



Thanet District Council

30 July 2019 - Member's Briefing - comments

CORPORATE STATEMENT AND SUPPORTING CORE BUSINESS OBJECTIVES



Growth

No.	Member Comment	Response
1	Coastal powerhouse with coastal hubs (although not one near Thanet) – their purpose was economic regeneration.	This will be considered as part of the work under the bullet point about continuing to look for a viable future for the Port of Ramsgate and the Royal Harbour.
2	Include more specifics – what will be done to encourage inward investment?	We have amended the text in the bullet point and specific delivery will be identified through the Economic Growth Strategy.
3	Grass root problem of empty high streets and property – need to put pressure on businesses with an empty property and support new businesses into the high street.	This will be considered as part of the work to rejuvenate the high streets.
4	Audit of what services make money and expand these areas.	This is covered under 'Maximise the return on our assets' - we have expanded the bullet to include services.
5	Provide more focus on supporting creative industries – its a growing area, perhaps include a reference to creative industries in the first bullet point.	We have added in a new bullet.
6	Business rates of a working airport would bring in an income.	Comment noted.
7	Have a casting agency in the Council's film unit.	We will explore the suggestion.

Environment

No.	Member Comment	Response
8	KCC work on highways/roundabouts to remove weeds etc.	We have added in a new bullet.
9	What impact would a cargo hub and airport breakers yard have on the environment?	This will be dealt with through the appropriate planning process.
10	Need to look at what the public said they want and put resources in that direction. Right resource in the right place at the next budget: clean streets and environment.	We carry out a residents' survey every year to identify residents priorities. This is timed to coincide with the budget process to ensure we are confident we continue to invest in the areas that matter most to local people.
11	Replace the last bullet point with: the Council agreed on a climate emergency and has the intention to reduce carbon footprint by 2030.	We have amended the text in the bullet.
12	Provide incentives to recycle to encourage residents.	We have added in a new bullet.
13	Needs to be a connection between residents and TDC – look at how services like recycling can be improved and costs cut.	We have added in a new bullet.
14	Shared responsibility approach – all households to have access to recycling facilities by the end of the four year period.	We have added in a new bullet.
15	Unauthorised or unlawful encampments problem in the area.	This is being dealt with separately via the Overview and Scrutiny Panel Travellers Review Group.

Communities

No.	Member Comment	Response
16	The elderly and young were often forgotten elements of the community, need more engagement with community hubs and clubs. Council should increase its interaction with these hubs and clubs and see what can be done to help them.	The Service Planning process and Active Thanet Programme will pick this up.
17	Were there plans to use social housing fund? Chief Executive to check and respond back to Cllr Currie.	The Chief Executive is dealing with this matter directly with Cllr Currie.
18	The Council should think about how to support the early years age group.	The council works with KCC through the Thanet Leadership Group on broader strategic matters (Early years provision is not a District Council responsibility).
19	How can we ensure we have high-quality housing and access to money to build social housing.	This is something that the Housing Company will consider.
20	Was there more that could be done to ensure empty properties don't stay empty?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past 14 years, we have consistently been the highest performing council in Kent for bringing empty properties back into use. • Our number of empty properties brought back into use 2018/19 placed the council as the highest performing authority in Kent since records began in 2005. • We are currently exploring the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders. • From 1 April 2019, we have increased the Council Tax premium to 100% for residential properties that have been empty for more than two years. • Over the last 2 years, we have increased our empty property monitoring from 500 properties to cover 800 properties. • We have set ourselves more challenging performance targets for the next three years.

21	Don't over-promise and underachieve.	Comment noted.
22	Encourage volunteers and volunteering.	The council has a volunteer policy.