

Eastern Area Committee meeting: June 2022 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Progress on actions
1.	Bus consultation project	<p>At the December 2021 meeting, Eastern Area Committee Members agreed to award £10,000.00 to undertake a public consultation on local bus services. Due to SBC resource issues there was a recommendation by the Head of Regeneration and Economic Development to explore an alternative delivery option such as project management by a town or parish council.</p> <p>At the Area Committee meeting on 22 March 2022, Members questioned if a parish or town council would have the resources to carry out this consultation and felt that it would be better for SBC to run this project, which was of huge importance to the residents of the Eastern Area.</p> <p>The Area Committee agreed that that the matter should be referred back to Cabinet to request that SBC carry out the public consultation on local bus services.</p>	<p>Options were taken to Informal Cabinet on 4 April 2022. Cabinet Members favoured the following options:</p> <p><i>Option 2: Seek a suitably qualified temp or student placement to undertake the work under the direction of either the Capital Projects Manager or the Economy and Community Services Manager.</i></p> <p><i>Option 4: Contract the work out to a third party with the contract managed by either the Capital Projects Manager or the Economy and Community Services Manager.</i></p> <p>Officers are assessing the resource implications and can update that they are making contact with the University of Kent Careers and Employability Service to determine what particular scheme this might best sit within, and when a student might be available.</p> <p>A current contract has been identified which could potentially be extended to accommodate the consultation. The consultants have indicated they would be willing and able to take this on.</p> <p>There is no longer of the option of the work being managed by the Capital Projects Manager as this post holder will be leaving SBC at the end of June. Therefore, in-house management of the work would</p>

			be by the Economy and Community Services Manager.
2.	Defibrillators in the Eastern Area	<p>An action that came out of the Eastern Area Committee meeting on 3 February 2022 to collate information on defibrillators in the Eastern Area with a view to producing a map to show where there were gaps. On checking with officers, the Ambulance Service were recently contacted by SBC for a similar exercise across the borough but even after submitting an FOI, they would not release the information.</p> <p>It was agreed by the Area Committee to write to Parish and Town Councils in the Eastern area to encourage them to check the National Defibrillator Database is kept up-to-date with information about defibrillators in their areas. Also, to stress the importance of maintaining the defibrillators so they are kept in working order. It was suggested also writing to Shepherd Neame. Maps can be pulled down from the National Defibrillator Database for the Area Committee to review at a later meeting.</p>	<p>A letter has been sent to the Parish/Town Council clerks and nominated representatives (Appendix 1).</p> <p>A similar letter has been sent to Shepherd Neame.</p> <p>Some Parish Councils have responded to advise that the South-East Coast Ambulance Service asks for defibrillators to be registered with a database called the Circuit which is for their use only. The National Defibrillator Database allows the public to see the locations of equipment in their area so the Chair would like to encourage those responsible to register with both databases.</p> <p>Selling Parish Council have a defibrillator policy and procedures document which they are happy to share should anyone find it useful to view. Please email areacommittees@swale.gov.uk if you would like to receive a copy.</p>

<p>3.</p>	<p>Flooding in the Whitstable Road area.</p>	<p>Further to a number of meetings with relevant agencies including site meetings, actions have been agreed by Southern Water and KCC. These include clearing the drains around the flooding areas, unblocking the ditch outfall and flood testing the system.</p> <p>Measures are also being looked at to slow the flow of water at Faversham Recreation Ground during peak storms.</p> <p>The Area Committee asked the Cabinet Member for Environment to write to Southern Water to request a full update and action plan.</p>	<p>See Appendix 2 for an update.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>KCC Education matters</p>	<p>KCC changed their travel provider for pupils with Special Education Needs (SEN) who needed access to special schools. Subsequently, a lot of those children were left for about a week without any transport to school.</p> <p>Families with children awaiting diagnosis for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and autism faced a waiting list of up to five years in Kent. That meant a lot of children would not be able to access the provision they required. The</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing wrote to KCC about these matters. The responses received are set out in Appendix 3 which also includes an update by Cllr Hannah Perkin.</p>

		<p>waiting list for private assessments was currently 12 to 16 weeks but cost up to about £3,000.00.</p> <p>The Area Committee asked to refer these matters to the relevant Cabinet Member and ask for a letter to be written to KCC to highlight these issues.</p>	
--	--	---	--