

Eastern Area Committee meeting: December 2021 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Progress on actions
1.	Flooding in the Whitstable Road area.	<p>The MP Helen Whately along with Members of the public who were affected by flooding were in attendance at the September 2021 meeting along with the KCC Asset Manager Drainage and Structures.</p> <p>The Area Committee and invited guests listened to how the residents are being affected by the increasing problems of surface flooding and the lack of action by Southern Water.</p> <p>It was agreed that Helen Whately MP would lead on setting up a meeting with all the relevant agencies and residents who had brought the matter to the attention of the Area Committee.</p>	An update to be given following the meeting with Southern Water (Appendix 1).
2.	Holding hybrid meetings in community halls.	<p>The Area Committee considered where the December meeting should take place. The preference was that it should be a hybrid meeting held in a community hall but the Area Committees Coordinator explained that this was not possible due to the Council not having the necessary equipment. Comments were also made on the limitations of the equipment in the Council Chamber.</p>	On taking this issue to Cabinet, the Chair was advised that SBC do not have the equipment for hybrid meetings to be conducted in community halls and to purchase it would be very costly. In response to a question about the legality of decisions being made at hybrid meetings in the Council Chamber, it was confirmed that providing the Committee Members were in attendance physically, any decisions made would be legal. However, any Committee

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		<p>A Committee Member proposed a recommendation to Cabinet that consideration should be given for Area Committees to enact their business in an appropriate hybrid way of working.</p>	<p>members attending virtually would not be eligible to vote.</p>
3.	<p>Bus services between Faversham, villages and rural areas</p>	<p>At the September 2020 Eastern Area Committee meeting a motion was passed which included the following proposal: That an investigation/report be made into reviewing existing community transport models to see what might be suitable for the Eastern area.</p> <p>Phil Lightowler, the Head of Public Transport at Kent County Council attended the September meeting for a discussion on bus services between Faversham, villages and rural areas. When asked if the Area Committee could practically improve bus services in the area, Phil Lightowler suggested consulting with the public to see what they wanted from the services.</p>	<p>Members proposed to bring back a funding proposal to the December 2021 meeting for a public consultation to find out what residents wanted from local bus services.</p>