i>	Energy and Water <i>(fuel vouchers, essentials linked to energy/water ie. warm packs, hygro meters)</i>	Wider Essentials linked to energy and water	Wider Essentials	Advice Services	Housing Costs	Total Volume	Total Households
01/04/2024-30/09/2024	9584	811	50	957	400	48	11850	11151
Round 6								
	Food Support <i>(Vouchers, Food Parcels, Food Shopping, Hot Meals)</i>	Energy and Water <i>(fuel vouchers, essentials linked to energy/water ie. warm packs, hygro meters)</i>	Wider Essentials linked to energy and water	Wider Essentials	Advice Services	Housing Costs	Total Volume	Total Households
Figures for Oct-Dec 2024								
01/10/2024-31/03/2025	4206	374	0	0	199	1	4780	4780
Totals	43303	9396	50	1978	1214	59	56000	47066

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Community and Leisure Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	5 March 2025
Report Title	Overnight vehicle issues at locations across Sheppey
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell, Head of Environment and Leisure
Lead Officer	Martyn Cassell, Head of Environment and Leisure
Classification	Open
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee are asked to approve overnight charging at Shingle Bank (including the areas of green opposite), and Shellness Road. 2. Refer the additional costs stated at 2.20 to Policy and Resources committee for approval for the first year of operation. 3. Discuss the overnight charge amount and refer to Policy and Resources Committee and Full Council for approval in fees and charges. 4. Agree the times charges will be applied. 5. Decide on the type of vehicle that charges will apply to. 6. Refer to Joint Transportation Board, the requirement to add traffic restrictions along Marine Parade and Shellness Road. 7. Note the Petition opposing charges at the Shingle Bank and dismiss it in favour of charging.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 As a follow up to the report of 11 December 2024, this report updates Members on the public consultation results from the survey around overnight parking at Shingle Bank, Minster and Shellness, Leysdown.
- 1.2 It identifies potential solutions and Members are asked to debate the issues and consider the options. A clear steer is needed to inform the traffic regulation orders.

2 Background

- 2.1 In recent years, a number of complaints have been received from members of the public, Borough and Parish Councillors, regarding the presence of a large number of motorhomes, campervans and caravans parked along the Shingle Bank 'sea defence' in Minster and at Shellness in Leysdown.
- 2.2 The Shingle bank sea defence has become a popular location for visitors in large motorhomes, many of whom park for several days, but some of which can be present for weeks if not months. This is contributed to further by those without permanent homes and effectively 'living' in caravans in these areas plus vehicles left for storage.
- 2.3 Complaints cover the imposing nature due to the volume that stay for long periods, to environmental impacts due to lack of toilet/sewer provision and a lack of capacity for those wanting to visit during the day.
- 2.4 An area of off-street parking at Shellness, next to the sea wall has also been popular with those looking for overnight stays.
- 2.5 Enforcement of this long-term parking demands a considerable resource from the Council, who must balance this resource against other statutory service demands.
- 2.6 To date, a considerable amount of expenditure has been used on installing and maintaining physical measures to create a width restricted access to the main section of the Shingle Bank and other bollard restrictions at Shellness. This has reduced the number of vehicles at their peak, however regrettably all of these measures have been met with varying degrees of vandalism by those wishing to continue to gain access to this area.
- 2.7 Based on the above, the Committee debated the following options in their December meeting;
1. Keep the parking arrangements at one, two or three locations the same as now (free to use).
 2. Implement an overnight charge for all vehicles at some or all of the locations.
 3. Ban and restrict access to parking at locations permanently.
- 2.8 Members approved a public consultation and this ran between 17 December 2024 and 9 February 2025. A total of 1204 responses were received, the full details of which can be found in Appendix I, but the key points are summarised below;

- 1204 responses – 47% entered ME12 as a postcode. Whilst not all entered a postcode, just 35 entered a postcode outside of Swale registering at just 2.9% of responses. Entries were received from as far away as Bristol.
- 87% of respondents said they were not overnight users of the Shingle bank or Shellness.
- 47% voted to implement overnight charges for all vehicles at Shingle Bank. 26% wanted the parking arrangements kept the same and 26% wanted to restrict access to the bank permanently (day and night).
- 48% voted to implement overnight charges for all vehicles at Shellness. 30% wanted the parking arrangements kept the same and 22% wanted to restrict access to parking permanently (day and night).
- Due to potential displacement issues, 52% of respondents said we should also implement an overnight charge at Barton's Point car park, 32% said this should remain unchanged and 16% wanted a permanent ban.
- The most popular time period for charging was between 8pm and 8am at 41%. This was followed by 9pm-9am (23%), all day charging at 21% and 10pm-10am at 15%.
- The most popular amount to charge was £10 per night (54%) followed by £20 per night (25%) and £15 per night (20%).
- When asked which type of vehicles should be permitted to park overnight 49% said only motorhomes and campervans with internal toilets, 35% said individual cars should also be allowed and only 15% said caravans should be permitted.

2.9 The relevant Town and Parish Councils were also consulted, and their comments can be seen in the consultation section of this report and appendices.

2.10 With the outcome suggesting that overnight charges should be installed at all three locations, we need to consider the next stages, which include a timeframe for implementation, the costs, and the actions needed to put the operation into place.

2.11 In order to charge overnight, Off-Street Parking Places Orders need to be put in place. These need to follow a strict Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process which includes a formal consultation period consisting of advertising the proposals (both at the location and in local newspapers), considering consultation feedback and then installation of infrastructure.

2.12 The TRO process will take approximately 13 weeks, which would take us to sometime in June for final implementation if approved tonight. This timeframe assumes limited formal objections that could be managed under officer

delegation. Should a large number of objections be received, a further committee report would be required.

- 2.13 The December report talked about the complications of enforcing overnight charges such as the impact of vandalism on successful enforcement, staff safety and the costs of operation versus the predicted income were all considerations.
- 2.14 Due to the remote locations, Pay and Display units are not recommended. RingGo, the cashless parking solution we use for our main car parks could be utilised. Tests need to be conducted for mobile signal strength, and signage needs to be robust, tamper proof and highly visible to be effective for enforcement. A suitable budget (suggested at £3,500) for set-up is therefore recommended and on-going funds for replenishment can be covered from income generated.
- 2.15 For staff safety, our civil enforcement contractor would risk assess the new locations. Staff already adopt body worn cameras and enforcement staff would attend in pairs when visiting the locations. The level of incidents would be monitored in the initial period and further mechanisms such as security back up may be needed.
- 2.16 The Committee asked officers to look at CCTV provision in the vicinity. Site investigations have been conducted and it is proposed that two cameras are installed on nearby lampposts at the Shingle Bank (one at White House end and one at the entrance to Bartons Point. These streetlights are KCC assets and permission is being sought and the relevant load testing undertaken. The recommendation is to utilise temporary deployable cameras to start with to test feasibility. We can utilise one existing camera and would need to purchase another at £2,500 and cover the costs of installation. Ongoing costs of £400 per year would need to be met for each camera to cover SIM card provision.
- 2.17 CCTV provision at Shellness is harder to implement as there are no existing KCC lampposts or power in the vicinity. We are investigating potential solutions, but costs are likely to be much higher due to the need to supply power to this remote area.
- 2.18 It is difficult to estimate the likely income that would be received from charging for overnight parking, as we have no way of knowing if all of those currently using the locations would pay an overnight charge, suggested as £10 per night in the consultation results.
- 2.19 Additional hours of enforcement would need to be purchased. A trial is suggested with an additional 60 hours of enforcement per month to cover the locations. This would cost circa £1900 per month or £22,800 per year.
- 2.20 Therefore, in summary the suggested costs for year 1 that would need to be considered would be;

Description	Cost (£s)
CCTV camera (Shingle bank)	3,400
Implementing the traffic orders	1,200
Additional enforcement (all locations)	22,800
Signage (all locations)	3,500
Removal of concrete blocks (Shingle bank)	1,500
General repairs to the surfacing (Shingle bank)	5,000
TOTAL	£37,400

- 2.21 Other considerations need to be made, in particular the issue of potential displacement to other areas, a subject touched upon above. The green areas opposite Shingle Bank are opened for overspill parking during the summer months. These would be vulnerable to the same issues experienced on the Shingle Bank should they be left without restriction. It is therefore recommended to implement the same restrictions as the Shingle Bank for these areas, but only for the period that the car parks are opened.
- 2.22 Barton's Point car park is an interesting consideration. Protection against displacement would be needed for the car park; however, the Council is considering its options for future operation of the site. Ecological surveys are currently being finalised, prior to the decision coming back to the relevant committee. We therefore do not want to impact on future options by implementing an overnight charge at the current time. Operational considerations would be made with the existing operator of the café.
- 2.23 There may also be displacement of parked vehicles onto the highway of Marine Parade and therefore traffic restrictions along the length of the road would need to be considered, including the formal process for an On-Street Traffic Regulation Order.
- 2.24 Illegal encampment legislation is complicated, and lengthy court processes are required which often deliver low level penalties that do not deter future breaches. However, it may be necessary to use these powers for some vehicles as we lead up to the implementation of charges.
- 2.25 The consultation suggests that the Off-Street Parking Places Order should stipulate that only motorhome or campervans with internal toilet facilities should be allowed to stay. This is very hard to enforce as there is no national database to verify vehicle specifications, and officers could not check this detail whilst making enforcement visits. It is therefore recommended that Members agree that charges apply to all vehicles.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The Committee are asked to approve overnight charging at Shingle Bank (including the areas of green opposite), and Shellness Road.

- 3.2 Refer the additional costs stated at 2.20 to Policy and Resources committee for approval for the first year of operation.
- 3.3 Discuss the overnight charge amount and refer to Policy and Resources Committee and Full Council for approval.
- 3.4 Agree the times charges will be applied.
- 3.5 Decide on the type of vehicle that charges will apply to.
- 3.6 Refer to Joint Transportation Board, the requirement to add traffic restrictions along Marine Parade and Shellness Road.
- 3.7 Note the Petition opposing charges at the Shingle Bank and dismiss it in favour of charging.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 To not approve overnight charging at one or all of the locations. This is not recommended as public consultation suggests people want charges implemented and the current issues that have led to a large number of complaints will not be resolved.
- 4.2 Implement charges at Barton's Point. This is not recommended whilst the review of operation continues.
- 4.3 Permanently restrict access to these locations. This would eradicate all issues but will restrict other users during the day time.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 Members of the public have contacted the Council directly over the last few years. This has increased recently with concerns over the issues overnight parking has created.
- 5.2 A petition consisting of 488 signatures has been received by the Council opposing any proposal to levy charges at the Shingle Bank and this was seen at the September committee.
- 5.3 The Community and Leisure Chair attended Sheppey Area committee on 19 September 2024. The details of the discussions are provided in the link at the bottom of this report. Subsequent meetings have had updates.
- 5.4 Minster Parish Council were approached to state their formal position. Officers attended a Parish Council meeting and the Clerk confirmed in writing the following (full letter at appendix II);

- A permanent ban on caravans at the Shingle Bank
- A chargeable parking scheme for vehicles between 10pm and 6am.
- Cars would be exempt and can stay during this period.
- The charge should be £15.
- The green area opposite be included
- Barton’s Point car park should not be included but considered at next tender.
- Support for CCTV.

5.5 Leysdown Parish Council discussed it at their meeting of 28 January 2025. Their formal position (Appendix III) is;

- Even split between Cllrs and residents of banning parking altogether and charging overnight.
- They raised concerns about inappropriate parking, human waste, the speed of the road next to the parking area, lack of enforcement.
- If these issues were mitigated then overnight charging would be supported, if not a complete ban would be their preference.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	This report cuts across a range of corporate plan priorities in Community, Environment and Running the Council.
Financial, Resource and Property	<p>The report details that Members need to weigh up the costs of, implementing an overnight charging scheme (costs of maintaining signage/enforcement against likely income) or permanently restricting access.</p> <p>The main report suggests the costs for year 1.</p>
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	<p>Each option requires the support of legislation to implement whether that be Civil Enforcement Act, Environmental Protection Act</p> <p>Each option would also require on-going procurement of services or repairs and maintenance.</p> <p>Traffic Regulation Orders operate in the proposed way; <i>Swale Borough Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) in exercise of its powers under Sections 32 and 35 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (“The Act of 1984”) and the Traffic Management Act 2004 (“Act of 2004”) and of all other enabling powers, with the consent of the Kent County Council in accordance with Section 39(3) of the Act of 1984 and after consultation with the</i></p>

	<i>Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 of the Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order.....</i>
Crime and Disorder	Reports of anti-social behaviour have contributed to the raising of this matter at committee.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	Reports of inappropriate use of the locations such as littering and disposal of human waste need to be considered. Any plans to encourage overnight use of the locations need to be considered from a planning and ecological basis.
Health and Wellbeing	Those opposed to overnight charges state that they use the locations for leisure pursuits that improve their health and well-being. However, the congestion at the site may restrict others from enjoying the space.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	Some of those located at the Shingle bank or Shellness may be vulnerable adults due to their housing situation.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	Enforcement operations will need to be risk assessed by the contractor.
Equality and Diversity	The use of the locations is expected to be for everybody. Balancing the uses is a difficult decision for Members to consider.
Privacy and Data Protection	No issues recorded.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:
- Appendix I: Public Consultation results
 - Appendix II: Minster Parish Council response to consultation
 - Appendix III: Leysdown Parish Council response to consultation

8 Background Papers

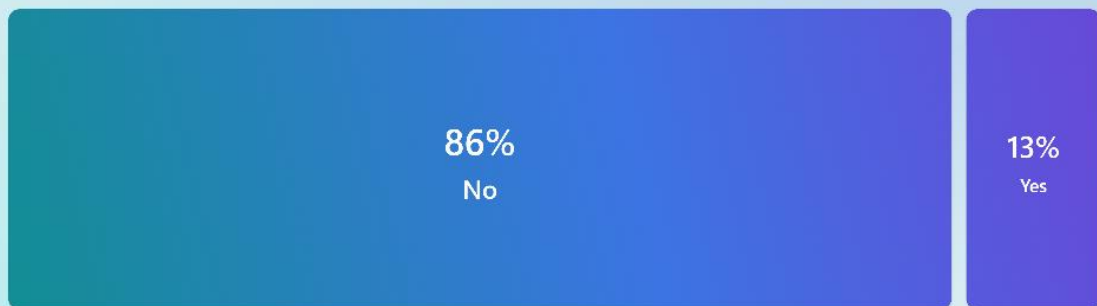
- 8.1 [Sheppey Area Committee September 2024](#)
- 8.2 [Community and Leisure Committee – December 2024](#)

Appendix I – Public Consultation Results

Please enter your postcode

ME12 4TR
Me12 2dj ME12 3AR ME12 3QD Me12 2hl ME12 2BE
ME12 2HT ME12 2NQ **ME12** ME12 2LU ME12 3sf
ME12 2JL ME12 3JH ME12 2QE ME12 2JZ ME12 2BQ
ME12 3FX ME12 2NH Me12 2sb me12 3ut

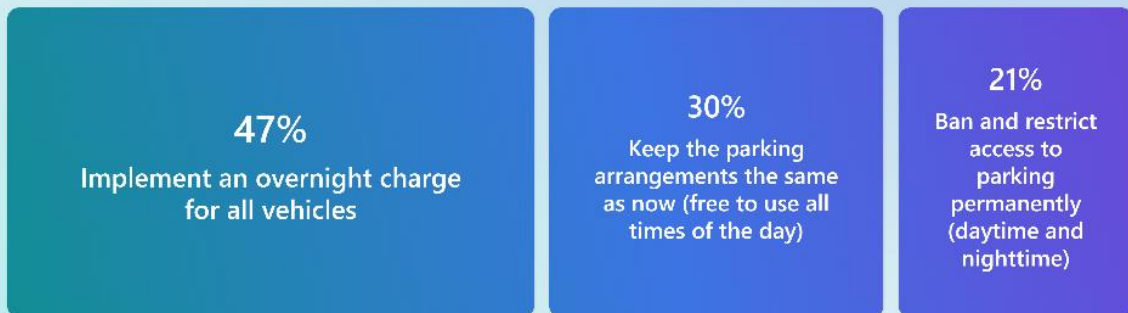
Do you currently use Shingle Bank, Minster, or Shellness Road, Leysdown, for overnight parking?



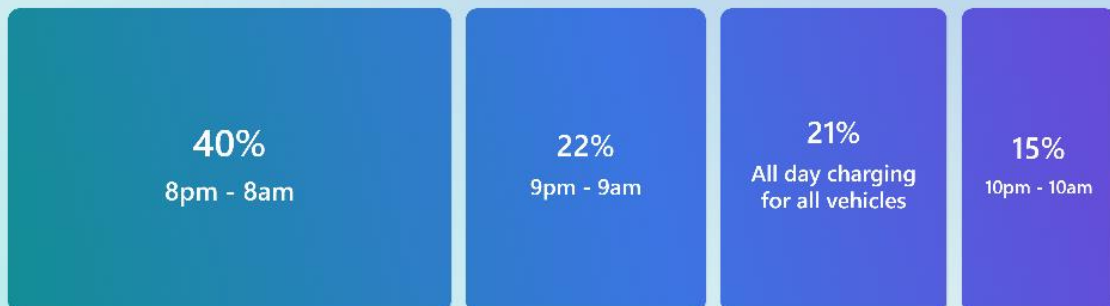
What is your preferred outcome for the Shingle Bank? (select one)



What is your preferred outcome for the Shellness Road? (select one)



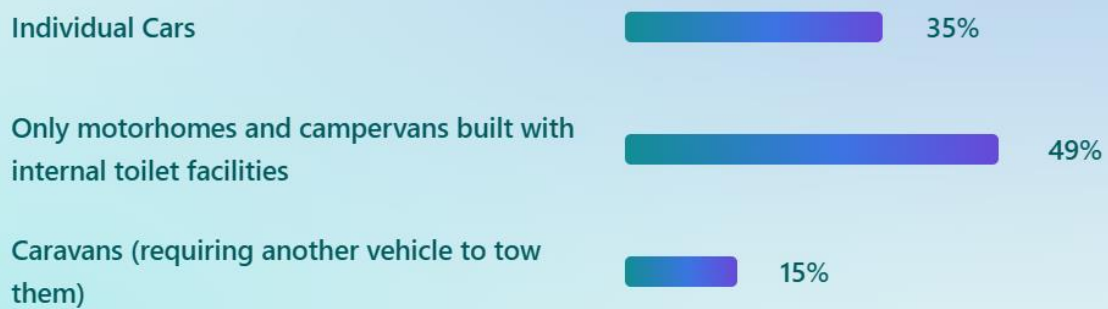
If charging was implemented, what time period would you prefer to see in place? (select one)



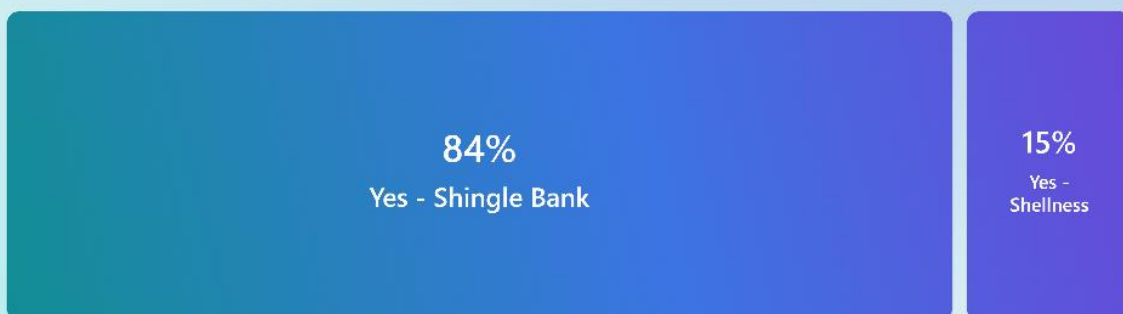
What would you see as a sensible price for charging for an overnight stay? These are based on no additional facilities being added to the site. (select one)



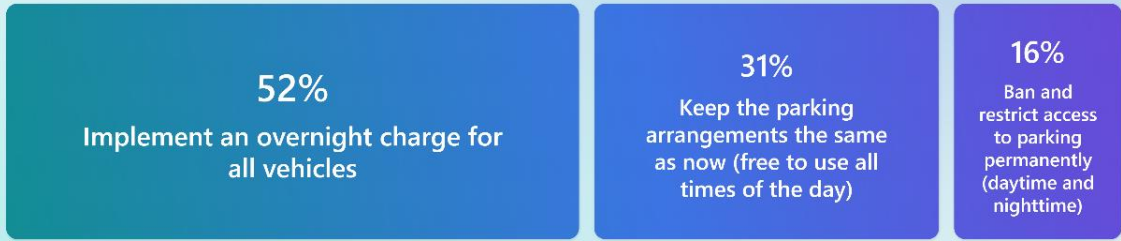
If charging was implemented what vehicles should be permitted to stay? (select all that apply)



Are you a current user of the various locations for overnight stays?



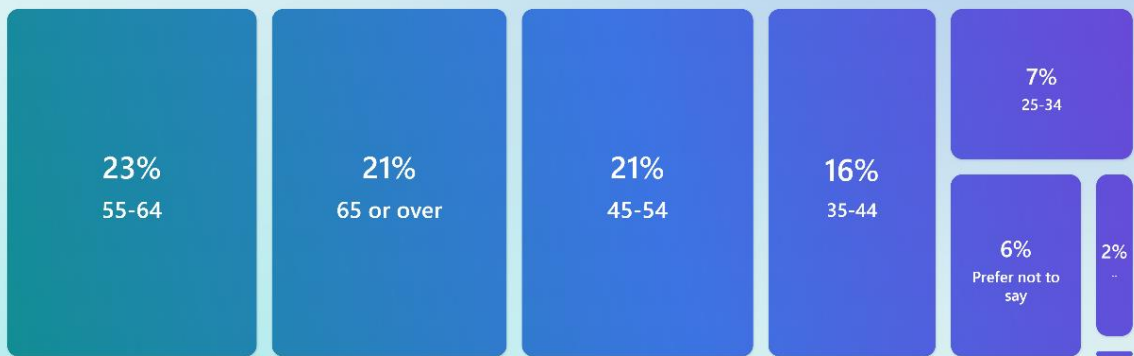
Given the above locations may displace vehicles elsewhere, what is your preferred outcome for the Barton's Point Coastal Park car park? (select one)



How would you describe yourself



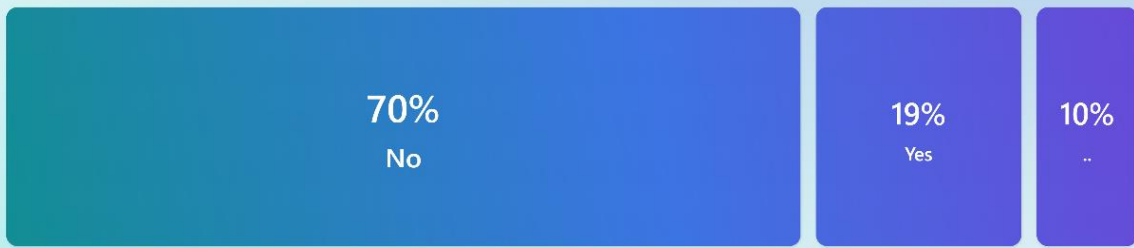
What is your age?



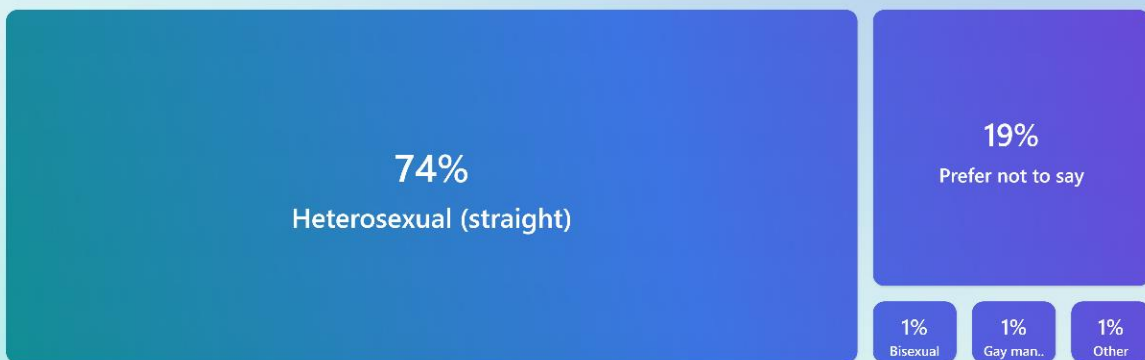
How would you describe your ethnicity?



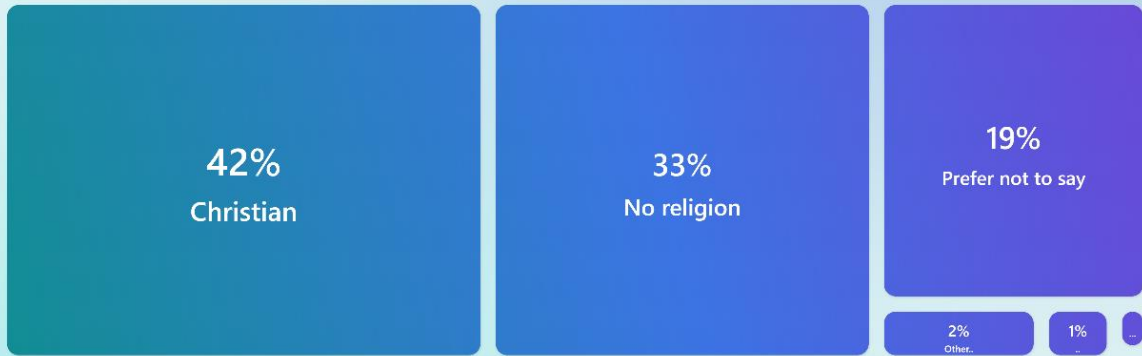
Do you consider yourself to have a disability?



How would you describe your sexual orientation?



How would you describe your religious beliefs?



29 January 2025

Martyn Cassell
Head of Environment and Leisure
Swale Borough Council
East Street
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 3HT



Lauren Crockford
Minster on Sea Parish Council Clerk
Minster on Sea Parish Council
Love Lane
Minster on Sea
Sheerness
Kent
ME12 2LP

clerk@minsteronseaparishcouncil.gov.uk

Dear Martyn

Following the recent consultation regarding the use of the Shingle Bank, Minster on Sea Parish Council has discussed the consultation questions and voted unanimously to implement a ban on caravans being allowed on the Shingle Bank. This decision reflects the concerns raised by residents and the council, and we are committed to maintaining the integrity and accessibility of this area for use for all the community.

In addition to this ban, the Parish Council proposes a chargeable parking scheme for vehicles on the Shingle Bank between the hours of 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM. The proposed parking fee would be £15 per night. However, cars should be exempt from this charge and can continue to park on the Shingle Bank free of charge during these hours.

Furthermore, the Council has considered the consultation's point on alternative locations for camping and caravanning, and it has been proposed that such activities be allowed at the Barton Point location, but not in the car park area. This matter will be fully discussed during the next tender opportunity to ensure proper planning and consideration of all relevant factors.

To better manage parking and enhance security, we recommend the installation of car parking signs at the grassy car park opposite the Shingle Bank and the installation of a CCTV pole at the White House, which will be utilised to monitor activity in the area.

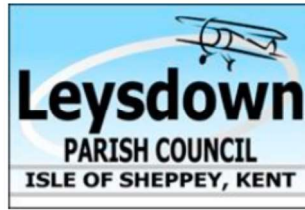
We hope that these proposals will address the concerns of local residents while continuing to offer facilities for visitors and users of the Shingle Bank area.

Should you have any questions or require further details, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Council.

Many thanks

Yours sincerely

Lauren Crockford
Parish Council Clerk
On behalf of:
Minster on Sea Parish Council



The shingle bank consultation was discussed on 28/01/2025 at the Leysdown Parish Council public meeting. The focus was on parking on Shellness Road.

Between the council and residents who were present, there was an even split between banning parking altogether, or bringing in limitations on overnight parking.

The problems are as follows:

1. Safety concerns
2. Human waste
3. Lack of enforcement
4. Abuse of site (ie. Parking vehicles that are used as storage facilities)

Safety concerns

The National speed limit applies on Shellness road, raising grave concerns about safety. Children and other pedestrians emerge from between parked vehicles to access the park and football pitch that are opposites. Parked vehicles themselves are vulnerable, the parking bays immediately adjacent to the road. At least one collision has occurred between a fast moving car and a stationary vehicle.

Considering the speed of the road, no vehicles should be parked there at all. The speed limit would have to be reduced to keep both pedestrians and vehicles safe.

Human waste

Litter pickers and others frequently find human excrement in the site's vicinity. Campers are disposing of human waste, with others using the surrounding area as a toilet.

Charging for overnight parking may attract more responsible people, but there is no guarantee. So long as there are no toilet facilities, or means of disposing of chemical waste from campers, it is unlikely that this problem will go away.

Lack of enforcement

Residents at the public meeting made clear that people routinely abuse the parking bays. Campervans and trailers spread across disabled and other bays, preventing others from using the site. It was also noted that enforcement appears to be non-existent. (image attached below)

The council and residents would require assurances on how this problem could be mitigated. Would ANPR or CCTV help ensure that bays are used correctly? Would parking charges also mean wardens coming to the site more frequently, and be able to fine those abusing the bays?

Other issues

Some, it has been pointed out, are using the site to park vehicles for the expressed purpose of using them as storage facilities. This prevents others from using the site and should not be allowed. Overnight charges with number plate recognition would hopefully eliminate this issue.

Summary

The council and the public in attendance would welcome overnight charges along Shellness Road, if the issues above could be addressed. If not, the preference would be to ban overnight parking altogether.

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Community Committee	
Meeting Date	5 March 2025
Report Title	Swale Leisure Contract – Faversham Pools
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell, Head of Environment and Leisure
Lead Officer	Jay Jenkins, Leisure & Technical Services Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members are requested to review the implications of including Faversham Pools into the Swale Leisure contract from April 2027 and decide; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) To include Faversham Pools in the upcoming Leisure contract tender (subject to agreement of final terms). b) To not include Faversham Pools in the tender and proceed to tender for the existing facilities. 2. Officers are delegated to continue to work with the Members Working Group and Faversham Pools Trust in finalising the tender specification and documentation, legal framework and proceed with the tender.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report details the recent discussions with the Members Working Group and Faversham Pools Trust regarding their potential involvement in the Swale Leisure Contract from April 2027.
- 1.2 The report confirms the decision of the Faversham Pools Trust Board to be considered for the Swale Leisure contract from April 2027: *The trustees as directors of the company passed a formal resolution that “the charity will proceed with an outsourcing contract with SBC, subject to finalising terms.”*
- 1.3 The Committee are asked to discuss the implications (positive and negative) of including Faversham Pools in the contract and make a decision ahead of the tender.

2 Background

- 2.1 The existing leisure contract (covering Swallows & Sheppey) is due to expire on 31 March 2027.

- 2.2 On the 21 January 2025, the Community Committee approved the working group's recommendation to proceed to an external procurement process on a 10 + 5-year basis from April 2027.
- 2.3 Faversham Pools Trust is currently not a party to the Leisure Centre management contract, as it has a separate long-term lease (60 years from 4 October 1993) with SBC to operate the indoor swimming pool, supplemented by an annual grant agreement. The Trust owns the freehold to the attached outdoor pools following the gifting of the land and public donations from residents of Faversham. They do a fantastic job of managing the site, but the nature of the annual grant agreement and ever-increasing costs of operating give rise to an uncertain future.
- 2.4 Several meetings have taken place with the Co-Chairs of Faversham Pools Trust with support from the SBC consultant team. The meetings have explored the opportunity of including the Faversham facility as part of the new contract as a way of securing swimming facilities in Faversham for the long term. Entering into a long-term contract would allow the spreading of overhead costs over 3 sites (Swallows, Sheppey and Faversham), potentially attract greater external investment and provide a consistent offer for residents across the Borough e.g. members will likely be able to use all sites in the Borough on one membership.
- 2.5 Faversham Pools Trust charitable objectives are as follows:
- To provide swimming and leisure facilities for the benefit of the inhabitants of Faversham and its surrounding areas (the 'area of benefit') with the objective of improving their conditions of life
 - The promotion of community participation in healthy recreation and the advancement of education, particularly relating to the benefit of good health and prevention of sickness.

Additionally, the Board has prioritised the long-term sustainability of swimming provision in Faversham. It also wishes to protect the heritage and legacy of the Pools whilst having the opportunity to work closely with members and colleagues at SBC.

- 2.6 Faversham Pools Trust board met on 10 February and have unanimously voted to be included into the Leisure contract from April 2027. The trustees also passed further resolutions which follow on from this decision. The material ones are:
- *A working group comprising five trustees has been set up which is authorised to negotiate the terms of the outsourcing specification with SBC, subject to final board approval.*
 - *The charity will enter into a contract with SBC on terms to be approved by the trustees at a future meeting to implement the outsourcing arrangement and to take such further steps as are necessary to appoint a corporate trustee in place of the current trustees.*

- 2.6 Faversham Pools Trustees have requested to be involved in the contract specification design and have a representative on the evaluation panel which will require intensive work between the decision of this committee and tender commencement. Officers feel that this is important in order to capture the Trust's objectives within the new contract specification, given they are the freeholder of the outdoor pool.
- 2.7 Whilst there are undoubted benefits to the community in securing all leisure centres under the same contract arrangement (as seen in 2.4), the committee needs to consider the implications as well. Under the current lease arrangement for the indoor pool, the Council is protected from certain building costs. In the legal framework to come into the contract, the Trust would surrender the indoor pool lease which would revert all building maintenance risk to SBC. This has the potential to increase ongoing revenue costs for the Council, albeit that work to reduce operating costs, increase income and pass on some risk to the operator would be used to try and mitigate this. There would also be a requirement for capital investment for improvements, whether generated internally or through external funding.
- 2.8 The legal framework would also see the Faversham Pools Trust change its objectives and become a property holding charity, with a 'corporate trustee' in place of existing trustees. This overcomes the issue of the Trust having to transfer any freehold assets to a charity, and not being able to transfer its assets directly to the Council. Further work is required on the structure and operation of the corporate trustee role which could be undertaken by one or more local entities.
- 2.9 The charity will then lease the outdoor pools to SBC, so we could allow the winning operator to manage the entire site. The terms of this lease still need to be negotiated, but it would almost certainly pass on some additional capital risk to the Council. A legal agreement would need to be in place prior to publishing the tender opportunity to protect the Council from aborted tender costs. Members are asked to consider the implications of this and whether any requirements of agreeing to the partnership need to be set for officers to negotiate.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 Members are requested to review the implications of including Faversham Pools into the Swale Leisure contract from April 2027 and decide.
- a) To include Faversham Pools in the upcoming Leisure contract tender (subject to agreement of final terms).
 - b) To not include Faversham Pools in the tender and proceed to tender for the existing facilities.

- 3.2 Officers are delegated to continue to work with the Members Working Group and Faversham Pools Trust in finalising the tender specification and documentation, legal framework and proceed with the tender.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 The Committee are given two options within the recommendations to proceed with or without Faversham Pools included.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with Faversham Pools Trustees.
- 5.2 The Member Working Group has ensured cross party involvement in this project and has discussed the implications of including Faversham Pools into the Leisure contract from April 2027.
- 5.3 A Soft market testing exercise has been undertaken and resulted in 10 operators responding. All companies expressed a preferred option of including Faversham Pools in the tender process.
- 5.4 The recent Built Facilities Strategy confirmed that it is essential for the borough to maintain its current water space and indeed has a need for additional water space.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Community, to enable our residents to live, work and enjoy their leisure time safely in our borough and to support community resilience.
Financial, Resource and Property	<p>Members have previously reviewed the financial variances between insourcing compared with outsourcing and the financial modelling of two facilities compared with three.</p> <p>There is currently no additional budget provision for the inclusion of Faversham Pools over and above the £80,000 set aside for the annual grant within the Medium-Term Financial Plan. A more detailed summary can be found in the exempt appendices.</p> <p>Potential risks to SBC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repairs & Maintenance implications (costs) for both the indoor and outdoor pools, associated plant and surrounding areas. The estimated annual costs of this are currently covered in the facilities trading accounts. The current position of SBC funding repairs & maintenance works at

	<p>Swallows and Sheppey will be reviewed as part of the contract specification design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Parking refund costs are not currently provided at Faversham as it operates under a separate lease arrangement. To ensure the facility is in line with the current two facilities arrangements, a Member decision is required ahead of tender commencement on this. • Utilities, the estimated annual costs of utilities are currently covered in the facilities trading accounts. Utility arrangements are under review as part of the contract specification review. <p>If Faversham Pools is not part of the wider contract from April 2027 there is a significant risk that Faversham Pools will become unsustainable. If this is the case, then the risks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor lease reverts to SBC. • The Pools will potentially have to close. This is likely to require ongoing security costs. • There would also be a projected loss of car park income. • The Council would lose the mandatory and discretionary rate relief. • SBC would also be required to pick up the rates bill once the empty property relief has expired. • The current annual grant will be saved. <p>The financial sustainability of Faversham Pools is an identified risk. The current Grant agreement is subject to SBC budget review and as such is not guaranteed going forward. The Grant agreement will not be in place if Faversham Pools are part of the Leisure Contract going forward.</p> <p>There are also indirect financial costs which would impact on the local economy namely loss of jobs, the secondary spends by Faversham Pool customers in the Town and the increased transport costs for local schools to achieve their mandatory water skills training at alternative venues.</p> <p>In addition to the financial impacts, there are several community impacts.</p>
<p>Legal, Statutory and Procurement</p>	<p>There will need to be a suitable Legal agreement in place to ensure that should Faversham Pools Trust withdraw from the process, SBC are protected.</p>

	<p>The proposal is that the current Faversham Pools Trust would be amended, and a Corporate Trustee put in place. This could be a Faversham based entity or SBC.</p> <p>Consideration needs to be given to a need for an agreed risk share on the ongoing liability for the outdoor pools.</p>
Crime and Disorder	<p>The provisions delivered by the leisure centres act as diversionary activities for young people, likely contributing to reducing crime and/or ASB. Many activities for younger people are greatly being reduced due to funding issues by other agencies and therefore those that can be delivered by leisure centres are an important requirement.</p>
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	<p>Any investment in the buildings needs to consider reducing the carbon footprint of the service, due to their high energy usage. Including Faversham in the contract will likely help to generate more investment interest from operators.</p>
Health and Wellbeing	<p>Health & Wellbeing is a key output of any leisure contract. Social impact outcomes are directly linked to the Council's ability to offer a suitable and easily accessible leisure offering.</p> <p>The new contract will be prescriptive regarding working with local Health Partnerships (e.g. Health & Care Partnerships, ICB etc) to engage in Social Regeneration Programs to tackle health inequalities.</p> <p>SBC are having conversations with the NHS about social conscience and are considering specification inclusions.</p>
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	<p>All target groups will be considered as part of the tender process.</p> <p>Clearly the leisure centre environment needs a certain level of assurance that operators understand the implications and can manage successfully. The tender will ensure we capture the capabilities and experience of operators in this field.</p>
Risk Management and Health and Safety	<p>The financial sustainability of Faversham Pools is an identified risk. The current Grant agreement is subject to annual SBC budget review and as such is not guaranteed going forward. The Grant agreement will not be in place if Faversham Pools are part of the Leisure Contract going forward.</p> <p>There are several risks associated with the 3 facilities, Swallows, Sheppey Leisure Complex and Faversham Pools, namely condition of plant and fabric of all 4 buildings.</p>

	Health and safety is a core component of the contract specification that tenderers will be asked to submit plans to cover.
Equality and Diversity	A full equalities impact assessment will be presented with the award of contract report following the tender process. The tender process will follow standard Sport England recommended processes which ensure equality of access/opportunity is at the heart of the decision.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified.

7 Appendices

7.1 – Exempt two site v three site revenue estimates

7.2 – Exempt Potential Financial Implications

8 Background Papers

8.1 [Printed minutes 21012025 Community and Leisure Committee](#)

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Community and Leisure Committee Forward Decisions Plan

Report title, background information and recommendation(s)	Date of meeting	Open or exempt?	Lead Officer and report author
Open Spaces and Play Strategy	TBC	Open	Lead Officer: Jay Jenkins Report Author: Graeme Tuff

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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