

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO STATEMENT 2016-17 - Councillor Ronen Basu

1. Portfolio Holder Responsibilities

My portfolio contributes to delivering the Council's corporate priorities. In particular, I am responsible for maintaining and enhancing local environmental quality, the protection of public health and Licensing.

2. Functions and services

As Portfolio Holder for Sustainability I am responsible for the following service areas, covering a 2016/17 revenue budget of £4,439,190:

- Recycling and waste collection
- Street cleansing and littering
- Fly tipping and abandoned vehicles
- Stray dogs and dog fouling
- Environmental Health
- Emergency Planning
- Environmental Protection
- Food Hygiene and Health and Safety standards in businesses
- Corporate Health and Safety
- Licensing
- Sustainability
- Drainage & Flooding

I am the Council's representative on the Kent Resource Partnership, which brings together the district and borough councils and Kent CC in their roles as recycling and waste collection and disposal authorities.

Finally, I have responsibility for a range of key issues and projects including:

- Litter and fly tipping enforcement
- Grot Spots
- Graffiti
- Waste and recycling
- Air quality

3. Our achievements in 2015/16

1. Options for the delivery of phase 2 of the public realm enhancements for Tunbridge Wells were explored.
2. Work was carried out to reduce emissions and contribute to national carbon reduction targets by focusing on our own operations and estate. Income was generated for the Council from renewable energy – solar PV on the Tennis Centre roof, Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre
3. The use of renewable and low carbon energy was promoted in line with planning guidance.
4. Local action on climate change was encouraged by supporting initiatives such as 'Climate Local Kent'.
5. Residents were supported in saving money on energy bills – as part of Energy Deal the Councils Collective Energy scheme.
6. The Council continued to reduce levels of household waste collected and increased the proportion of household waste sent for recycling and composting.
7. Redeployment of the Civic Amenity Vehicle, to improve the effective and efficient process of collecting domestic, compostable & bulky waste collections.
8. Clean for the Queen, project encouraged residents to get out there and make sure their neighbourhood is one of which they can be proud.
9. Review of policies and introduction of new policies – Charity, Compliance & Enforcement, Taxis/Private Hire & Gambling
10. Safeguarding Training for existing taxis licensees and Members on the Licensing Committee
11. Due to demand for the car club it was expanded from 2 cars to 6 cars including an electric vehicle at no cost to the Council.

4. Key Plans and Strategies - Specific plans for which I have responsibility:

- The Council's contribution to the Kent Municipal Waste Management Strategy and the Kent Environment Strategy
- Contaminated Land Strategy
- Air Quality Action Plan
- Carbon Management Plan
- Licensing Policy
- Environmental Health Policy
- Emergency Planning Statement

5. Our Priorities for 2016/17

1. Develop and deliver Phase 2 of the Public Realm works around the civic centre using external Local Growth Fund money.
2. Working with our partners, through the Kent Climate Change Network, towards the adoption of the refreshed Kent Environment Strategy.
3. Working with our partners to deliver the 2017/18 Food Service Plan
4. Supporting the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in reviewing the renewal of the Recycling/Household Waste Contract.
5. Fourth partner – London Borough of Bexley – up and running within 4 months (confirmation letter received in July 2016)
6. Online Forms – a further tranche of online forms have been added this year to the Licensing Partnership's library enabling more customers to self serve.

6. Contact:

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