

APPENDIX A

DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL – CORPORATE PLAN 2017-20

Key Actions Monitoring Report – Q1 2019/20

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

Strategic Aim: To ensure that regeneration in Dartford is sustainable and of benefit to all of our communities

Key Action	Q1 Update
Work with landowners and developers to bring forward the next phases of development on Lowfield Street, which includes community space and housing	Full permission on Phases 1 and 3a now secured and construction is progressing on-site. Phases 2 and 3b submitted as new full planning applications, with decision by September. Planning application for the Vauxhall Farm site is currently under consideration.
Appoint and work with a developer to redevelop the Co-op site	Further meetings are taking place with the developer with the planning application expected towards the end of 2019.
Design and implement a Town Centre improvement scheme which will include an improved public realm and improved access into and around the Town Centre, particularly for those on foot	Works on Market St commenced in May and are well underway with completion due in March 2020. High St scheme currently being designed. Construction to take place from January to June 2020. Design for Phase 2 of the project covering junctions at Lowfield St/Instone Rd, Instone Rd/Highfield Rd, Highfield Rd/West Hill currently being designed with construction to take place from April to September 2020. Improvements to Hythe St are currently planned to take place between September 2020 and March 2021, followed by works to the Hythe St/Westgate Rd junction.
Create an enhanced space in Market Street which links the town to the Park and enhances the setting of the Library and Museum with room to expand the market space and provide a public square	Works on Market St commenced in May 2019. Work is to be carried out in two parts on the highway, with a permanent new road currently being constructed whilst a temporary road has been made on the other half and this is now in use. Works are expected to be complete by March 2020.
Work with developers and the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation to deliver 6,000 homes	1,088 homes delivered in Dartford part of EDC area to April 2019. A further 6,436 homes have outline or reserved matters consent, 5,511 at Eastern Quarry, 602 at Ebbsfleet Green, 103 at Craylands Lane and 220 at the Croxton and Garry site. There is also an outline planning consent for up to 2,320 homes at Ebbfleet Central - this is likely to be revisited.
Work with developers, Kent County Council and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation to plan for the improvement of the Fastrack system and its extension to the new developments	Eastern route out of Ingress Park now operational, providing full access to the service through the development. Funding secured for Fastrack tunnel link to Bluewater. Works to commence in spring 2020 and complete in 2021, to tie in with link from Ebbsfleet, through Eastern Quarry to Bluewater which is due to open in September 2021.

	<p>London Rd/St Clements Way new dedicated Fastrack lane completed Spring 2019.</p> <p>A Fastrack Advisory Board has been set up with a view to supporting the ongoing improvement and delivery of the Fastrack service.</p>
Rejuvenate the Acacia Hall site by providing a new entrance into Market Street, removing unsuitable buildings, improving the riverbank and increasing the number of car parking spaces	Works ongoing; delayed due to consents process for the river works but this is anticipated shortly. This will allow demolitions to commence in earnest.
Set up a business advice website which will provide information and useful links for businesses in the area or looking to relocate to Dartford	We have now revised the website for the Dartford Business Awards and continue to work with Kent Growth Hub who are also promoting business opportunities in Dartford.
Introduce a new Dartford Business Awards competition	Planning is well underway and the Awards evening will take place on 19 September at Bluewater Shopping Centre.
Continue to develop the quality of the Town Centre appeal, attractiveness and ambience	We continue to work with Planning to support the implementation of the town centre regeneration works. We also submitted a successful application to the Future High Street Fund and are currently bidding for funds to underpin development projects in the town.

2. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Strategic Aim: To reduce overall health inequality in Dartford and to provide for a rich and varied quality of life

Key Action	Q1 Update
Develop a new rugby facility on the Stone Lodge site, in conjunction with related green space, including formal and informal recreational facilities	Construction work on the rugby facility is well advanced with the pitch complete. Anticipated completion within the next few weeks. Recreational facilities are in abeyance until the housing design is complete.
Continue to deliver public health initiatives across the Borough, including Healthy Weight, Dementia Awareness, Don't Sit Get Fit, Health Walks and Healthy Workplaces	<p>Community Postural Stability classes are gentle exercise classes for older people at risk of falls. In quarter 1, 18 sessions ran. The number of attendances were 142. Attendees were 70.</p> <p>There are currently 7 Health Walks in the Borough. In quarter 1, 77 Health Walk sessions ran. The number of attendances were 735. Attendees were 333. There were 14 new people that joined the walks.</p>

	<p>Get Active's aim is to promote low cost physical activity opportunities across the Borough. In quarter 1, 30 sessions ran and the number of attendances were 308. Attendees were 122.</p> <p>Why Weight is a free 12 week adult weight management programme designed for residents with a BMI of 30+. In quarter 1, 26 people engaged on the programme. 15 people completed the course and 4 of these achieved a weight loss of >5%.</p> <p>Don't Sit Get Fit consists of providing support to targeted schools throughout the year in relation to the Health Weight Agenda. The new Pilot programme works in partnership with KCHFT and Public Health School nursing team and started in quarter 1 where 8 families and 11 children started the programme.</p> <p>In terms of Dementia Awareness, the Healthy Lifestyles Coordinator continues to attend local meetings and events.</p> <p>Healthy Workplaces is run in partnership with The Grand, Gravesend. 162 businesses are engaged through network meetings and mail listings. 1 organisation, a micro business, has made the change of pledge. Sainsbury's, Wellbeing Link and DBC are currently engaged on the programme.</p>
Continue to grant fund organisations which support better physical and mental health outcomes	Funds have been awarded through Salute To Youth, to support this Key Action.
Work with Places for People to develop the Council's leisure offer	The positive relationship with PfP continues. The Council is working with PfP to investigate potential opportunities to increase the car park at Fairfield.
Work with commercial and community groups to widen residents' access to culture and arts in the Town Centre	The annual Adult Summer Exhibition has taken place at the Sir Peter Blake Gallery. This is being followed by the Children's Summer Exhibition. The Council continues to wait for the outcome of a joint bid, with Gravesham and the EDC, for a major arts programme across the area.
Deliver a range of free and paid for events throughout the year	The St Georges Day event was extremely successful, involving over 500 school children. The arrangements for Dartford Festival were extremely successful with over 30,000 people attending over the weekend. The Cinema in the Park events are now sold out, despite extra tickets being made available. Two of the three Theatre in the Park events have now taken place, with over 400 people attending each performance.

Continue to deliver green space as part of residential and business developments	Ongoing provision of new green spaces as part of build out of major sites, including Eastern Quarry, Ebbsfleet Green, The Bridge, St Clements Lakes, Northern Gateway East and Mill Pond. Laying out of open space as childrens play area at top end of Phoenix Quarter (Temple Hill Road) has been agreed with developer and work is now to commence. Stone Lodge to provide improved and more useable green space. Further green space provision will be planned as new planning applications come forward.
Work with Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group to bring forward plans for a health hub on the Co-op site	The CCG have now submitted their outline business case to NHS England to enable them to draw down on the £2.6m of funding available from the NHS Estates & Technology Transformation Fund (ETTF). Ongoing discussions are taking place to determine funding options for addressing the balance of the funding required for the health hub.

3. SAFER COMMUNITIES

Strategic Aim: To create a safer borough in which to live, work and socialise

Key Action	Q1 Update
Continue to utilise measures such as Community Protection Warnings/Notices, Public Space Protection Orders, and Acceptable Behaviour Agreements to modify behaviour that impacts negatively on others	This initiative continues and the CSU, Housing and EH utilise these tools to good effect. In the year 2018/19, 316 Community Protection Warning letters were issued and 67 Community Protection Notices were issued.
Work with partners to deliver programmes designed to reduce anti-social behaviour	Successful funding bids have been granted by the PCC to bolster CCTV capability and DTAC towards reducing ASB. Community Protection Warning letters are still being used to ban trouble makers and shoplifters from the town centre. In partnership with Kent Crimestoppers, the 'Kent's Most Wanted', initiative was launched on 2 digital screens in the Orchards Shopping Centre. This shows images of Kent's most wanted criminals amongst normal advertisements. This project is the first of its kind in the UK and, following the launch on 25 June 2019, 2 arrests have been made to date.
Ensure that businesses are meeting their regulatory safety duties in relation to food hygiene and employee/public health and safety	All food hygiene inspections are carried out according to national guidelines. High risk premises always get inspected as a priority. In accordance with national guidance we do not carry out routine health and safety inspections, however, we respond to intelligence if it is sent to us and act accordingly.

<p>Continue joint Police and Council Licensing Team visits to licensed premises in Dartford to ensure adherence to licensing conditions and to ensure the responsible sale of alcohol</p>	<p>The excellent relationship with DBC licensing officers and Kent Police continues to flourish and there have been some very good results in terms of joint advice and enforcement activity in the town's pubs and clubs. There has also been very innovative and ground breaking training in safeguarding and counter terrorism for taxi and private hire drivers which has stimulated interest from other councils across the country.</p>
<p>Continue to develop the Better Cars and Better Cabs accreditation scheme in Dartford</p>	<p>DBC licensing have consolidated the innovative, unique trend in introducing a series of workshops in partnership with Kent Fire & Rescue and Kent Police. This involves bespoke training in safeguarding, counter terrorism, relevant legislation and road safety measures. The scheme is ground breaking and still proving to be very successful.</p>
<p>Continue to work with partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in Borough businesses and public open spaces, providing vital intelligence and assistance to the Police and reassurance to both day and night time economy businesses and the public</p>	<p>DTAC is recognised as being one of the best business crime partnerships in the country. The initiative to introduce Community Protection Warnings instead of banning notices has been successful and the implementation of a Public Spaces Protection Order in the Town and Central Park areas seeks to reduce ASB, particularly excess drinking in public places. Following the departure of the DTAC Intelligence Manager, this post was recruited to in April 2019. The new DTAC Intelligence Manager is doing an excellent job. The 'Kent's Most Wanted' initiative in the Orchards Centre in partnership with Kent Crimestoppers is proving very successful.</p>

4. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Strategic Aim: To promote an environment which is attractive, with improved air quality and which provides a realistic choice of travel

Key Action	Q1 Update
<p>Procure a new waste collection contract</p>	<p>The new contractor (Urbaser) took over from Amey on 1 July 2019.</p>
<p>Enforcement Officers will continue to appropriately enforce legal requirements in respect of littering, dog fouling, fly tipping, and parking</p>	<p>Under contract, DBC instructed Kingdom Security (now known as LA Support Ltd) to act as our enforcement capability for litter and dog fouling from January 2016. Since then and up until the end of June 2019, 11,011 fixed penalty notices (FPN) have been issued to offenders in the borough.</p> <p>DBC, having led on the introduction of the new £400 Fly Tip FPN, still remain one of very few local authorities within Kent to have introduced this. Up until 31 March 2019,</p>

	there have been 683 prosecutions/positive outcomes for minor fly tips served by DBC Enforcement Officers (not LA Support Ltd).
A scheme to actively involve communities in helping to keep their local area clean will be implemented	Volunteer litter picking scheme is now up and running.
Work with developers to agree standards of design, layout and energy efficiency on proposed developments	Energy efficiency standards now incorporated in national building regulation standards. Standards for design and layout have been agreed through the Development Policies Plan Document, adopted in July 2017.
Work with partners to ensure that the Lower Thames Crossing, east of Gravesend, is expedited at the earliest possible opportunity	East of Gravesend option (Option C) has been selected. Detailed design and mitigations now being undertaken. Development Consent Order to be submitted early 2020. Expected completion date 2027.
Produce a scheme for the repair of the Civic Centre, which will include energy efficiency measures	Completed.
Monitor air quality in the Borough in accordance with national requirements and seek to identify and implement measures within our control which have a positive impact upon air quality and/or reduce the potential health impact of pollution incidents	Air Quality continues to be monitored in accordance with national requirements. As consultees in the planning process we attempt to influence construction to minimise the impact on Air Quality.

5. HOUSING AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Strategic Aim: To facilitate quality choice and diversity in the housing market, assist in meeting housing need in Dartford and deliver high quality services to service users

Key Action	Q1 Update
Encourage, facilitate and enable all types of housing to be built, which will meet the various types of need in the Borough. This will include the Council's own build programme	Target achieved for delivery of affordable homes in the Borough for 2017/18. Council new build programme progressing well on time and within budget. Phase 2 of the Council new build programme close to being finalised for approval.
Work with developers and registered providers to deliver 120 affordable homes during 2017-18	Delivery target achieved.
Include community facilities as part of major new developments	First primary school on Eastern Quarry at Castle Hill now open. Proposals for secondary school and primary school at Alkerden, Eastern Quarry being progressed. Proposals for a primary school at Ebbsfleet Green being progressed.

	<p>Construction has started on a new primary school in the Northern Gateway (Central Rd). Opening of temporary school programmed for September 2019 with permanent school in September 2020.</p> <p>Application on Stone Lodge incorporating a secondary school has been approved. A temporary school is under construction and due to open in September 2019. The permanent secondary school is expected to open 2 years later.</p> <p>Plans are being progressed for a health hub on the former Co-op site as part of Muse development. Potential sites for a health hub at Stone being explored.</p> <p>Discussions are underway to secure a site for a further primary school in Stone.</p>
Provide grants to communities and individuals through the Community Grant and Salute to Youth Schemes	The Community Grant is open for applications on an annual basis, usually around October. Salute To Youth runs throughout the financial year, and in quarter 1, 2 awards have been made totalling £1,000.
Deliver or support events such as Dartford Festival, St Georges Day and the Festival of Light	The St Georges Day event was extremely successful, involving over 500 school children. The arrangements for Dartford Festival were extremely successful with over 30,000 people attending over the weekend. The Cinema in the Park events are now sold out, despite extra tickets being made available. Two of the three Theatre in the Park events have now taken place, with over 400 people attending each performance.
Submit a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the refurbishment of Dartford Museum	Owing to changes in the way in which funding is provided by the HLA, the Council may need to look again at the future development of the Museum.
Maximise the number of people registered to vote	Due to the two elections being held in May, there was an increase in people registering to vote. Annual Canvass is underway and a good response is being received from the Household Enquiry Forms which should identify more potential electors.

6. A COUNCIL PERFORMING STRONGLY

Strategic Aim: To provide high quality services that reflect public aspirations and demonstrate improvement

Key Action	Q1 Update
Deliver a Channel Shift programme providing excellent service to customers, where, how and when they want it and delivering value for money	Already a very significant level of work has taken place to provide two way integration between DBC IT systems with the new Waste contract Urbaser. This covers all online and Contact Centre call logging, plus service update information.

	<p>Urbaser utilise software called Whitespace that offers the potential for high levels of accountability both for the contract as a whole and individual transactions. Providing Urbaser meet their performance requirements and utilise their IT systems correctly this presents a good opportunity to move the Channel Shift agenda forward.</p> <p>Over 60% of all calls logged by the Contact Centre and online relate to work that will be covered by Urbaser. 100% of those transactions can be completed online. Currently 30% are completed online.</p>
Deliver a Flexible Working Scheme to reduce the running costs of the Council	Agile working continues for key posts.
Undertake a continuing review of budgets and processes to ensure maximum value for money and ensuring a balanced budget	Initial review of MTFP carried out. Awaiting confirmation on government plans on delayed spending review and business rate reforms.
Undertake a programme of repairs to the Civic Centre which will reduce running costs	2018/19 element of programme delivered on time and within budget. 2018/19 programme has commenced.
Work with other Local Authorities in Kent, the Local Government Association and Government to introduce 100% retention of Business Rates	Business Rates Pool continues. News of proposed changes appear to have been delayed by change of Prime Minister.
Work with the Boundary Commission to review warding arrangements in the Borough and introduce any changes by May 2019	Project now complete.