

Eastern Area Committee – Priorities and ambitions proposal for 2021/22

Work plan – future items

After consulting with Committee Members, it was apparent that transport issues are of concern to residents in the Eastern Area. In particular, the lack of bus services or transport links along the A2 and the villages south of Faversham, improving the opportunities for cycling and walking in the local area and make local roads and streets safer for all road users. Consideration to be given to make public transport a more convenient and pleasant experience and to look at active travel.

The Chair and Vice-Chair therefore propose that the priority/ambition for the year 2021/22 should be to examine these different aspects of transport within the area, invite speakers from partner organisations to come into discuss these issues in detail and to look at what possible solutions could be achieved through this Committee.

The first of these discussions is on this evening's agenda when Phil Lightowler, the Head of Public Transport at Kent County Council will be in attendance to talk about reviewing existing community bus services to see what might be suitable for the Eastern area.

The Chair has suggested for the December meeting the issue of flooding of roads be discussed as this impacts transport and to invite a representative from Southern Water and the relevant Kent County Council Cabinet Member to attend.

Criteria for funding applications:

To support this theme, the Chair and Vice-Chair propose that bids for funding submitted to the December meeting should seek to improve the appearance, environment and facilities of the area with a particular emphasis on projects/initiatives that will have a positive impact on transport in the Eastern Area in line with SBC strategic priorities 2 and 3 as set out below:

Priority 2: Investing in our environment and responding positively to global challenges;

- 2.1 Develop a coherent strategy to address the climate and ecological emergencies, aiming for carbon neutrality in the council's own operations by 2025 and in the whole borough by 2030, and pursue all opportunities to enhance biodiversity across the borough.
- 2.2 Encourage active travel and reduced car use, including through the permeability of new developments, and work with partners to address air quality issues.
- 2.3 Establish a special projects fund to provide much-needed investment in the borough's public realm and open spaces.
- 2.4 Recognise and support our local heritage to give people pride in the place they live and boost the local tourism industry.

2.5 Work towards a cleaner borough where recycling remains a focus, and ensure that the council acts as an exemplar environmental steward, making space for nature wherever possible.

Priority 3: Tackling deprivation and creating equal opportunities for everyone:

3.1 Undertake targeted interventions to identify our most disadvantaged families and communities, improve our understanding of the issues they face, and develop new ways of working to reduce social exclusion and enhance opportunities and quality of life.

3.2 Reduce health inequality by developing more productive relationships with local health partners and making health and wellbeing a central consideration in all relevant council decision-making, recognising especially the link between housing and health.

3.3 Develop a communitarian approach to partnership working based on shared objectives with like-minded agencies in the voluntary and community sectors.

3.4 Ensure that the council plays a proactive role in reducing crime and antisocial behaviour, including through the modernisation of CCTV provision.

3.5 Promote wellbeing and enjoyment of life by signposting and encouraging a wide range of sporting, cultural and other leisure activities appropriate and accessible to each age group.

Scoring of applications:

In accordance with the procedure set out by the Area Committees Review Working Group and agreed by Committee Chairs, a three-step process will be carried out and all applications will be assessed by officers to check the following:

- they meet the criteria set out above;
- they do not cross over with other work being carried out by SBC or other organisations;
- there are no SBC financial/officer resource implications;
- the amount of funding requested is evidenced by quotations/estimates; and
- they do not include any of the exceptions listed below.

Exceptions to funding:

- *Individuals (or where the benefit of the funding will only benefit an individual)*
- *Party political groups or political activities. This includes any Parish Council (or group of), District Councils, or the Kent County Council where any funding would challenge or oppose the democratic functions of that Local Government. Or where such funding would be deemed to risk the reputational standing of Swale Borough Council.*

- *Church or Faith groups who are using the funding to promote religious activity.*
- *Schools and Academies cannot apply for funds towards capital costs; teaching materials; or curriculum delivery (although they may apply for funding towards initiatives or projects that support wider community benefit).*
- *Business/ companies which do not reinvest surpluses for community benefit.*

This Council will not fund any project or organisation that does not act responsibly, in line with the relevant laws and regulations.

Funds should not be used for business costs such as rent and utilities.

The applications will then be scored against the criteria and the area of impact and options for voting will be put to the Eastern Area Committee to vote on at the December meeting.