Medway Authority Monitoring Report 2015

Volume 1 - Main Report

December 2015

Medway Council
Serving You

Cover photo of The Vines, Rochester taken by Jamie Ives

Executive Summary

Key statistics and developments in 2014-2015 include:

Monitoring theme		Headline
Demography		In 2014 there was significant population growth with the **population** up by around 2,900 to reach **274,100**, with a rate of growth above the national level.
Regeneration		A relative **worsening** of the extent of **deprivation** in Medway in the latest index.
Housing		**Housing completions** were down on last year at **483** units against an annual requirement of 1000 dwellings, **64%** were completed on **previously developed land**. House prices have increased in Medway over the past 4 years at a higher rate than both locally and nationally, although the average property price in Medway still remains below the national level. The number of completed affordable units was up from 157 in 2014 to 174 in 2015.
New employment floor space		For the third year there has been a loss of employment floor space. Losses have been to the leisure, healthcare and housing sectors.
Economy		The Job Seekers claimant rate has dropped in Medway over 2014/15. At March 2015 it was 2.2% compared with 2% nationally. The economic activity level in Medway stood at 77.3% in 2015.The economic activity rate has increased for the first time in three years, and now stands in line with the national rate. Medway Ports handle just over a fifth of the country's 'forestry products' - the most handled by any port in the UK.
Health		Life expectancy is increasing in Medway - female life expectancy now stands in line with the national level.

Introduction

This report provides monitoring information and statistical data for the period April 2014 – March 2015, with references to previous years for comparison purposes. It gives details of economic, social and environmental data to allow a measure of how Medway is performing as an area, and understanding its needs. It is a key mechanism for the Council's Planning Service in assessing the progress being made towards achieving its goals for economic growth, protecting the natural and historic environment, and meeting the needs of its communities.

The Council has followed the established protocol for producing this Monitoring Report on an annual basis in December for the preceding financial year.

Volume One of the report provides an overview of the key indicators of development and contextual issues in Medway. Detailed data on development statistics is set out in Volume 2 that are published on the council's website. The Planning Service is at an early stage in the preparation of the new Medway Local Plan and the collection of measures has been focused on key indicators that will help to provide context for this work.

The Introduction section of this report is used to provide an update on the plan preparation process, including activities undertaken to meet the Duty to Cooperate.

Monitoring Period

The report has been informed by data gathered from planning applications determined at 31st March 2015. In addition it takes account of a number of sites that are not yet subject to a planning application but have been identified in the Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA), updated in January 2014.

It should be noted that the reference period for the development data in this report is up to the end of March 2015. Events occurring after that date will be reflected in next year's report. However reports on progress on the preparation of the local plan and supporting activities in this introductory section cover up to November 2015.

In preparing a new Local Plan, the council has reviewed the SLAA and published an updated version in November 2015, to support the Regulation 18 Issues and Options consultation. This will be used as the basis for monitoring in the 2016 AMR. The assessment is available at:

http://www.medway.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningpolicy/strategiclandavailability.aspx

Local Development Scheme (LDS)

An updated Medway Local Development Scheme was approved by the council's Cabinet on 24 November 2015. It sets out a three year programme for the production of a new Medway Local Plan. The new plan will be a comprehensive planning document, including strategic level and development management policies, land allocations, minerals and waste, and a policies map, covering all of Medway. On adoption it will replace the saved policies of the Medway Local Plan 2003. A key consideration in the process and timetable for the production of the new Local Plan is the outcome of the Public Inquiry into the planning application for a strategic mixed use development at Lodge Hill. The Public Inquiry is due to be held in 2016, and the outcome anticipated late that year will be critical to the council's assessment of the development strategy options to underpin the new plan.

The Local Development Scheme is available at:

http://www.medway.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningpolicy/localdevelopmentscheme.aspx

The updated LDS has introduced a Preferred Options consultation stage in early 2017 to allow due consideration of the outcome of the Lodge Hill Public Inquiry. The key stages of the plan preparation process are summarised below:

Key stage	**Date**
Issues & Options consultation	January – February 2016
Preferred Options consultation	January – February 2017
Publication draft plan consultation	November – December 2017
Submission to Planning Inspectorate	March 2018
Adoption of Local Plan	December 2018

Medway Council's Cabinet on 24 November 2015 approved consultation on the Regulation 18 Issues and Options document to take place from 4 January to 29 February 2016. The document can be viewed at:

http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgconvert2pdf.aspx?id=28915

The council recognises the challenge in meeting the government's expectations for local plans to be in place by 2017. The timing of the Public Inquiry into the Lodge Hill planning application presents specific difficulties for the authority in progressing the preparation of the Local Plan. The council is committed to producing a new Local Plan as quickly as possible, but ensuring that due process is followed to achieve a sound, justified and legally compliant plan. The Local Plan programme will be kept under review.

The Council has been working on the collation of an evidence base and assessment of land availability throughout 2015. This will inform the scale of development needed to accommodate growth in Medway up to 2035 and the options available for a planning strategy to provide locations for homes, jobs, services and infrastructure. This will form the basis of the Regulation 18 consultation scheduled for early 2016.

Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA)

In order to inform the consideration of potential development options, the council has undertaken a Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) to provide information on sites that may be suitable for inclusion as new allocations in the Local Plan. An updated 'Strategic Land Availability Assessment' (SLAA) report was published in November 2015, in support of the Cabinet report on the Local Plan which sought approval to conduct the Issues and Options consultation.

The overall purpose of the SLAA is to identify the supply of development land in Medway that is 'suitable', 'available' and 'deliverable'.

The preparation of the SLAA is an important element of the evidence base of the emerging Plan. As such, the Council has sought to undertake a robust and comprehensive assessment of the suitability, availability and deliverability of potential development sites in Medway, in line with government guidance. This has included engaging the development industry to source information on sites that landowners may wish to promote through the Local Plan process. The assessment process has comprised the following stages:

- Identification of potential development sites in Medway through a desktop review and a 'Call for Sites', where developers and landowners were invited to provide information on sites that they wished to see considered for their development potential;
- An estimation of how much housing potential development sites might accommodate if developed;
- An assessment of whether sites are subject to development constraints that might make them unsuitable for development;
- An assessment of whether sites are available for development

A total of 90 sites have been identified as being suitable for accommodating housing development, with an estimated capacity of 12,808 units, of which 11,481 do not currently benefit from an extant permission. The calculation has included land at Lodge Hill being viewed as potentially suitable for development, but this is provisional and subject to the outcome of the Public Inquiry to determine its suitability.

Further work on the SLAA will be carried out throughout the plan preparation process. Full details of the work are available at:

http://www.medway.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningpolicy/strategiclandavailability.aspx

Strategic Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (SHENA)

In January 2015 Medway Council and Gravesham Borough Council jointly commissioned a Strategic Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (SHENA) to support each Council's Local Plan programme. This commission was to identify the development needs for housing, employment and retail land and assess the viability for delivering development in Medway over the plan period. The full Strategic Housing and Economic Needs Assessment will be published in January 2016, to support the Issues and Options consultation.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Council is updating its evidence base on infrastructure needs as part of the preparation of the Local Plan. The SHENA will include an assessment of viability of delivering development in Medway. Aligned to the Local Plan work, the council is seeking to progress work on preparing for the implementation of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Further decisions on the timetable and governance structures for this work will be made in early 2016. The council will provide details of any updates on its website at:

http://www.medway.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/applyforplanningpermission/developercontributions/communityinfrastructurelevy.aspx

Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders

In June 2015, a Neighbourhood Area was designated in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. This is consistent with the parish boundary. Medway Council is liaising with the Neighbourhood Plan steering group, and has provided data on demographics in the parish, and has shared information relating to the preparation of the new Medway Local Plan. Planning officers are seeking to work with the Neighbourhood Planning Group in arranging joint consultation events in the parish in early 2016 to support both the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan processes. The Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Neighbourhood Plan is at an early stage of its preparation, and yet to confirm details of its scope and timetable for its production.

There are no current or proposed Neighbourhood Development Orders in Medway.

Local Aggregate Assessment

In line with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and government guidance in the Planning Practice Guidance on the Managed Aggregate Supply System, the Council has prepared a Local Aggregate Assessment summary covering operations and sales in 2014. This provides an assessment of the demand and supply for aggregate minerals to meet local and wider strategic needs, and any environmental and economic constraints that may influence this. The key information collected for 2014 is set out in the main body of this report.

Duty to Cooperate

In support of the preparation of the new Medway Local Plan the Council is committed to *'engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis'* with other Local Planning Authorities and Public Bodies to address *'strategic matters'*. This legal obligation is known as the '*Duty to Cooperate'*.

In particular the Duty to Cooperate requires the Council to work with neighbouring authorities, including Kent County Council, to address strategic issues that *'cross administrative boundaries'* for example the provision of infrastructure or meeting housing needs.

The North Kent Strategic Housing and Economic Needs Assessment has been developed with specific reference to the Duty to Cooperate. Meetings and workshops have taken place with neighbouring local planning authorities and key stakeholders throughout the process of preparing the SHENA. This has involved sharing baseline and analytical work on development needs, and providing opportunities for neighbouring authorities to raise comments on the issues and conclusions reached by the consultants in producing the North Kent SHENA.

A key area for consideration has been the definition of the Medway Housing Market Area and calculation of Objectively Assessed Needs. In addition to the SHENA Duty to Cooperate workshops and meetings held throughout 2015, Medway Council has met separately with Maidstone Borough Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Swale Borough Council to discuss these issues. This has included work in relation to the Swale Local Plan Examination and consultation on the draft Maidstone Local Plan.

Engagement with neighbouring authorities and other public bodies takes place through a variety of different established forums and processes:

- *Consultations & Representations*
  Officers monitor publications and consultations by neighbouring authorities and other public bodies, making formal representations where appropriate; over the last 12 months Medway Council has made representations in respect of the draft Swale Local Plan and its Examination and the draft Dartford Development Policies Plan. It has also responded to a number of consultations on waste local plans, in relation to the strategic issues associated with the movement of waste across local authority boundaries, such as Lambeth and Kirklees.

- *Regular Partnership Meetings*
  Regular liaison meetings take place with our neighbours through the Kent Planning Officer Group and the Kent Planning Policy Forum both of which take place bi-monthly. As well as providing a formal forum for debate, these meetings also provide an important opportunity for sharing information and holding discussions with officers from neighbouring authorities.

  Waste and minerals are of particular significance to strategic planning. The Council is an active member of the South East England Aggregates Working Party and the South East Waste Planning Advisory Group. These provide a basis for exchange of information on minerals and waste planning matters.

  On environmental issues, the council participates in the North Kent Environmental Planning Group, which seeks to develop an evidence base and integrated best practice in planning for the internationally important estuaries and marshes of the Thames, Medway and Swale. Work has progressed on a strategic approach to managing and mitigating the potential impact resulting from recreational disturbance to the Special Protection Areas of the Thames, Medway and Swale estuaries and marshes. The council is also a member of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee, which has been responsible for the preparation of a joint AONB Management Plan, adopted by all member councils, including Medway. In addition, Medway Council participates in work coordinating planning for the natural environment, through the Kent Landscape Group, Local Nature Partnerships and Biodiversity Opportunity Areas.

- *Liaison Meetings*
  Regular meetings are arranged with neighbouring authorities to discuss specific issues and share information on key stages of plan making work, major developments, and strategies being progressed by councils. This includes developing common methodologies and approaches for technical work, such as responding to the changes in policy for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. The council also responded to consultation on the methodological approach being taken by Gravesham Borough Council to its Green Belt review, and the development of a Green and Blue Infrastructure strategy by Maidstone Borough Council.

  Medway Council specifically sought input from Natural England to the SLAA process in considering the assessment of sites. It has responded to the Marine Management Organisation regarding planning policies of relevance to marine planning. to It has met with Highways England and Kent County Council in relation to transport planning. There has also been joint working and engagement with Kent County Council on broadband infrastructure issues.

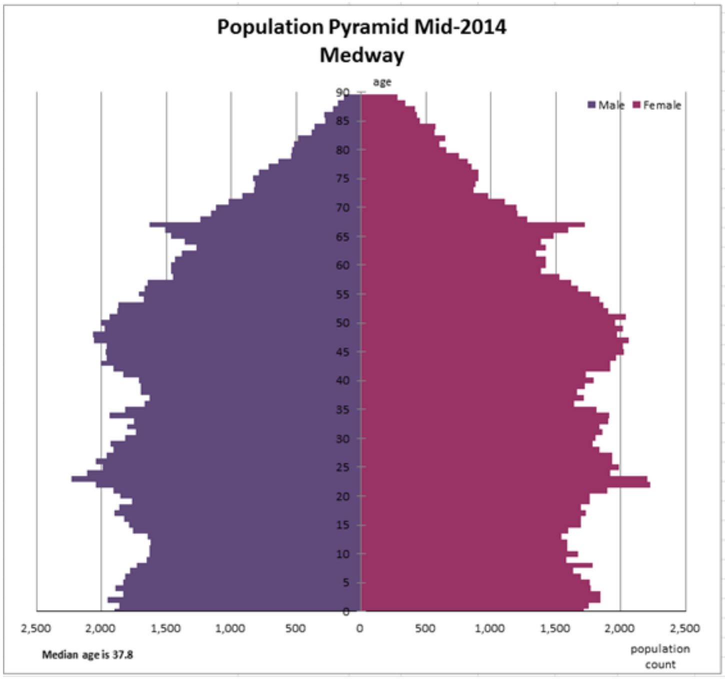
The council is seeking to put a more structured framework in place to ensure compliance with the Duty going forward in the preparation of the new Local Plan. A proposed protocol has been drafted and been discussed with officers of neighbouring local authorities. The next steps are to progress discussions at member level and to agree governance arrangements. Further work is planned in conjunction with the Regulation 18 Issues and Options consultation for the new Medway Local Plan.

Population

Mid year estimate 2014

The latest mid-year estimate indicates that the population of Medway reached 274,015 in June 2014 – 2,910 persons (1.1%) above the 2013 mid-year figure.

Significant population growth was seen in 2014 in Medway, in line with the level of growth in 2013 (+2,900), above the historic average since 2002 (+1,900), above the national level in 2014 (+0.8%), but below the peak in growth in Medway in 2012 (+3.3%).

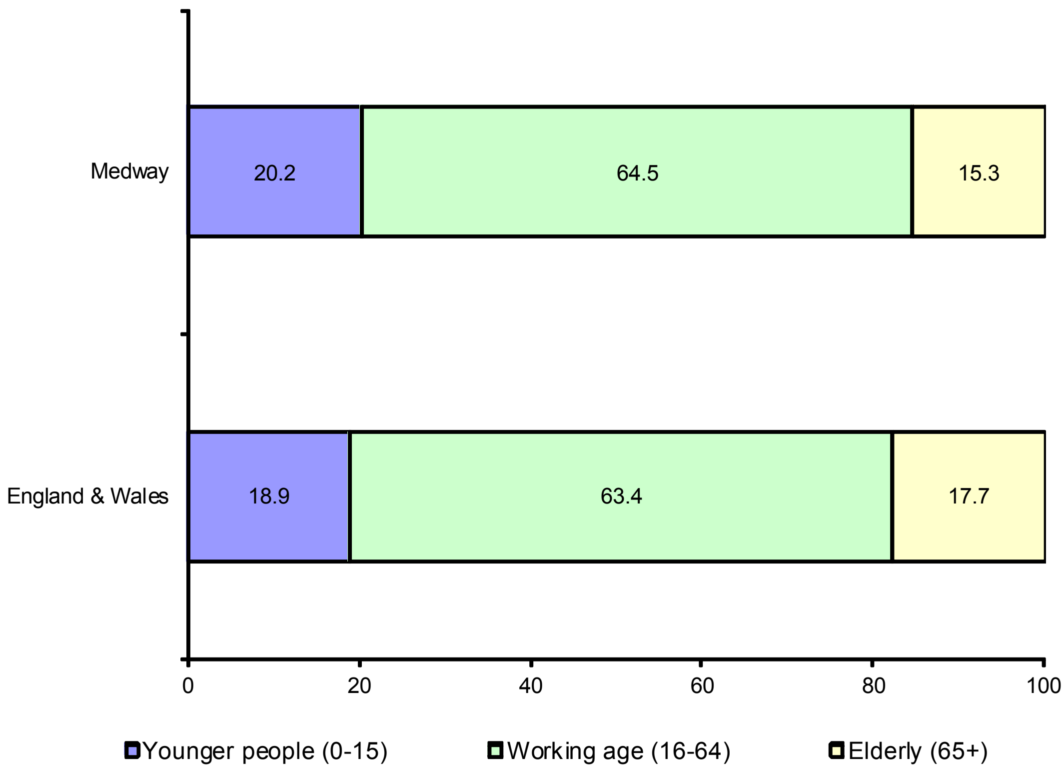


Population growth - 2013 to 2014

	2013 (000's)	2014 (000's)	Rate of growth (%)
Medway	**271.1**	**274.0**	**1.1**
Kent	1,493.5	1,510.4	1.1
South East	8,792.8	8,873.8	0.9
England & Wales	56,948.2	57,408.7	0.8

Population by broad age group – 2014

By broad age group - Medway has a larger working age population at 65% than nationally (63%), a larger younger persons population (20%) and a smaller elderly population (15%).



Population by broad age group – 2014

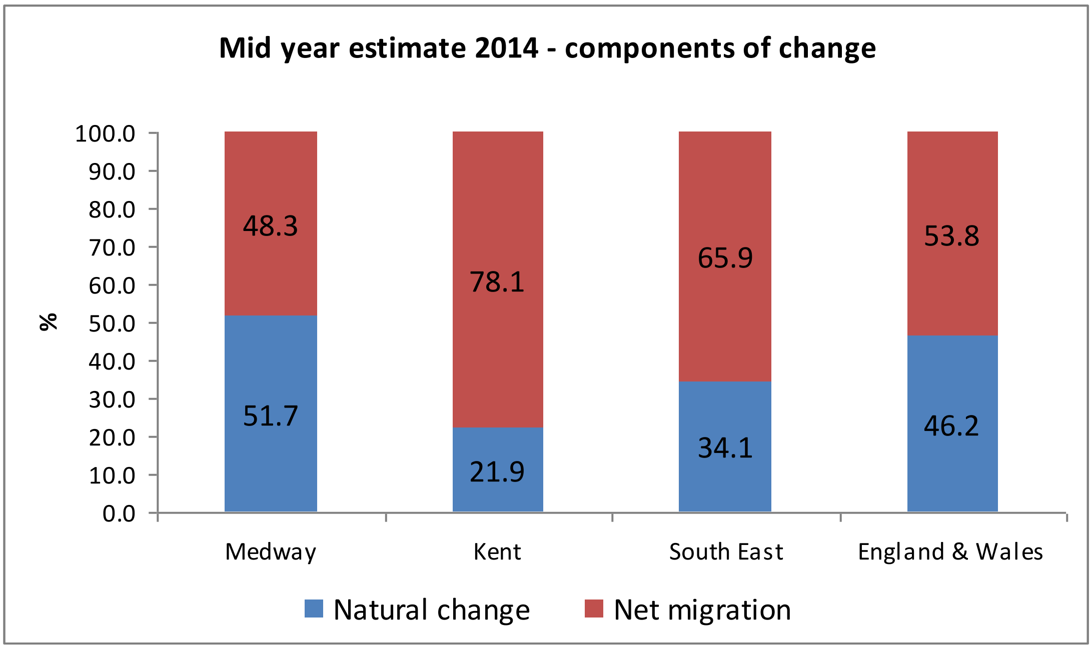
		0-15	16-64	65+
Medway	Numbers	**55,387**	**176,808**	**41,820**
	Percent	**20.2**	**64.5**	**15.3**
Kent		19.2	61.3	19.5
South East		19.0	62.4	18.6
England and Wales		18.9	63.4	17.7

Population change

Recent population growth in Medway can be attributed to both natural growth – births exceeding deaths - and inward migration, with a fairly even split between these two components of growth.

This split is similar to the national trend, however natural growth is slightly more significant in Medway at 52% of growth against 46% nationally.

This is in contrast to Kent, which saw inward migration accounting for over three-quarters of the annual population growth.



Further information on Medway's population is available via this webpage:

http://www.medway.gov.uk/pdf/Population%20August%2015.pdf

Migration

Inward migration to Medway in 2014 was largely from movements outside the United Kingdom, with two thirds of inward migrants coming from abroad.

This is in contrast to 2013 and 2012, which saw significant inward migration from within the UK – most notably via London.

Over the longer term – since 2002, inward international migration has added around 8,000 to Medway's population.

Medway migration flows 2014
(000's)

Internal Migration (within England)			**International Migration**		
To Medway	**From Medway**	**Net**	**To Medway**	**From Medway**	**Net**
+12.0	-11.6	**+0.4**	+1.5	-0.6	**+0.9**

Source: Internal Migration, England and Wales, Year Ending June 2014, Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Further information on migration is available via this webpage:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/november-2014/sty-net-migration.html

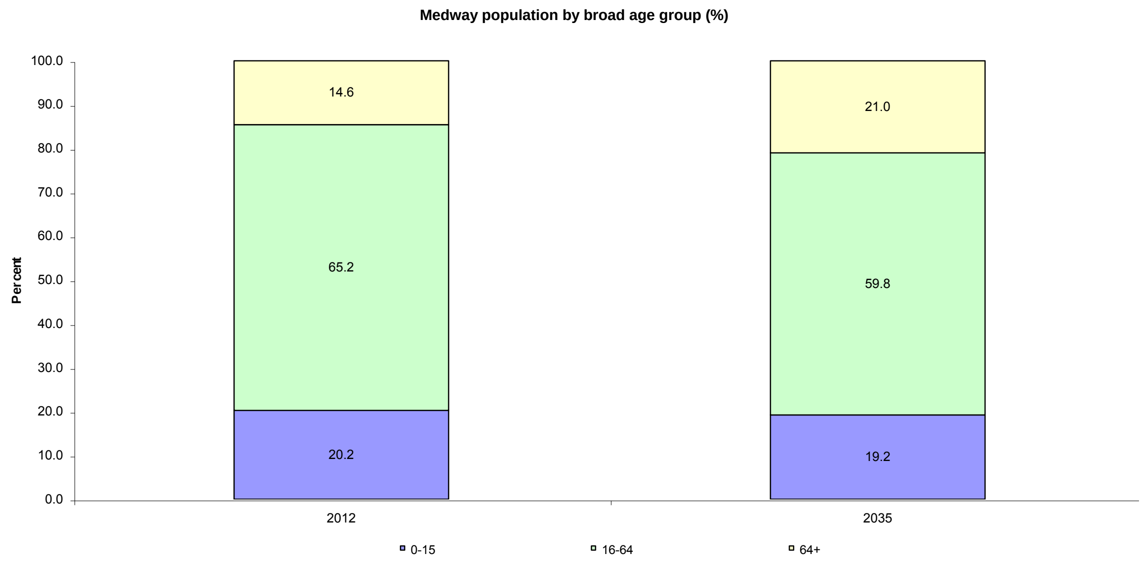
Future growth - Population projections

The population of Medway is estimated to increase from 268,200 in 2012 to 322,700 in 2035; this represents an increase of 20.3% (+54,500).

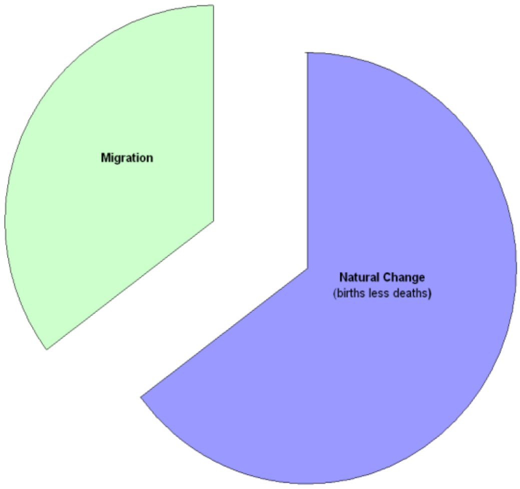
The projected population growth estimate in Medway is above the growth level for England (+15%), the South East (+17%) and Kent (+19%).

The age profile of Medway is likely to change considerably. The largest growth in the Medway population is people aged 65 and over, with this age group increasing by 73% (+28,700), 0-15's increase by 15% (+7,700) and those of working age up by 10% (+18,000).

By 2035 over one fifth (21%) of Medway's population will be aged 65 and over, up from 15% in 2012.



Population growth 2012 to 2035 (000s)	
Total growth	**54.5**
Natural Change	**35.2**
Births	87.8
Deaths	50.9
All Migration Net	**19.3**
England to Medway	261.7
Medway to England	253.7
International to Medway	33.4
International from Medway	20.7
Scotland/Wales/NI to Medway	6.9
Medway to Scotland/Wales/NI	9.2



Further information on population growth in Medway is available here:

http://www.medway.gov.uk/pdf/2012%20Population%20projection.pdf

LV21 lightship and development at Victory Pier, Gillingham

Regeneration and Major Development

Multiple Deprivation

The council has recognised that there are parts of Medway in need of regeneration and investment, opening up opportunities for development and improving life chances for residents. There is an established regeneration agenda that is delivering new homes, jobs, infrastructure, learning and community facilities in Medway. However there are still issues to address.

The latest Index of Multiple Deprivation published in 2015, shows that Medway is relatively worse off in the 2015 index - compared to the 2010 index - with a general widening and worsening of Medway's central most deprived neighbourhoods.

In the overall measure of deprivation, the most 'relatively' deprived communities are concentrated in central urban areas in Medway – most notably in Chatham Central, Gillingham North and Luton & Wayfield.

Medway is ranked 118th most deprived Local Authority of 326 in England in the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation. This is a relatively worse position than in the previous index in 2010, when Medway was ranked 136th most deprived of 325.

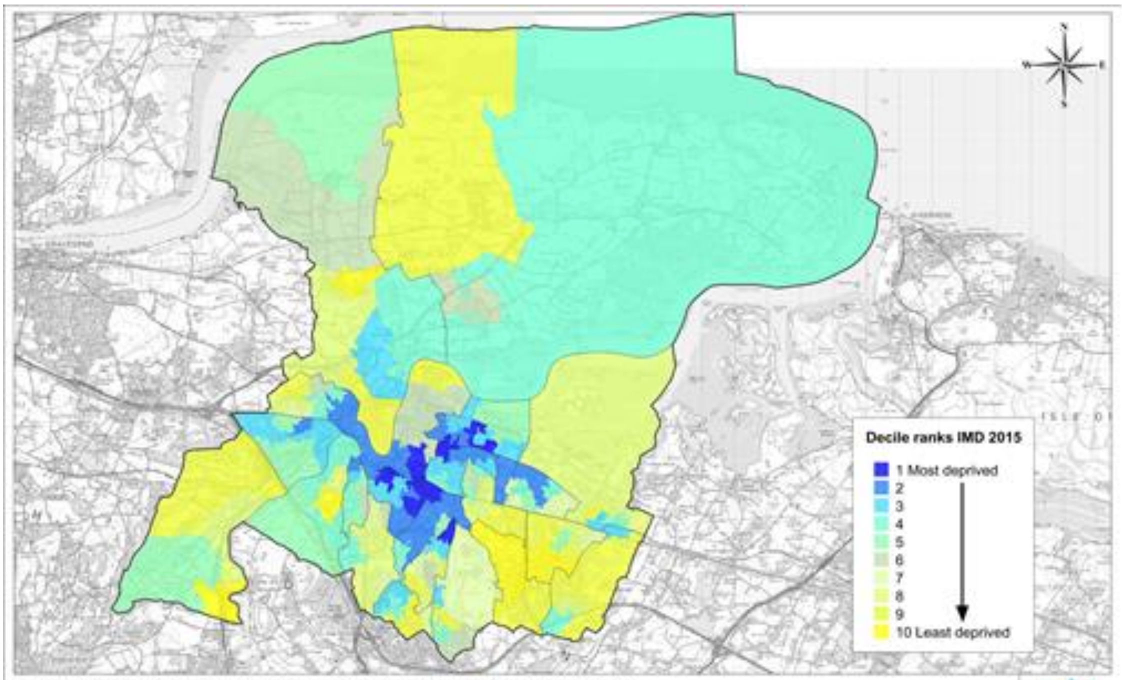
While Medway has many areas that fare poorly on income and employment deprivation - the two major themes in the multiple index - crime stands out as a particular weakness, with Medway ranking as the 53rd most deprived Local Authority in England for crime. After that 'education, skills and training' has a ranking of just 86th most deprived.

In the 2015 index - which is based mainly on measures taken from 2012/13 - Medway has thirty two neighbourhoods ranked in the 20% most deprived nationally and 12 ranked in the 10% most deprived.

Just over two-thirds of the neighbourhood areas in Medway have a relatively worse ranking than in the 2010 index.

Medway deprivation trend

	ID 2015	ID 2010	ID 2007
Medway ranking	118/326	132/325	139/325
Percentile	Within 37% most deprived LAs nationally	Within 41% most deprived LAs nationally	Within 43% most deprived LAs nationally



IMD 2015 decile ranks (where 1 is most deprived 10% of LSOAs)

Deprivation by domain – ID 2015 and 2010

Medway Local Authority ranking

Number of neighbourhoods in most deprived 10%/20%

	2015			2010		Change (*Blue –worse +* *Green – better -*)	
	LA Rank /326	10% most deprived	20% most deprived	10% most deprived	20% most deprived	10% most deprived	20% most deprived
Multiple deprivation	**118**	**12**	**32**	**8**	**23**	**+4**	**+9**
Income	102	10	29	6	24	+4	+5
Employment	107	9	32	7	24	+2	+8
Health & disability	140	4	12	4	15	+1	-3
Education skills & training	86	16	43	12	45	+4	-2
Barriers to housing & services	240	3	10	7	10	-4	-
Crime	86	30	51	22	36	+8	+15
Living environment	126	17	36	21	42	-4	-6
Child poverty	90	12	36	8	26	+4	+10
Elderly poverty	133	5	17	6	19	-1	-2

Rochester Riverside and railway station
A key opportunity for Medway's regeneration is in the Rochester Riverside site. The vision for Rochester Riverside is established in the 2014 Rochester Riverside Development Brief and Masterplan, adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document in September 2014. The area will be developed over the next 15 years and will include the provision of approximately 1500 high quality residential units (including affordable housing), open spaces and riverside walk, a new primary school, leisure facilities, office space, shops and restaurants. The 21 hectare site will become a new neighbourhood and destination, well connected to the historic heart of Rochester. The new £26 million railway station to the north of the site on Corporation Street, will be opening in December 2015. This is part of Network Rail's East Kent resignalling programme, a large scale investment programme to improve high-speed rail services, increase capacity, improve journey times and replace outmoded infrastructure.
Chatham Waters
The 14.6ha development is a £650m investment by Peel Land and Property, consisting of a mix of uses including office space, student accommodation, educational space, hotel, event complex, food store and 950 residential units. The first phase consists of an Asda supermarket that was under construction in 2014/15 and opened in September 2015. Work on Medway's University Technical College on the site was also underway in the last year and opened in autumn 2015. The college focuses on engineering and construction catering for 600 students aged 14-19 years old.
Chatham Dockyard
Command of the Oceans is a major new project for The Historic Dockyard telling the story of Chatham Dockyard during the Age of Sail. Together with a new visitor entrance there are environmental improvements to the car park and surrounds. The Command of the Oceans Project will cost 8.5m and take approximately three years to deliver.

Strood Riverside
This is an important waterfront regeneration site that has secured investment through the Public Sector Works Loan Board to undertake flood defence works, to bring the site forward for development. Further funding secured from the Local Growth Fund will deliver highway and public realm improvements in the adjacent town centre.
Former Halling Cement Works
Development is moving on a pace on the old Halling Cement Works site. Developers Redrow have already completed a third of the dwellings with another third under construction. They will also be contributing to the local community, with road and public transport improvements, health, nursery and primary school facilities, waste and recycling and other facilities.

Construction of new Rochester railway station
Photo by Jamie Ives

Environment

Changes in areas of biodiversity importance

Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has/is being implemented

There are sixteen wildlife sites within Medway monitored under this measure – of these sixteen, twelve were assessed as having positive management in 2014/15.

These sites designated locally for their substantive nature conservation importance, either for wildlife or geology. Sites in positive conservation management are defined as those sites that are being managed in order to conserve their nature conservation interest in the last five years.

Assessing the extent of positive management can help to identify sites where positive management is lacking and will help to focus the efforts of Local Site Partnerships in ensuring local sites are managed and their nature conservation value is maintained or enhanced.

In 2014-15, 50 per cent of local sites across England were in positive conservation management. This represents around 16,800 sites.

Local sites where positive conservation management has/is being implemented in Medway 2014/15	
Proportion	75%
Number	12 of 16

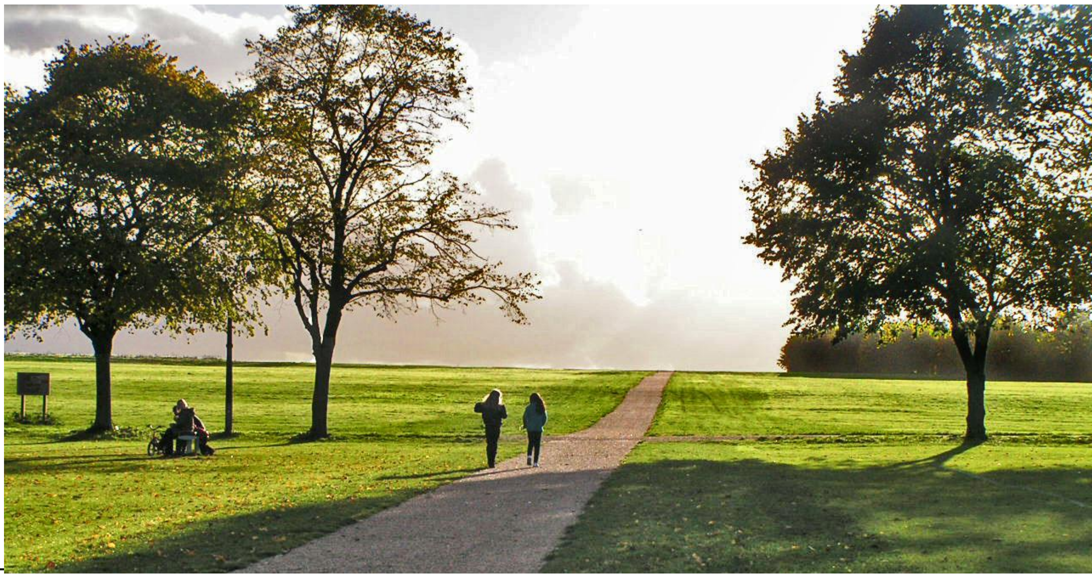
Further information:
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-sites-in-positive-conservation-management--2

Green flag awards

In 2015 seven sites retained the Green Flag award. Great Lines Heritage Park and Gillingham Park received Green Flag awards for the first time in 2014.

Green flag sites – year awarded		
2011	5	The Vines, Riverside CP, Hillyfields, Capstone Farm CP, Broomhill Park
2012	5	
2013	5	
2014	7	*As above plus* Great Lines Heritage Park and Gillingham Park
2015	7	

A Green Flag Award is the benchmark of a quality park or green space. Not only does a Green Flag flying overhead guarantee a public space is welcoming, clean, well-maintained, safe and secure, it also ensures it is managed sustainably and pays attention to the conservation of the natural and built environment.



Great Lines Heritage Park
Photo by Suzanne Bartolo

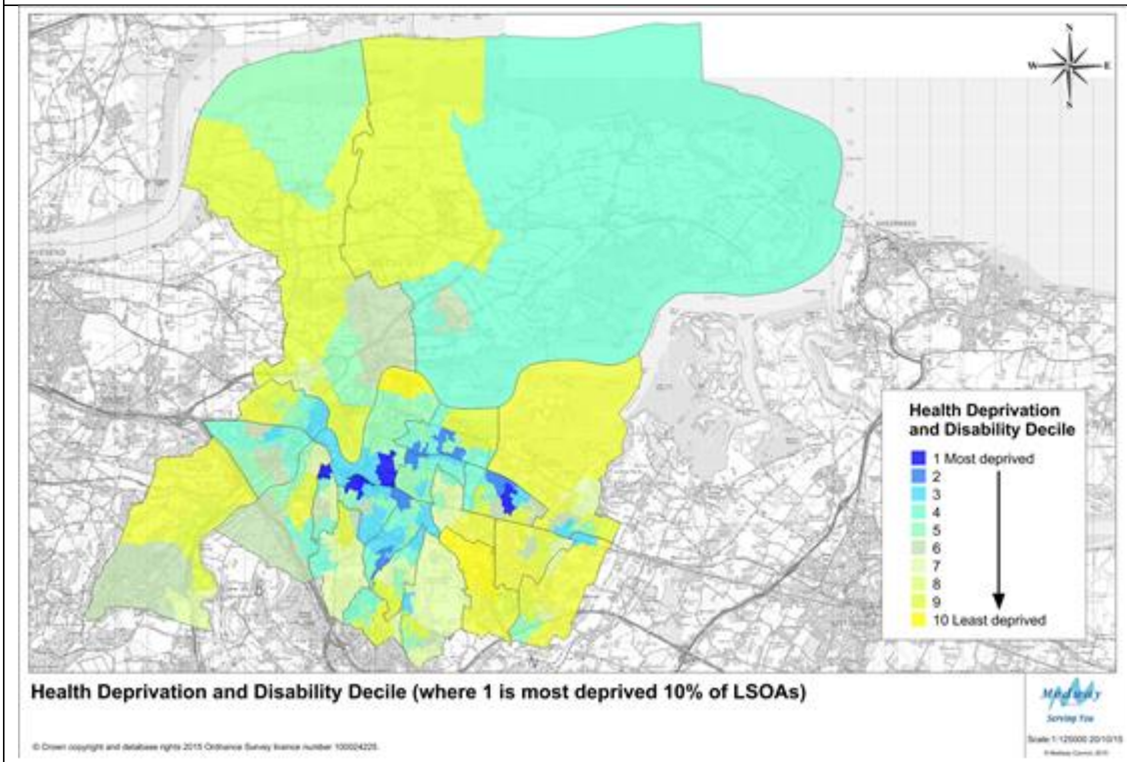
Health

Health Deprivation

Health deprivation in the 2015 Index of Deprivation relates to the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health.

Medway is ranked in the 43% most deprived local authorities in England for health and disability - this is better than Medway's overall position for multiple deprivation across all measures, which is rated as being in the 37% most deprived Local Authorities in England.

Medway has twelve neighbourhoods ranked in the 20% most health deprived areas nationally and within those four are ranked in the 10% most deprived. Three fewer neighbourhoods are in the most deprived 20% compared to the 2010 index.



Life expectancy

Lifestyle issues including **smoking, obesity and alcohol** are key contributors to high mortality rates resulting from the major killers in Medway, particularly, circulatory disease, cancer and respiratory disease.

Life expectancy in Medway increased in 2011-13 with female life expectancy showing the most significant improvement, matching the national level at 83.1 years.

Male life expectancy increased in Medway but remains below the national level.

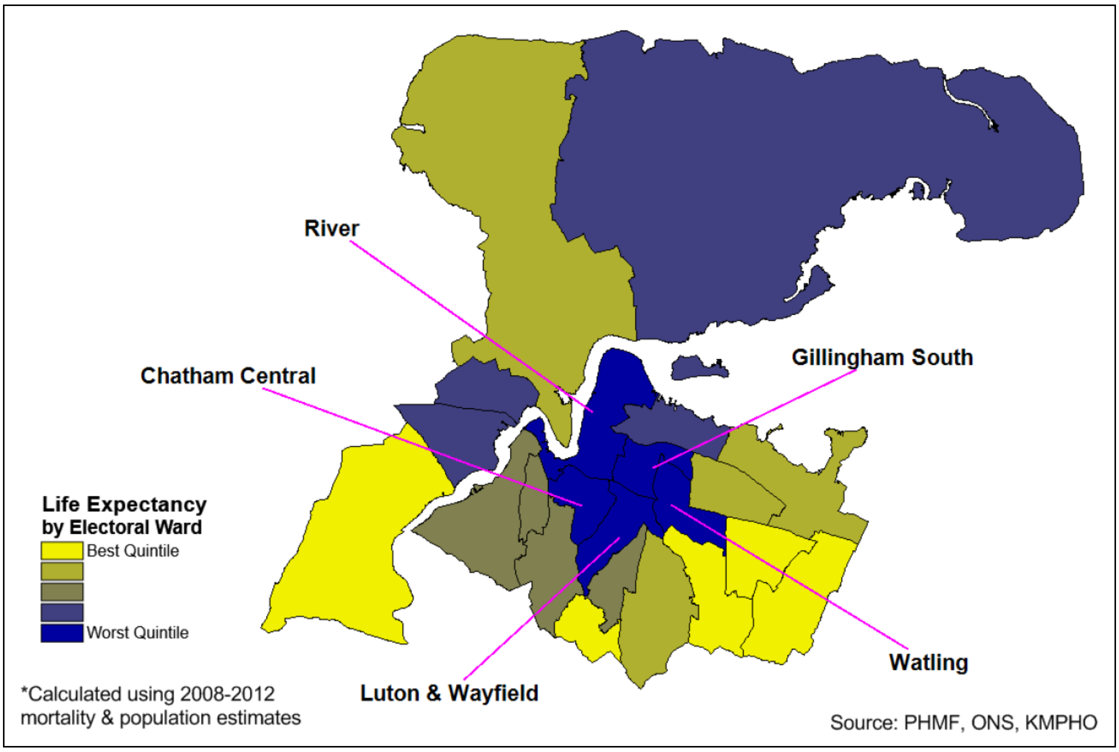
Within Medway there is great variation in life expectancy at ward level – central parts of Medway around the town centres record the lowest life expectancy – most notably Chatham Central, River and Luton & Wayfield at around 77.7 years.

Of the roughly 2,000 deaths that occur in Medway each year**, almost a third of deaths in females and half of deaths in males are premature.**

Medway life expectancy Years				
	2008-10	2009-2011	2010-12	2011-13
Male	77.6	78.2	78.5	78.8
Female	81.7	82.1	82.2	83.1

England authority average life expectancy Years				
	2008-10	2009-2011	2010-12	2011-13
Male	78.5	78.9	79.2	79.4
Female	82.5	82.9	83.0	83.1

Average life expectancy 2008 to 2012 – wards		
	Male	**Female**
Chatham Central	76.1	80.3
Cuxton and Halling	83.4	85.4
Gillingham North	77.2	81.5
Gillingham South	77.2	80.3
Hempstead and Wigmore	81.2	84.2
Lordswood and Capstone	78.8	83.5
Luton and Wayfield	75.6	81.0
Peninsula	77.5	81.5
Princes Park	78.7	82.8
Rainham Central	80.7	85.0
Rainham North	78.1	83.2
Rainham South	80.0	84.6
River	75.2	83.5
Rochester East	76.9	82.2
Rochester South and Horsted	78.2	80.7
Rochester West	79.2	81.0
Strood North	77.6	81.2
Strood Rural	79.6	81.3
Strood South	76.5	82.4
Twydall	77.4	83.7
Walderslade	80.4	83.7
Watling	77.8	80.5
Medway	**78.8**	**83.1**



Source: Medway life expectancy - Deaths by local authority of usual residence, numbers and standardised mortality ratios (SMRs) by sex, 2014 registrations, (Office for National Statistics (ONS)) © Crown copyright 2015.

Life expectancy at ward level - 95% confidence intervals calculated by Knowledge Intelligence Team.. Mortality data from annual death extracts (ONS). Mid-year (2008-2012) Population Estimates for England by Single Year of Age and Sex.

See glossary for 'life expectancy' definition.

Mortality

The death rate in Medway as measured by the standardised mortality ratio stands above the national level. The death rate dipped in 2013, increasing in 2014.

The male death rate in Medway tends to be higher than females – however in 2014 the female death rate increased significantly, standing above the male rate.

In both males and females the **leading cause of premature deaths is cancer**, accounting for almost half of deaths in women and a third of deaths in men of this age. There has been a downward trend in mortality for all cancers in Medway since 1993 but cancer death rates have remained higher than in comparator groups, regional and national rates.

Smoking, obesity, alcohol and poor mental health are all key lifestyle issues which impact on health inequalities and need to be addressed.

The next largest cause of death in those under the age of 75 years is circulatory disease (for example heart attacks, stroke and heart failure), accounting for 18% of premature deaths in women and 28% in men. Deaths from heart disease contribute significantly to the gap in life expectancy between Medway and England.

A further 10% of premature deaths are due to respiratory diseases, notably chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), primarily caused by chronic tobacco smoking.

There is great variation in death rates by area within Medway. Mortality rates in Medway are higher in central urban areas.

Watling, Rochester South and Horsted and Central Chatham wards have the highest mortality rates.

Standardised mortality ratio

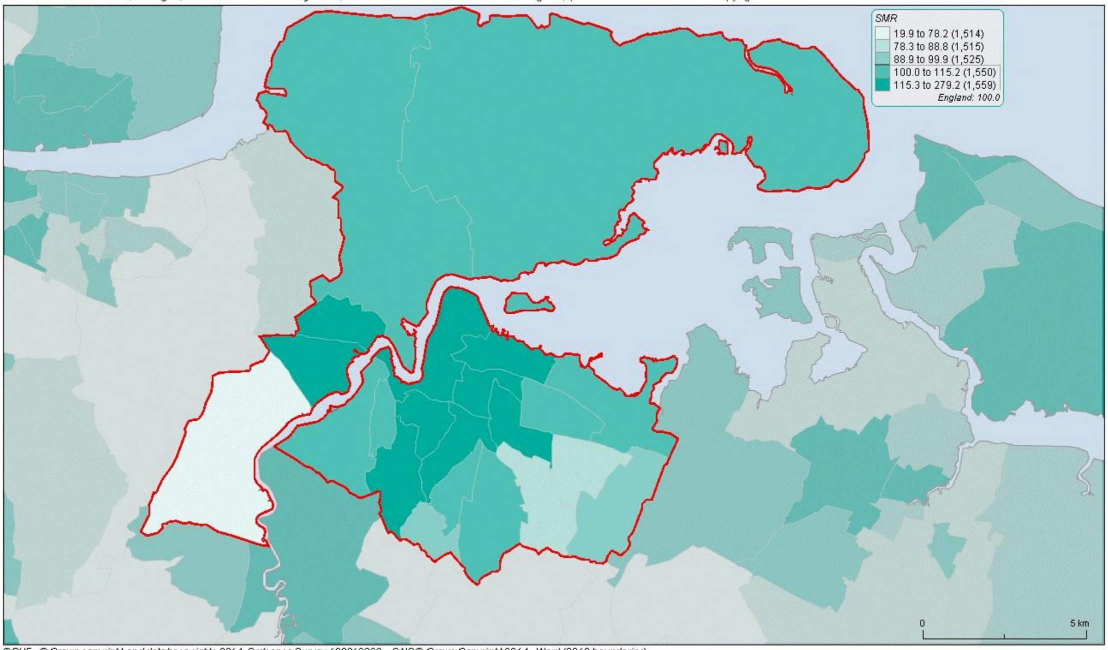
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Medway	106	109	104	112
Kent	98	95	96	97
South East	93	93	93	93
Eng/Wales	100	100	100	100

Standardised mortality rate 2008-2012

Chatham Central	126.3
Cuxton and Halling	75.7
Gillingham North	116.6
Gillingham South	120.1

Hempstead and Wigmore	85.1
Lordswood and Capstone	102.0
Luton and Wayfield	118.1
Peninsula	111.2
Princes Park	101.2
Rainham Central	87.6
Rainham North	101.8
Rainham South	90.3
River	116.2
Rochester East	113.3
Rochester South & Horsted	126.4
Rochester West	111.6
Strood North	115.4
Strood Rural	105.2
Strood South	116.1
Twydall	101.1
Walderslade	92.3
Watling	127.5
Medway UA	**108.1**
Kent CC	96.9
England	100.0

Deaths from all causes, all ages, standardised mortality ratio, 2008-2012 - *source: Public Health England, produced from ONS data © Copyright 2013*



Source: Mortality data from Death Registrations Summary Statistics 2014, (Office for National Statistics (ONS)) © Crown copyright 2015.

For further more detailed information on health in Medway go to:

http://www.medwayjsna.info/

Housing

In June 2014, the Council adopted a Housing Position Statement that included the review of its housing requirement. Work commissioned on household projections indicated that provision should be made for at least 24,000 new homes to be delivered between 2011 and 2035 - an average of 1000 a year. This figure has been used to present the context for housing completions in 2014-2015 in Medway set out below.

In January 2015, the council jointly commissioned a Strategic Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (SHENA) with Gravesham Borough Council. This work has included an updated Strategic Housing Market Assessment. The analysis of development needs in the SHENA will be used to inform the evidence base of the new Local Plan.

Net additional dwellings a) in previous years b) for reporting year c) in future years

In 2014/15 483 units were completed, which was below the annual requirement of 1000.

Net additional dwellings in previous years

	Completions	Requirement	Surplus/deficit
2012	809	1,000	-191
2013	565	1,000	-435
2014	579	1,000	-421
2015	483	1,000	-517
2012-2015	**2,436**	**4,000**	**-1,564**

Number of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land

In 2014/15, 309 residential completions were on previously developed land (PDL), which represents 64% of all residential completions.

Over the past 4 years, on average 65% of dwellings completed have been on previously developed land.

Number of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land (net)

	Percent units on PDL	Units on PDL
2011/12	62%	498
2012/13	69%	392
2013/14	64%	369
2014/15	64%	309

Housing Trajectory 2011-2035

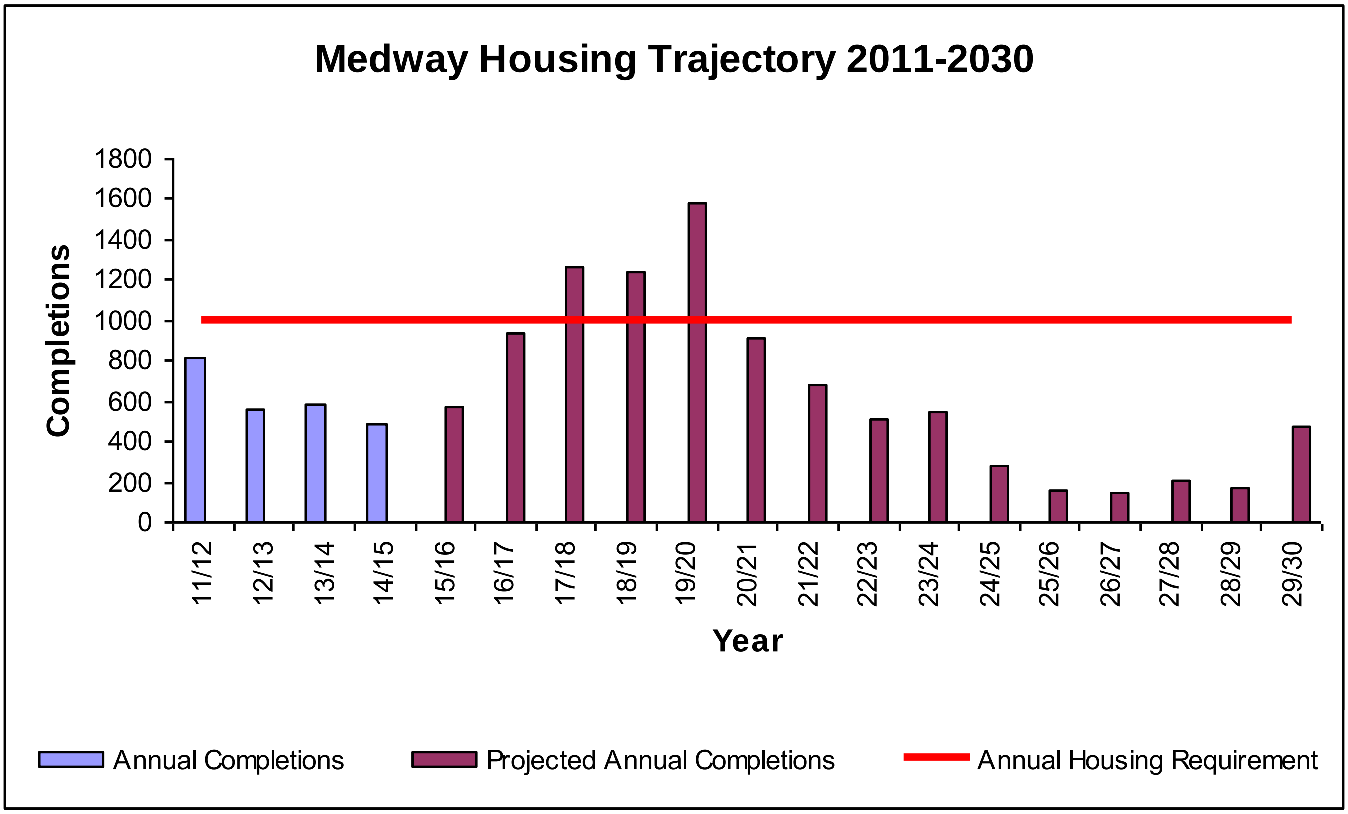
The housing trajectory shows phasing over the period 2011-2035, including contributions from past completions, sites with planning consent, local plan allocations and possible windfalls and sites that are identified in the Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) January 2014.

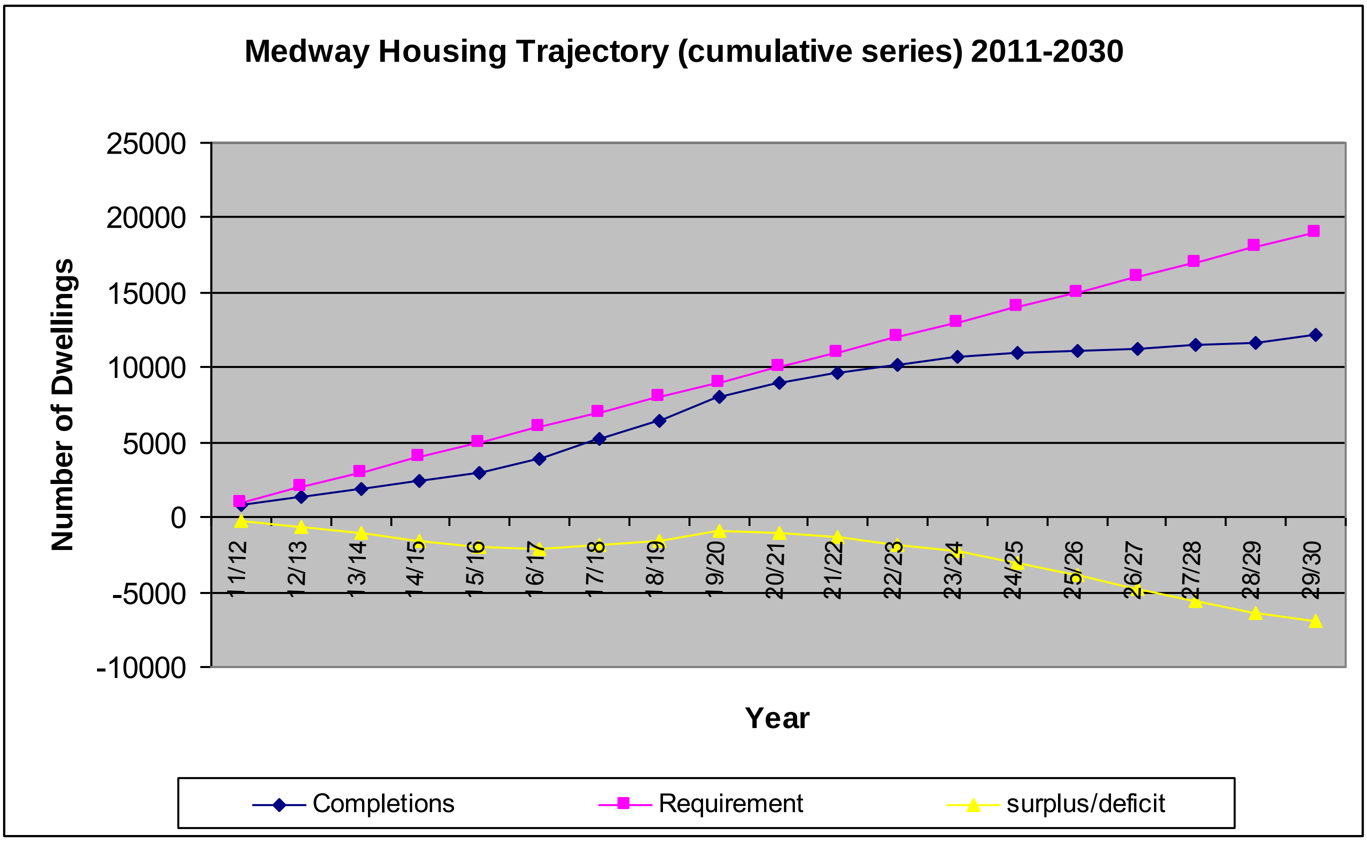
As explained in the introduction to this report, the council has carried out an update to the SLAA that was published in November 2015 to support the Local Plan Issues and Options consultation document presented to the council's Cabinet. In reviewing development activity in Medway from April 2014 to March 2015, the published SLAA of January 2014 has been used as the reference point.

Trajectory																
14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/35
Annual Completions																
2436																
Projected Annual Completions																
	577	931	1259	1239	1581	917	684	515	548	280	164	141	202	169	470	886
Annual Housing Requirement																
4000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	5000

Phasing is calculated using data from past completion rates. An annual adjustment is made taking into account other national and local factors such as current economic conditions and affordable housing funding.

Please note; this trajectory is based on the position as at 31st March 2015.





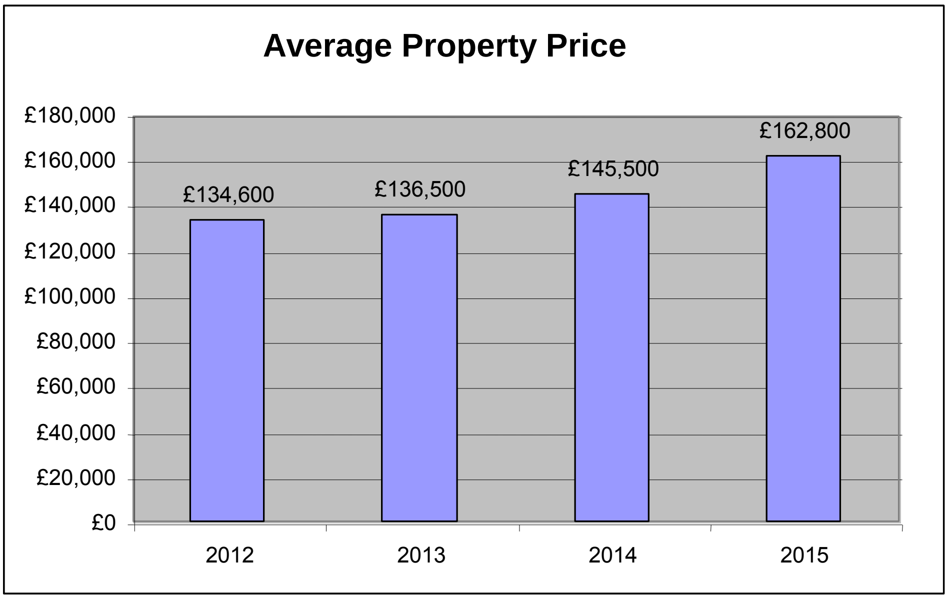
Horsted Park, Maidstone Road, Chatham

Property prices

Property prices have increased in Medway over the past 4 years at a higher rate than both locally and nationally however average property prices in Medway remain below the national level.

Average property price in Medway 2012-2015

Year	Medway	Kent	South East	Eng & Wales
March 2012	£134,600	£179,600	£206,900	£160,400
March 2013	£136,500	£180,600	£209,200	£160,800
March 2014	£145,500	£191,300	£221,600	£169,400
March 2015	£162,800	£208,600	£243,500	£178,000
2012-2015 % change	21.0	16.2	17.7	11.0
2014-2015 % change	11.9	9.0	9.9	5.0



Source: Crown Copyright Land Registry Property Price data 18th May 2015

Affordable Housing

A significant proportion of the population is unable to afford the cost of purchasing, outright, a house or other type of residential accommodation. As such it is critically important to maintain an adequate supply of 'affordable housing' to ensure that the whole population has a satisfactory place to live.

Gross affordable completions (count)
Affordable completions as proportion of all completions

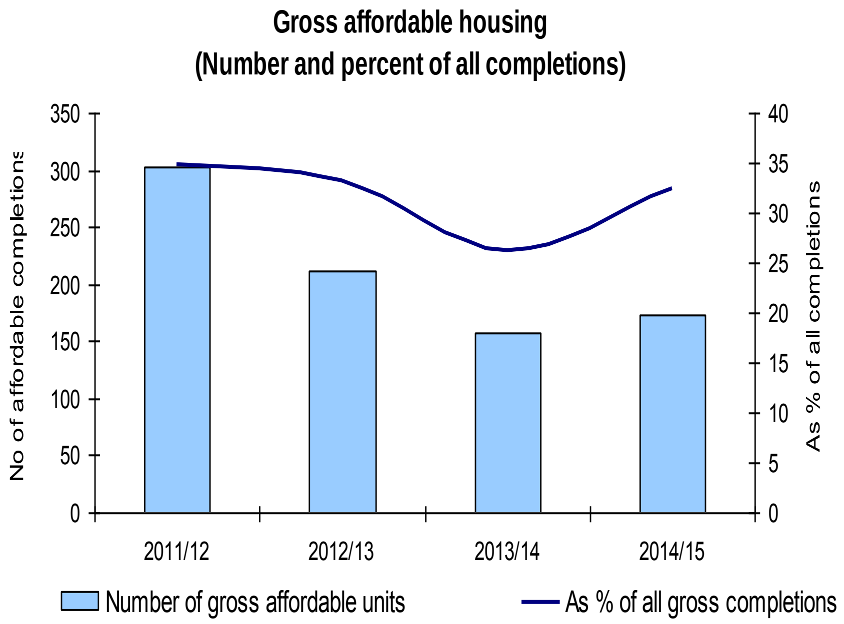
The number of affordable residential completions is up on last year. As a proportion of all completions it is above the target of 25%.

In 2013 this measure was changed to include all gross numbers.

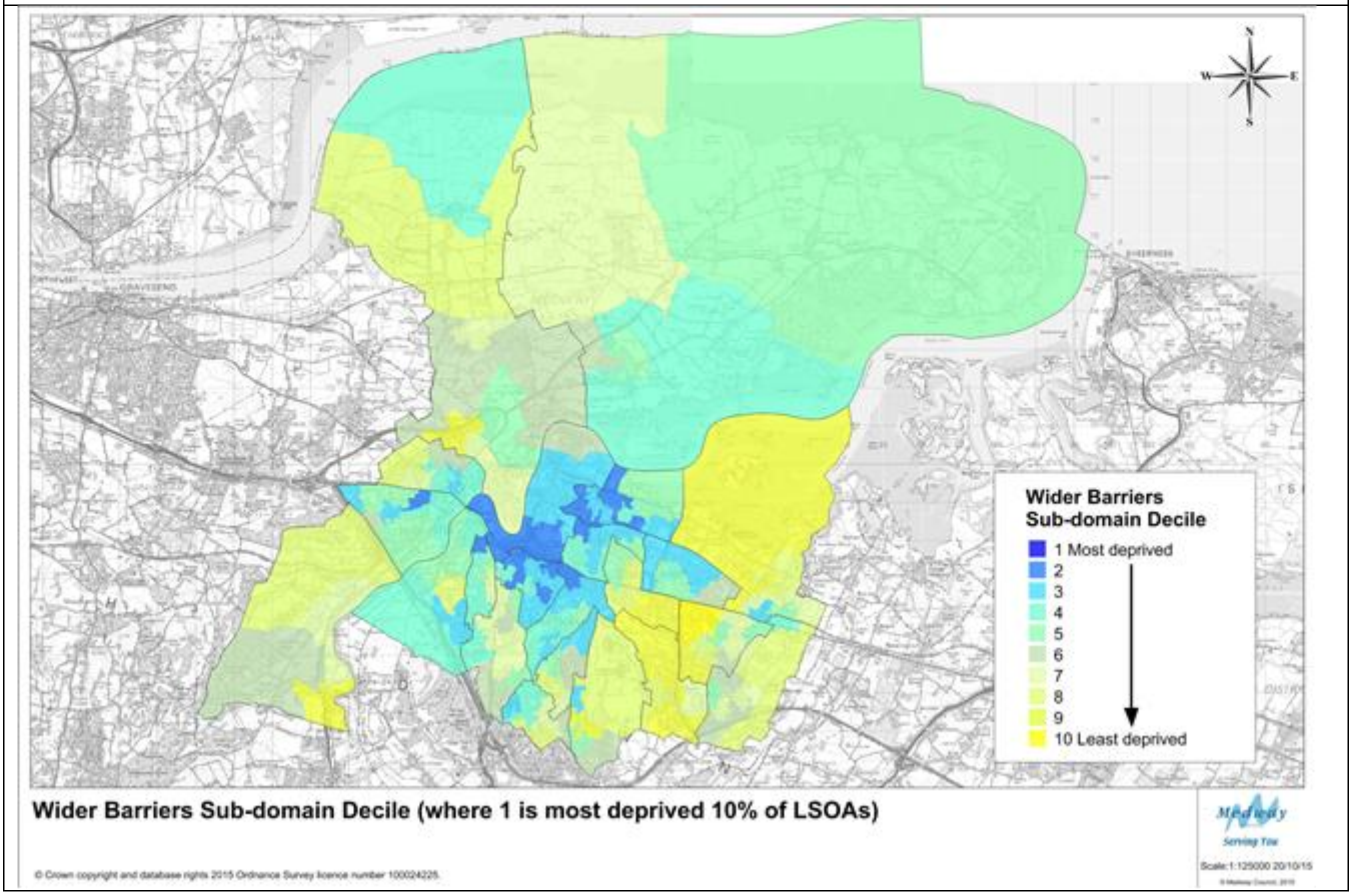
Affordable housing data is collected and reported by the council's Housing Team and is reported as gross numbers. For consistency our analysis with regard to affordable housing is now based on gross numbers.

Gross affordable completions

	Number of gross affordable units	Number of gross completions	As % of all gross completions
2011/12	303	869	34.9
2012/13	211	635	33.2
2013/14	157	597	26.3
2014/15	174	532	32.4



Access to housing
Wider barriers - Index of Deprivation 2015



Residential completions by property type and size

Housing completions continue to show that all types of tenure are being constructed within Medway. Specialist provision is continuing to come forward for students. During 2014/15, 97 student rooms were under construction.

The Chatham Waters planning permission includes 475 flats of student accommodation.

Affordable housing continues to come forward. After a dip last year it is back up to just over 32% of new dwellings being provided by the affordable housing sector.

Medway also has a good spread of new family homes, with just over 88% of completed sites this year providing 2 and 3 bedroom homes.

For sites built out in the year 2014/15 the breakdown of houses and flats by number of bedrooms is shown in the table below. More houses than flats were completed. The majority of new properties had 2 bedrooms.

Completions (gross) on large sites by property type and number of bedrooms 2014/15

Number of bedrooms	Houses	Flats
One	0	17
Two	26	96
Three	31	1
Four or more	3	0
Total	**60**	**114**
Total % split	**34%**	**66%**

'Other'

Under class C2a at the Military Barracks site, Brompton - the number of bed spaces increased by 18.

C2 accommodation (residential institutions) saw a net loss of 9 bedrooms in 2014/15.

There are some occasions where planning permission is not required - these changes can be picked up through Council Tax records.

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show- people

In September 2012, the Council commissioned the Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) at the University of Salford to produce a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).

The report assesses requirements for the following periods:

- 2013 – 2018
- 2018 – 2023
- 2023 – 2028

The assessment was jointly commissioned by Tonbridge and Malling, Gravesham, Ashford, Medway and Swale Councils to ensure that a consistent approach and that cross boundary issues were taken into account. In August 2015, the government issued revised policy guidance on gypsy and traveller accommodation. Medway Council is working with other planning authorities in Kent to assess the implications of the policy changes and to consider the need for reviewing the evidence base in this area.

Summary of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show people accommodation and pitch need (2013-2028)

	Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Need Total (No. of pitches)	**Travelling Show people Plot Need Total (no. of plots)**
Current authorised residential provision (pitches/plots)	22	5
Residential need 2013-2018 (pitches/plots)	**13**	**0**
Residential need 2018-2023 pitches/plots)	4	0
Residential need 2023-2028 pitches/plots)	5	0
Residential need 2013-2818 (pitches/plots)	**22**	**0**

For further information please see the *Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment: Medway Council Final Report (September 2013).

http://www.medway.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningpolicy/gypsiesandtravellersgtaa.aspx

Net additional pitches (Gypsy and Traveller)

Bi-annual counts of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans are published by DCLG.

The 2015 figures show capacity of twelve caravans on authorised sites with planning permission, with Council supplied figures showing that there are eleven caravans on the site at Cuxton. DCLG statistics indicates one caravan on an unauthorised site without planning permission.

Gypsy site trend

	Authorised sites (with planning permission)		Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)		Total caravans
	Socially rented	All Private Caravans	No. of Caravans on Sites on Travellers' own land	No. of Caravans on Sites on land not owned by Travellers	
2015	12	5	1	0	18
2014	12	5	1	0	18
2013	12	5	1	0	18
2012	12	0	0	2	14

During the year 2014/15 there were 4 consents granted for gypsy caravans.

- Cliffe, 2 static caravans – permitted 2nd May 2014, with condition stating only for use by current occupier or his descendants.
- Meresborough Road, Rainham – change of use of land for stationing of caravans for residential occupation permitted 21st May 2014 - temporary consent until 31st December 2018.
- Matts Hill Road, 1 mobile home, 1 touring caravan, 1 small portacabin permitted 19 June 2014 – temporary consent until 31st December 2018
- High Halstow – 3 mobile homes and one touring caravan permitted 17th September 2014 – temporary consent until 31st December 2018.

Economy

Medway Council seeks the development of a dynamic and diverse local economy, to provide employment for the community as a whole, to provide greater choice for the workforce, offering an alternative to out-commuting.

Medway continues to engage in activities to deliver the potential regeneration opportunities of the Thames Gateway, through partnership working in the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership in north Kent and more widely on a Kent and Medway basis to the strategy of 'Unlocking the Potential'.

Funding has been secured through the SELEP's Local Growth Fund to deliver further infrastructure improvements in Medway.

Amount and type of completed employment floor space

In 2014/15 - as in the previous two years - there was a net lost in employment floor space. The biggest loses going to the leisure, healthcare and housing sectors.

Amount and type of completed employment floor space – 2014/15

	B1 (m²)	B2(m²)	B8(m²)	Mixed B (m²)	Total (m²)
Gross	3,600	2,745	7,496	0	13,841
Net	-3,979	1,180	1,969	-1,028	-1,858

Amount of completed employment floor space (sq.m) 2011/12- 2014/15

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Gross	20,429	12,327	15,919	13,841
Net	9,482	-4,626	-11,065	-1,858

Amount and type of employment floor space coming forward on Previously Developed Land (PDL)

The proportion of employment floor space completed on previously developed land was low in 2014/15 at 49% compared to previous years.

This was due to a significant amount of floor space being completed at Gillingham Business Park on a greenfield site allocated in the Medway Local Plan.

Amount and type of completed floor space (gross) coming forward on previously developed land (PDL) – 2014/15

B1 (m^2)	B2(m^2)	B8(m^2)	Mixed B (m^2)	Total (m^2)
1,290	2,745	2,814	0	6,849
36%	38%	93%	0%	49%

Completed floor space (sq.m) on PDL (total) 2011/12-2013/15

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
17,910	6,883	15,666	6,849
87.7%	55.8%	97.6%	49.0%

Amount and type of employment land available

The amount of available floor space for B1/B2/B8 with planning permission net of losses is 732,257 sq.m.

Amount of floor space for town centre uses

As in previous years, there was an overall net loss in 2014/15 in A1/A2/B1a/D2 use classes.

Floor space completed for town centre uses (A1/A2/B1a/D2) – 2014/15

	A1 (m²)		A2 (m²)		B1 (m²)		D2 (m²)		Total	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Town centre	259	-1,648	167	-374	560	-1,882	786	786	1,772	-3,118
Rest of Medway	704	-654	31	-56	3,040	-2,097	1,578	424	5,353	-2,383
Total	963	-2,302	198	-430	3,600	-3,979	2,364	1,210	7,125	-5,501

Total floorspace for town centre use 2011/12-2014/15

	Town Centres		Rest of Medway		Floorspace Total	
Year	*Gross*	*Net*	*Gross*	*Net*	*Gross*	*Net*
2011/12	1,112	-4,015	6,627	-1,076	7,739	-5,091
2012/13	2,849	1,467	4,875	-4,812	7,724	-3,345
2013/14	1,183	-4,677	3,144	-1,561	4,327	-6,238
2014/15	1,772	-3,118	5,353	-2,383	7,125	-5,501

Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants

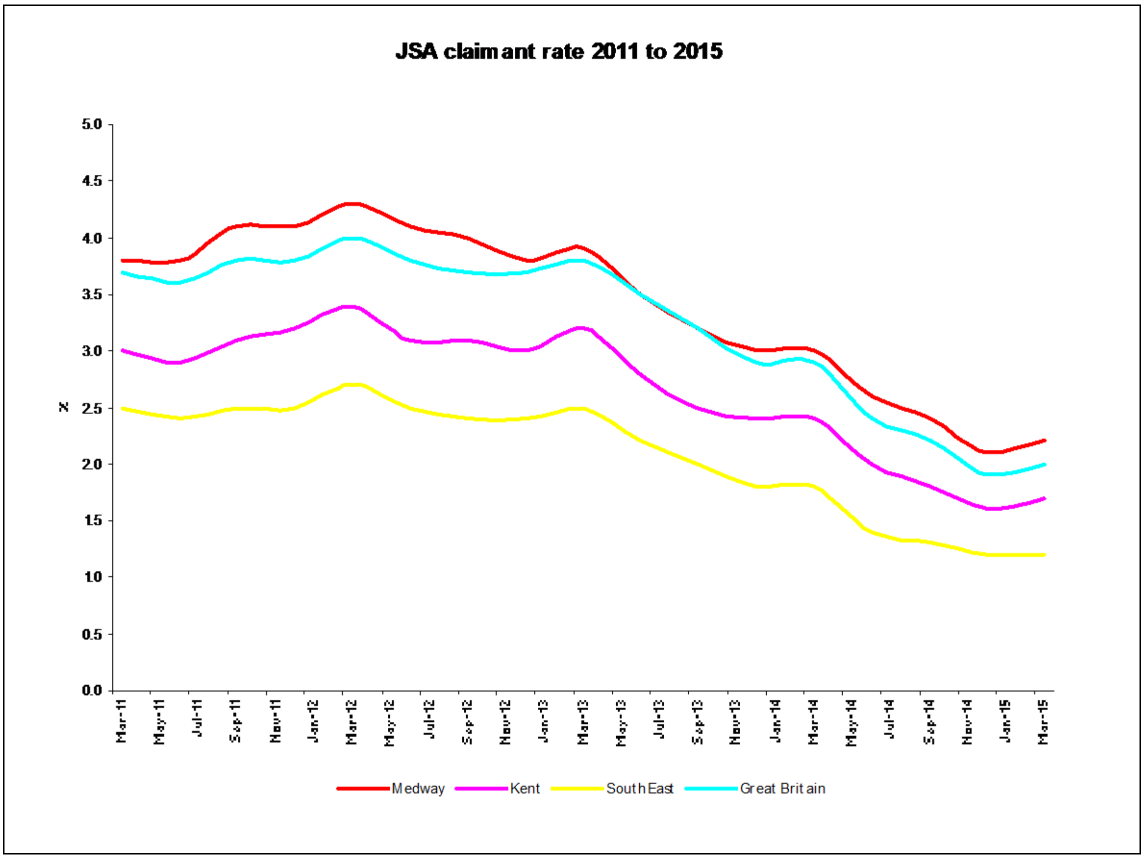
The Job Seekers claimant rate has dropped in Medway over 2014/15, but remains just above the national rate in March 2015 at 2.2% against 2.0% nationally, and higher than the regional and Kent rates.

The JSA rate peaked in Medway in March 2012 with a prevailing downward trend since then, albeit that there was a slight increase in the last reporting quarter, similar to the national trend.

At 2.2% the JSA claimant rate is back down to levels of unemployment seen in mid 2008.

JSA claimant rate – 2012-2015

	Medway	Kent	South East	Great Britain
Jun 2012	4.1	3.1	2.5	3.8
Sep 2012	4.0	3.1	2.4	3.7
Dec 2012	3.8	3.0	2.4	3.7
Mar 2013	3.9	3.2	2.5	3.8
Jun 2013	3.5	2.8	2.2	3.5
Sep 2013	3.2	2.5	2.0	3.2
Dec 2013	3.0	2.4	1.8	2.9
Mar 2014	3.0	2.4	1.8	2.9
Jun 2014	2.6	2.0	1.4	2.4
Sep 2014	2.4	1.8	1.3	2.2
Dec 2014	2.1	1.6	1.2	1.9
Mar 2015	2.2	1.7	1.2	2.0


JSA claimant rate 2011 to 2015
%
5.0
4.5
4.0
3.5
3.0
2.5
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0
Mar-11
May-11
Jul-11
Sep-11
Nov-11
Jan-12
Mar-12
May-12
Jul-12
Sep-12
Nov-12
Jan-13
Mar-13
May-13
Jul-13
Sep-13
Nov-13
Jan-14
Mar-14
May-14
Jul-14
Sep-14
Nov-14
Jan-15
Mar-15
Medway
Kent
South East
Great Britain

Gross Value Added – productivity

In 2013 Medway's economy was worth just under £4.3bn, up on the 2012 level (+£73m) by 1.7%.

In 2013 GVA per head for Medway at £15,796 stood at 67.5% of the UK level (£23,394); despite Medway's growth this is down on the 2012 level (68.8%).

Medway's economy runs at just over two thirds of the national level in terms of output. It is among the lowest performing local authorities in the South East, lagging behind Kent and England averages for Gross Valued Added output (GVA), and with a much slower rate of growth than seen in neighbouring authorities and wider context areas. Medway saw a steep decline in 2008, and has been slow to recover post recession, with GVA output not yet back to pre-recessionary levels. Between 2001 and 2014, overall GVA growth in Medway was 5%, compared to 14% across Kent.

A number of factors contribute to this relatively poor economic performance, including significant out-commuting, an economy characterised by lower value activities with an absence of some higher value sectors, and a lower skilled local workforce.

Gross value added per head of population

	2011	2012	2013
Medway	**14,344**	**15,693**	**15,796**
Kent	18,839	19,146	19,574
South East	24,455	25,324	25,843
United Kingdom	22,332	22,797	23,394

Gross value added per head of population - indices

	2011	2012	2013
Medway	**64.2**	**68.8**	**67.5**
Kent	84.4	84.0	83.7
South East	109.5	111.1	110.5
United Kingdom	100.0	100.0	100.0

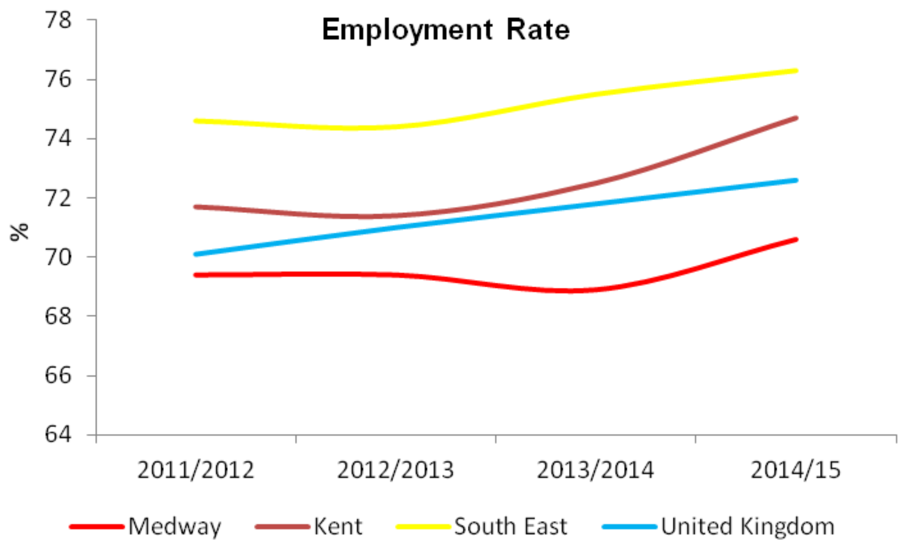
For an overview of GVA follow link:
http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/economy/national-accounts/gva/index.html

Employment

The employment rate in Medway in 2015 stood at 70.6%. The employment rate in Medway has increased for the first time in three years. The gap between the employment rate in Medway and the national rate has narrowed.

Employment rate – 2012 to 2015

	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/15
Medway	**69.4**	**69.4**	**68.9**	**70.6**
Kent	71.7	71.4	72.5	74.7
South East	74.6	74.4	75.5	76.3
UK	70.1	71.0	71.8	72.6



Economic activity

The economic activity level in Medway stood at 77.3% in 2015.

The economic activity rate in Medway has increased for the first time in three years, now standing in line with the national rate.

This means that more people in Medway are either in the workforce or are ready to join the workforce.

Economic activity rate

	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/15
Medway	**77.0**	**76.6**	**76.2**	**77.3**
Kent	78.1	77.1	78.4	78.6
South East	79.4	79.4	79.9	80.0
UK	76.4	77.1	77.4	77.3

New Henry Schein Building, Gillingham Business Park

Retail and Town Centres

Medway Council seeks to maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of its network of urban and rural centres and support the delivery of appropriate comparison and convenience retail, office, leisure, community, entertainment and cultural facilities. In line with national changes, the town centres in Medway have faced a number of challenges in recent years, with competition from online retailers and larger retail centres further afield, particularly Bluewater.

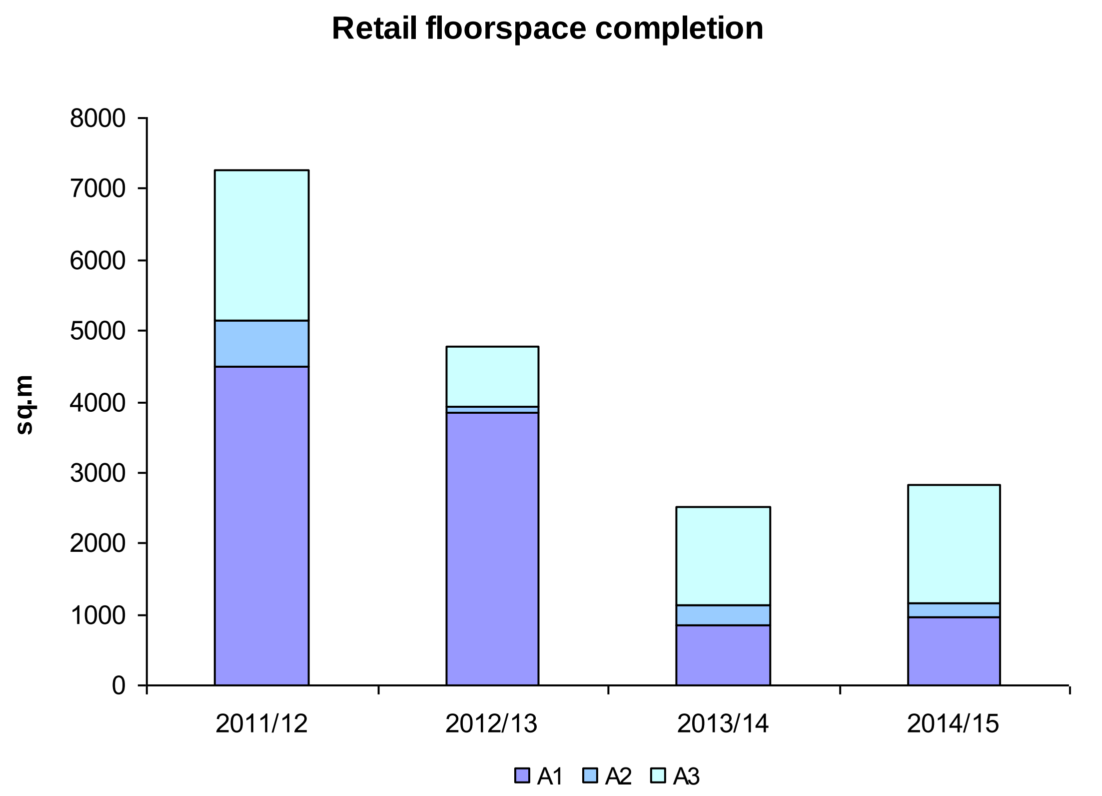
Gross completions A1-A5

There has been a downward trend in new retail floor space in Medway over the last few years; however this trend was reversed in 2014/15 with an increase in new A3 floor space, with a comparably large amount in town centre compared to the previous year.

Town Centre (TC) and non Town Centre gross retail floor space completions sq.m

		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A1-A5
2014/15	TC	259	167	644	78	147	1,295
	Non TC	704	31	1,032	254	174	2,195
	Total	**963**	**198**	**1,676**	**332**	**321**	**3,490**
2013/14	TC	210	276	161	0	0	647
	Non TC	642	0	1,232	0	493	2,367
	Total	**852**	**276**	**1,393**	**0**	**493**	**3,014**
2012/13	TC	1,815	0	470	13	25	2,323
	Non TC	2,042	60	393	136	370	3,001
	Total	**3,857**	**60**	**863**	**149**	**395**	**5,324**
2011/12	TC	235	462	845	0	161	1,703
	Non TC	4,261	199	1,262	136	643	6,501
	Total	**4,496**	**661**	**2,107**	**136**	**804**	**8,204**

Chatham Town Centre



Net completions in town centres

Despite the increases seen in new retail floor space provision in town centres there was a net loss in key A1-A5 uses. 1,648 sq. of A1 retail floor space was lost from town centres in 2014/15. Most significantly 786 sq. m was the result of change of use from retail to gyms.

Other town centre losses went to housing and offices.

Town centre development – 2014/15

Use	Losses (sq.)	Gains (sq.)	Net change (sq.)
A1	-1,907	259	-1,648
A2	-541	167	-374
A3	-300	644	344
A4	-85	78	-7
A5	0	147	147
D1	-561	1,144	583
D2	0	786	786
Total	**-3,394**	**3,225**	**-169**

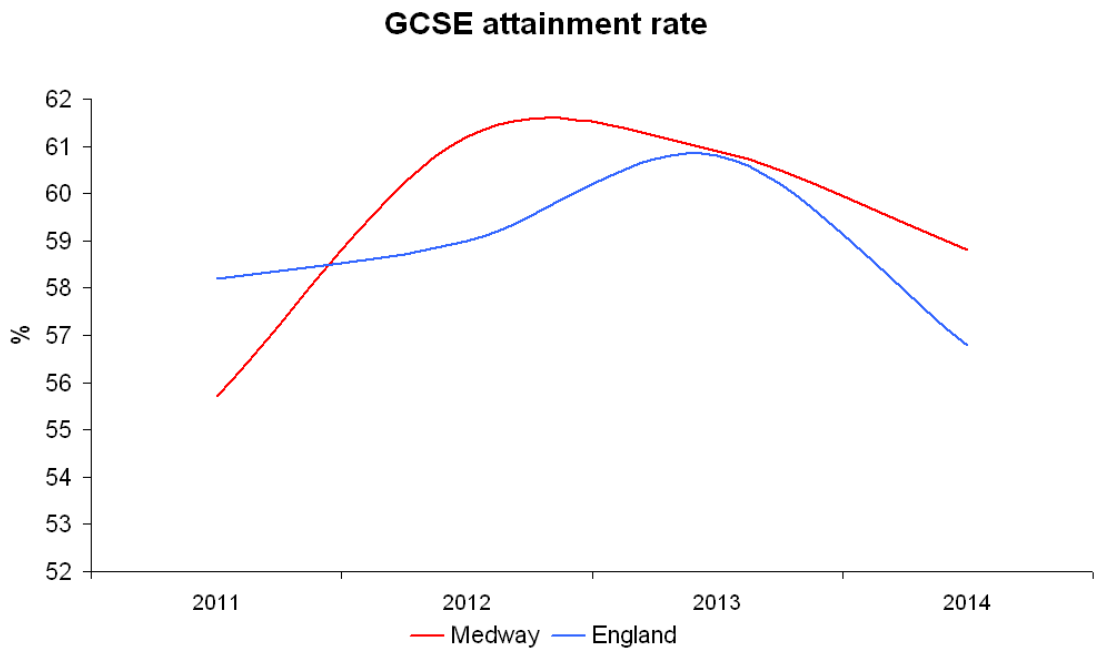
Education

GCSE attainment rate

The GCSE pass rate in Medway dropped for the second year in 2014, down to 58.8%, this remains above the national rate of 56.8%, which has followed a similar trend.

Percent of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving 5+A*-C (and equivalent) including English and maths GCSEs

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Medway	55.7	61.2	60.9	58.8
England*	58.2	59.0	60.8	56.8



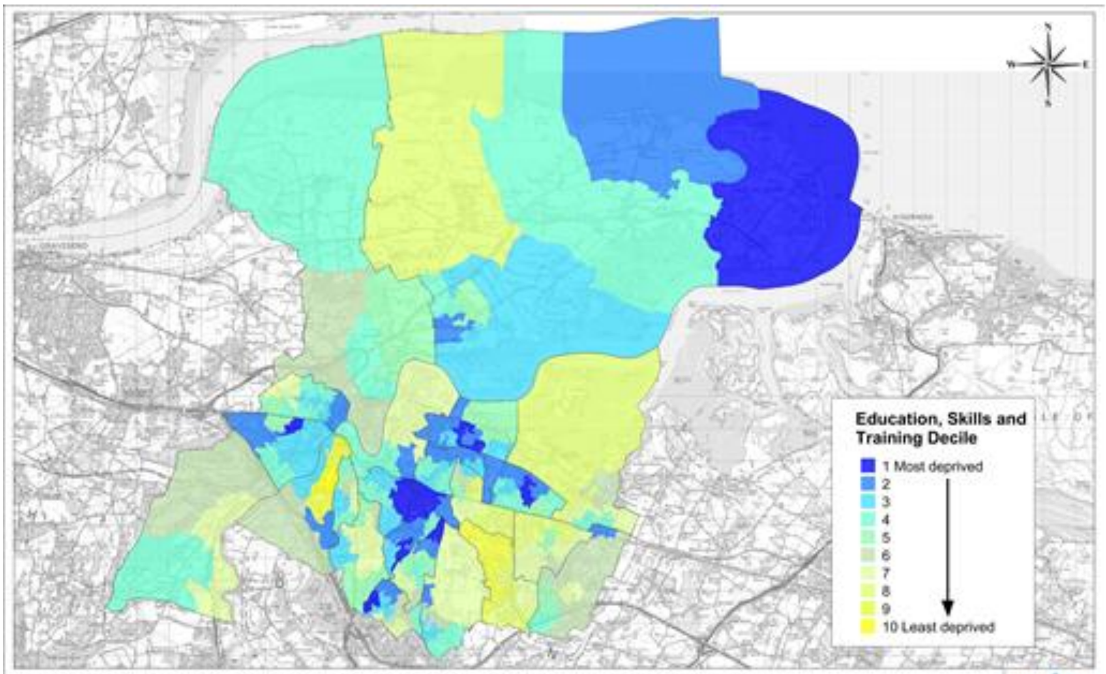
Education deprivation

The ‘Education, Skills and Training’ deprivation measure relates to the lack of educational attainment and skills in the local population. The pattern of deprivation on this theme is quite widely scattered with areas across Medway being relatively deprived including areas on the Hoo Peninsula.

Medway is ranked in the 27% most deprived local authorities in England for ‘Education skills and training’ - this is worse than Medway’s overall position for multiple deprivation being in the 37% most deprived local authorities in England.

Medway has forty-three neighbourhoods ranked in the 20% most deprived nationally and within those sixteen are ranked in the 10% most deprived. Two less neighbourhoods are in the most deprived 20% compared to the 2010 index, but there are extra four areas in the most deprived 10%.

Of those sixteen most deprived neighbourhoods, five are located in Luton & Wayfield, four are located in Chatham Central and two are located in Gillingham North.



Education, Skills and Training Decile (where 1 is most deprived 10% of LSOAs)

The River Medway - Port cargo traffic

Medway built up around the river and its estuary, and its history and industries reflect these links. Although some traditional industries have declined, there are still a number of marine based businesses active in Medway.

The docks and wharves around Medway support local businesses and provide a strategic role for the movement of goods and materials. This includes the importation of aggregates that support the construction industry. London Thamesport on the Isle of Grain can handle a variety of deep and shallow-drafted vessels; other ports in Medway include the Scotline Terminal on the Medway City Estate and the National Grid's Liquefied Natural Gas Importation terminal at Grain.

Data is published for Medway Ports that include Chatham Docks alongside the port of Sheerness, both managed by Peel Ports. Together these are ranked as the 10th busiest of UK major ports – with the cargo handled representing just under 3% of all UK cargo handled.

Medway Ports handle just over a fifth of the countries 'forestry products' -the most handled by any port in the UK. This type of cargo represents just under 14% of the cargo for the Medway Ports.

While freight handled by all UK major ports was stable in 2014, in the Medway Ports cargo tonnage was up slightly (+0.75%), following significant decreases in tonnage in 2012 and 2013. Port activity in the Medway and Swale area peaked in 2011 having dropped since a peak of 2006.

Nationally the impact of the recession can be seen around 2008/9 when freight traffic dropped by 11%.

Medway Ports are part of the 53 major ports network in the UK that handle around 98% of all traffic.

The main cargo handles by UK ports is called 'liquid bulk' which includes liquefied gas, crude oil and other oil products. In contrast 'dry bulk' is the largest cargo category handled by Medway Ports including ores and coal and agricultural products.

Medway Port traffic cargo – tonnage (000's)				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
All traffic	**16,076**	**12,649**	**8,384**	**8,447**
Inward	13,903	10,933	7142	7,482
Outward	2,173	1,717	1,242	965

All Major UK ports traffic cargo – tonnage (000's)				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
All traffic	506,996	489,450	491,402	491,856

Bulk type Medway Ports – 2014			
	Tonnage (000's)	**% of UK total**	**UK ranking** (of 53)
Forestry products	1,144	20.1	1
Liquefied gas	842	6.6	4
Iron and steel products	322	3.2	9

Source: DfT Port Freight Statistics, 2015

Further information available at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/port-freight-statistics-2014-final-figures

Minerals – Local Aggregate Assessment 2014

As a unitary authority, Medway Council has responsibility for minerals planning. This includes the production of an annual Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA), in line with the requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). The LAA provides information on aggregate monitoring figures to support an analysis of supply and demand of materials.

Reflecting the size, geology and location of the borough, there are two quarries with permitted reserves, and three active wharves along the River Medway and the Thames Estuary, used for the importation of aggregates. The only land won aggregates extracted in the district are sand and gravel. However, extraction is restricted due to the high level of environmental designations (33%) and urban coverage (19%) within the district. Other aggregates are either imported, including crushed rock and marine dredged aggregates, or derived from secondary or recycled sources.

The small number of minerals sites and wharves, mean that there are a number of areas where it is not possible to publish information at the level of this individual minerals planning authority. This follows the agreements made with industry to respect commercial confidentiality.

Supply/Demand

The present permitted reserve of sand and gravel is 1.315 million tonnes. This is derived from Kingsnorth Quarry to the south east of the village of Hoo St Werburgh, and at Perry's Farm, Grain.

Kingsnorth Quarry has planning consent for the extraction of 1.195 million tonnes of sand and gravel. The plan is to extract minerals in phases at a rate of approximately 120,000 tonnes a year, over 10 years. The period for the commencement of the development has been extended until 1 May 2017. As yet, no works have started.

There is a small amount of remaining permitted reserves from works at Perry's Farm, Grain, but these are considered as uneconomic and are therefore not considered as available reserves.

Due to the limited number of quarrying sites in Medway, it is not possible to publish annual levels of sales of locally won sand and gravel. This adheres to the confidentiality agreements set between the aggregates industry and mineral planning authorities. However the council has been able to use data provided to the annual Aggregates Monitoring survey have been used to produce a 10 year and 3 year average figure.

The 10-year average of sales from quarries in Medway is 11,914 tonnes pa. The 3-year average of sales is zero. Therefore overall the demand appears to be very low for land won resources in Medway, with alternative sources of supply being of continued importance. The reserve provides a landbank for land-won sand and gravel of 111 years, based on a 10-year sales average. This is significantly above the 7-year landbank required in the NPPF. However, the 3 and 10 year sales average has limitations in its effective use for assessing mineral provision in Medway and its wider contribution to the wider south east market due to the scale of the area.

Medway has three active wharves that play an important role in the importation of aggregates, including crushed rock and marine dredged aggregates. Both of these resources make up a significant proportion of the aggregates supplied in the district and into Kent. The Medway wharves reported an increase in total imports in 2014 from 2013 levels. However, there was a decrease in the importation of crushed rock, but an increase in sand and gravel imports.

It is considered that there is currently a steady supply of marine dredged aggregates. The Crown Estate owns almost all of the sand and gravel resources (marine aggregate) lying off the coast of the UK and they award and manage commercial agreements for companies to extract it.

London and the South East are supplied by three main regions of marine aggregates: the East Coast, Thames Estuary and East English Channel. As of 2014, these areas held reserves of 197.36 million tonnes and had a combined 10-year average extraction rate of 9.19 million tonnes per year, providing a total of 21.5 years aggregate production.

Recently, the marine aggregates industry has been involved in a major statutory relicensing programme, which has resulted in the renewal of more than half of The Crown Estate production licenses for a further 15 years. As part of this, the Thames Estuary area licensed for marine aggregate extraction was increased by 9.44km^2 in 2014. This could indicate that Medway’s wharves which import materials from these licensed areas, may be of ongoing importance. This could be heightened through the removal of wharf capacity elsewhere, such as in Kent where wharves may be closed following waterfront regeneration.

Imports of sand and gravel and crushed rock come from Belgium and Scotland as well marine dredged aggregates from UK waters. Most of the imports remain in Kent and Medway (80%) or the wider south east region - including Kent and Medway - (89%), but a significant proportion goes to London (11%).

Medway also has several sites that have the potential to supply secondary and recycled aggregates to the market. However in 2015 the aggregate monitoring data for 2014 carried out by the British Geological Survey did not include any secondary and recycled supplies data.

The Council has analysed several external sources to project any trends that may be emerging that would influence demand. The population of Medway is predicted to increase by 22% to 2037 and house builders are reporting increased workloads and planning permissions granted nationally indicating a potential increase in demand over the coming years, but this appears not yet to have significantly affected the market.

Notable developments and Medway news during the year
Strood
• A £29 million investment will boost Medway's economic growth. Key projects include: flood defences to Canal Road, Strood enabling residential development, attracting more business and jobs to Medway City Estate with improved traffic access and, traffic improvements in Strood. • Strood Community project has relocated to Strood High Street; the Library will take over its old premises. • The old Strood Library will become the new location for Medway Archives. • Strood Sports Centre gets a £1.4m facelift. The fitness suite will double in size, provision of 3 new work out studios, a new cycle spin room and a new look to the café and reception area. • Strood station was also undergoing track and signalling work so that longer trains will be able to stop there. • The 1960's English Martyrs Catholic Church, Frindsbury Road, Strood has been granted Grade II listed status by English Heritage.
Rochester
• The French Hospital in Rochester has secured £1.2 million of lottery funding to create a Huguenot Heritage Centre. It will be housed in the Visitor Information Centre. • The Council approves an updated masterplan for Rochester Riverside • The £5.7million Cathedral project begins to transform the visitor experience. • While carrying out restoration works to Rochester Cathedral a pillar was discovered thought to predate 1080 making parts of the Cathedral older than previously thought. • The Council's new Cultural Strategy up to 2019 is published. Proposals include further development for the Guildhall Museum, and establishing a Cultural Quarter in Rochester around Eastgate House. • The Council was awarded almost £40,000 to mark the 800th anniversary of the siege of Rochester Castle through a series of events.
Chatham
• A £29 million investment will boost Medway's economic growth. Key projects include: developing Chatham Town Centre, improved routes from Sun Pier via a riverside walk, accessibility improvements between the station and High Street particularly for pedestrians and cyclists and a new civic square at Chatham Waterfront. • Swedish Bank Handelsbanken opens a branch at Victory House, Chatham Maritime. • There is a proposal for the old Kitchener Barracks to be redeveloped for housing.

- The finalists for the 2014 Kent Design and Development Awards included Horsted Park, which went on to win in the major residential category and Medway Crematorium winner in the Commercial, Industrial and Retail category.
- There are plans by the Universities to turn a derelict building (former swimming pool) on the Medway Campus into a social hub for students.
- The outdoor TV screen at Chatham Riverside was switched on.
- The Council's new Cultural Strategy up to 2019 was published. Proposals include further development of Chatham's Central Theatre.
- Dovetail Games, a world leader with its Train Simulator video games was named business of the year in the Medway Business Awards 2014.
- The old Theatre Royal site was developed into 26 apartments.
- WH Smith and Tesco stores in Chatham closed in April 2015.

Gillingham

- Gillingham Park and Great Lines Heritage Park were awarded their first green flag awards.
- Work started on demolishing the old fire station in Watling Street, Gillingham, with work on the replacement stations underway.
- Planning permission was granted for Medway's largest Mosque on part of the car park next to Gillingham Station.
- Medway Council proposed to build new affordable housing on a former school site at Beatty Avenue, Gillingham.
- Work commenced on the new University Technology College –which opened in September 2015.
- The old Mobility Centre in Gillingham Road was demolished to make way for Medway's first Sainsbury's local store creating 25 jobs.
- Barclays Bank in Gillingham Town Centre was to close, due to an increase in telephone and online banking.

Rainham

- New platforms and track were installed at Rainham Station, operational for Easter 2015.
- The HSBC Bank at Hempstead Valley closed, due to a significant drop in footfall.
- Nandos, Frankie & Benny's and Subway are among the companies opening at Hempstead Valley. The Mall is being given a £16 makeover.
- Medway's adult education service is planning to start running courses in Hempstead.

Hoo Peninsula and the Isle of Grain

- Wessex Solar Energy is proposing to install a solar park on 26 hectares of land at Lower Stoke.

Medway Valley
• Creating 85 jobs, Coast to Coast a new restaurant at Medway Valley Park, welcomed its first customers.

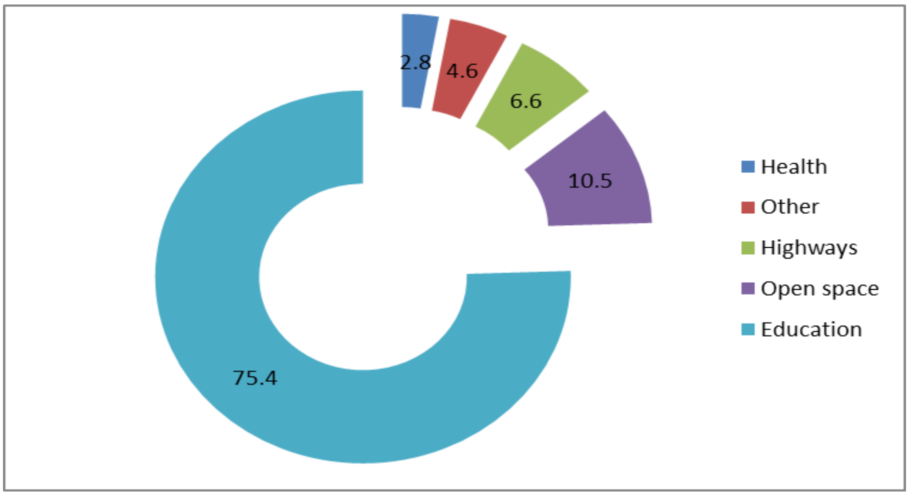
Developer Contributions

Developers will be required to make provision for infrastructure where the need arises directly from development.

In 2014/15 Section 106 agreements signed amounted to £1,014,093. Just over three-quarters of the total funding went towards education related schemes, with investments also in open space/outdoor sports facilities (11%) and highways, parking and pedestrian schemes (7%).

Section 106 Agreements 2014/15	
Amount of Funding Received during the year	£1,014,093

Section 106 agreements 2014/15 by broad category



It is central to government policy that new development should be sustainable, which includes that it should provide capacity and new facilities to meet the needs of new residents.

Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 allows anyone with an interest in land to enter into a planning obligation, which is enforceable by a local planning authority.

Developer contributions are required for developments of 10 or more residential units and certain other forms of development.

Further details on 106 agreements are available via link below to Medway Council's Guide to Developer Contributions (SPD).

http://www.medway.gov.uk/pdf/GUIDE%20TO%20DEVELOPER%20CONTRIBUTIONS%202014.pdf

Development Management Planning Statistics

Planning applications

During the year 2014/15 the Council determined 1,338 planning applications with 89% if applications being determined within the agreed timeframe.

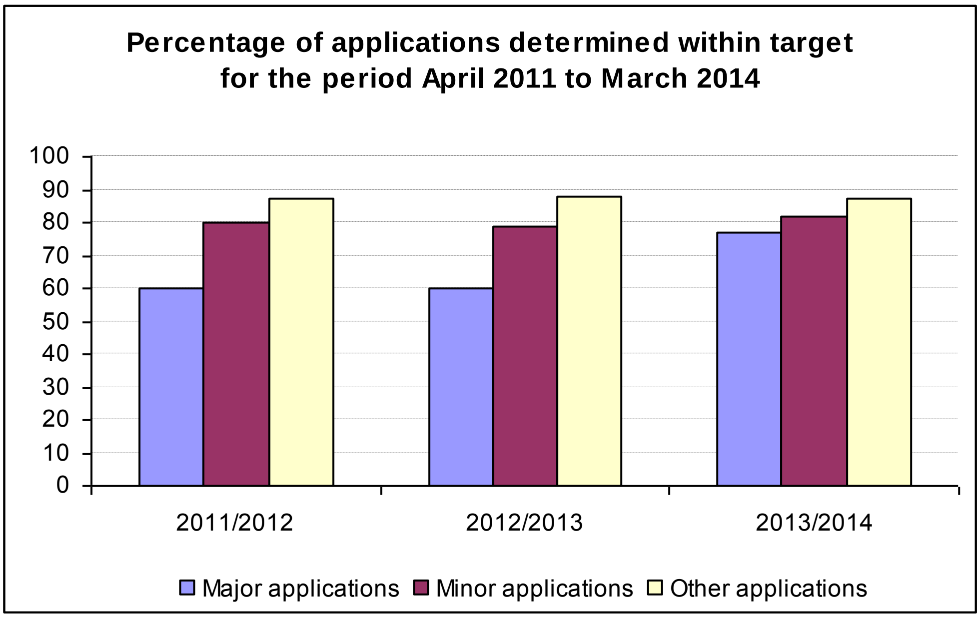
Performance for major applications not subject to an extension of time during the year was 71.1%. Applications subject to an extension of time is 84%. This is a combined total of 76.2% of major applications determined within the agreed timeframe. This is against a target of 60%.

Performance for minor applications not subject to an extension of time during the year was 81.8%. Applications subject to an extension of time is 82.8%. This is a combined total of 82% of minor applications determined within the agreed timeframe. This is against a target of 65%.

Performance for other applications not subject to an extension of time during the quarter is 92.9%. Applications subject to an extension of time is 91.5%. This is a combined total of 92.7% of other applications determined within the agreed timeframe. This is against a target of 80%.

Number of applications determined and percentage processed within the statutory timescale (see above)

	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15	
	Nos	%	Nos	%	Nos	%	Nos	%
Major	50	60	53	60	57	77	63	76
Minor	368	80	361	79	370	82	367	82
Other	890	87	927	88	1,118	87	908	93
Total	**1,308**	**84**	**1,341**	**84**	**1,562**	**85**	**1,338**	**89**



Major

- *Large-scale major developments - where the number of residential units to be constructed is 200 or more or 1,000 square metres of industrial, commercial or retail floor space.*
- *Small-scale major development - where the number of residential units to be constructed is between 10 and 199 inclusive.*

Minor

Is where the number of dwellings to be constructed is between 1 and 9 inclusive. A site area of less than 0.5 hectares should be used as the definition of a minor development. For all other uses, a minor development is one where the floor space to be built is less than 1,000 square metres or where the site area is less than 1 hectare.

Other

Covers minerals processing, change of use, householder developments, advertisements, listed building consents, conservation area consents, certificates of lawful development and notifications.

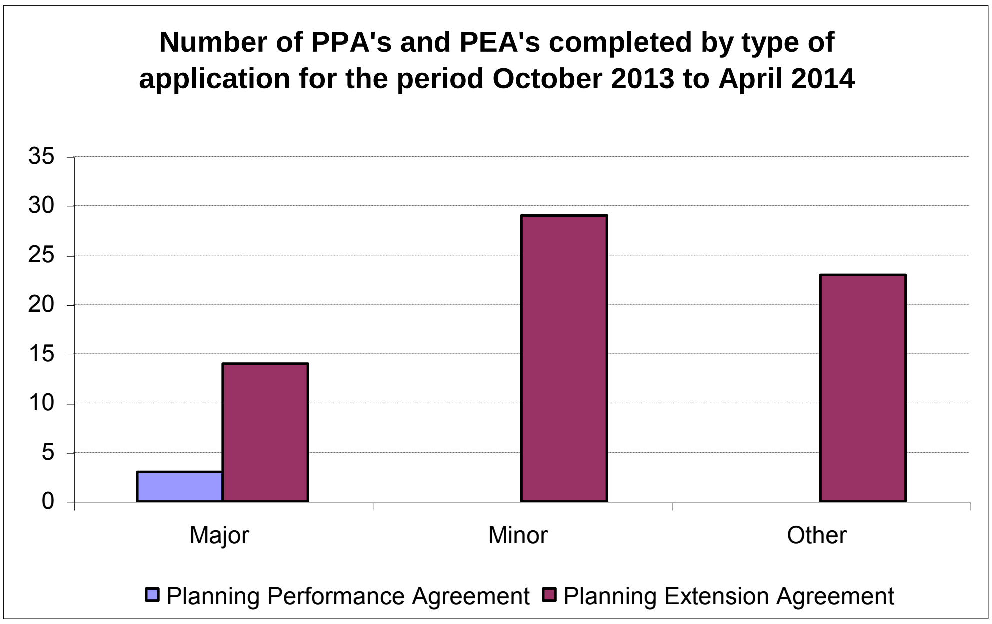
Extensions of time

Planning Performance Agreement (PPA)

A PPA is a framework agreed between a local planning authority and a planning applicant for the management of complex development proposals within the planning process. A PPA allows both the developer and the local planning authority to agree a project plan and programme, which will include the appropriate resources necessary to determine the planning application to an agreed timetable.

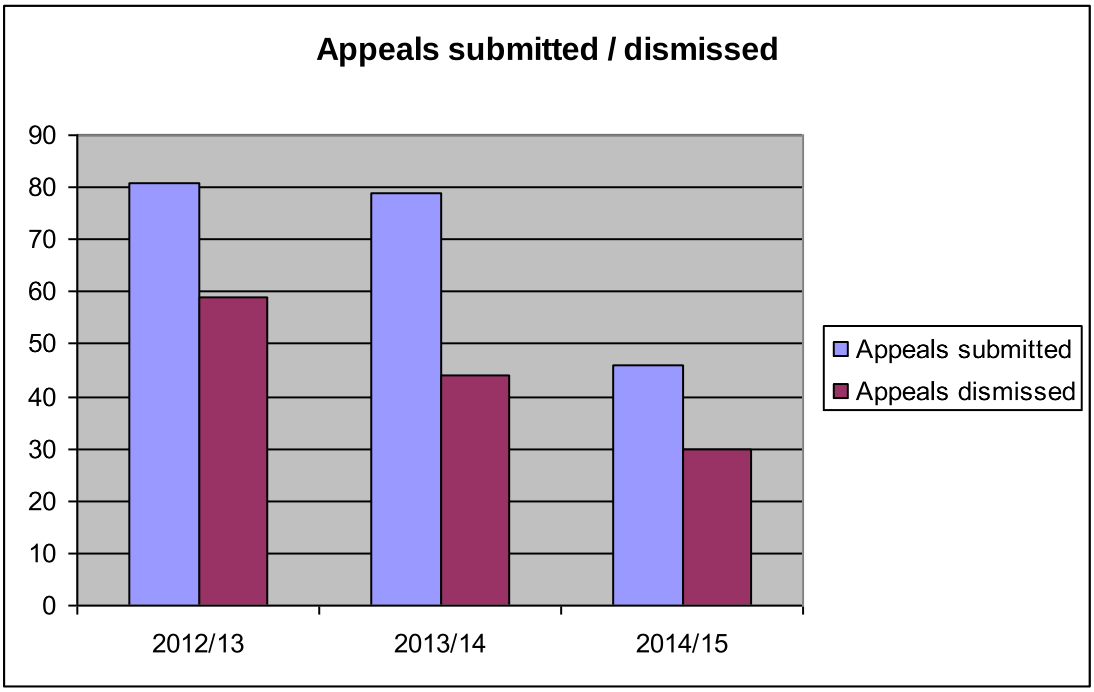
Planning Extension Agreements (PEA's)

A PEA is used to develop a bespoke timetable, whereby the timetable can be extended beyond 8, 13 or 16 weeks so long as the council and the applicant agree. Provided the council is able to meet the new agreed date, an application will be counted as satisfying the timeliness requirement for applications.



Appeals against planning decisions

During the year 2014/15, 46 appeals against the Council's decisions were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate dismissed 65% of the appeals.



Glossary

Affordable Housing - Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.

Biodiversity - The whole variety of life encompassing all genetics, species and ecosystem variations, including plans and animals.

Change of Use - A change in the way that land or buildings are used (see Use Classes Order). Planning permission is usually necessary in order to change from one 'use class' to another.

Commitments (or committed development) - All land with current planning permission or allocated in adopted development plans for development (particularly residential development).

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - is a system of securing developer contributions from planning permissions which local authorities are empowered but not required to charge on new development in their area. The levy is to be used to support growth.

Duty to cooperate - was introduced in the Localism Act 2011, and amends the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils in England and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local and Marine Plan preparation relating to strategic cross boundary matters.

Economic activity - A person is economically active if they are either employed or unemployed i.e. in work or looking for work. A person is economically inactive if they are either not seeking work or are unavailable to start work. This includes people who are looking after a family and people who are on long term sick leave.

Employment Land Availability (ELA) - The total amount of land reserved for industrial and business use awaiting development.

Employment rate - The number of people in employment in the UK is measured by the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and consists of people aged 16 and over who did paid work (as an employee or self-employed), those who had a job that they were temporarily away from, those on government-supported training and employment programmes, and those doing unpaid family work.

English indices of deprivation - identify the most deprived areas across the country. The indices combine a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. The indices are used widely to analyse patterns of deprivation, identify areas that would benefit from special initiatives or programmes and as a tool to determine eligibility for specific funding streams.

Greenfield Land or Site - Land (or a defined site) usually farmland, that has not previously been developed.

Gross Value Added (GVA) - This is the value of goods and services produced by an area, sector or producer minus the cost of the raw materials and other inputs used to produce them. For sub-national GVA, ONS uses an income-based measure. GVA is mainly composed of the income made by employees (earnings) and the business (profits/surplus) as a result of production.

Life expectancy - at birth is chosen as the preferred summary measure of all cause mortality as it quantifies the differences between areas in units (years of life) that are more readily understood and meaningful to the audience than those of other measures. All cause mortality is a fundamental and probably the oldest measure of the health status of a population. It represents the cumulative effect of the prevalence of risk factors, prevalence and severity of disease, and the effectiveness of interventions and treatment. Differences in levels of all-cause mortality reflect health inequalities between different population groups, e.g. between genders, social classes and ethnic groups.

Localism Act 2011 - introduced in November 2011. The aim of the act was to devolve more decision-making powers from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils.

Outline application - A general application for planning permission to establish that a development is acceptable in principle, subject to subsequent approval of detailed matters. Does not apply to changes of use.

Mixed Use - Developments or proposals comprising more than one land use type on a single site.

National Planning Policy Framework – published in 2012, it sets out the government's planning policies for England.

Neighbourhood Plans - A plan prepared by a Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended).

Planning Permission - Formal approval sought from a local planning authority allowing a proposed development to proceed. Permission may be sought in principle through outline planning applications, or be sought in detail through full planning applications.

Previously Developed Land or 'Brownfield' land - Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure.

Renewable and Low Carbon Energy - Includes energy for heating and cooling as well as generating electricity. Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment – from the wind, the fall of water, the movement of the oceans, from the sun and also from biomass and deep geothermal heat. Low carbon technologies are those that can help reduce emissions (compared to conventional use of fossil fuels).

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - A site designated by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as an area of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features (plants, animals and natural features relating to the Earth's structure).

Standardised mortality ratio – The SMR is a comparison of the number of the observed deaths in a population with the number of expected deaths if the age-specific death rates were the same as a standard population. SMRs equal to 100 imply that the mortality rate is the same as the standard mortality rate. A number higher than 100 implies an excess mortality rate whereas a number below 100 implies below average mortality.

Super Output Areas (SOAs) - a geography designed for the collection and publication of small area statistics. They are used on the Neighbourhood Statistics site and across National Statistics. Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) which are used as the unit to present data on deprivation, were originally built using 2001 Census data from groups of Output Areas and contain on average 1,500 residents.

Supplementary planning document (SPD) - provides additional information on planning policies in a development plan.

Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) - assesses the suitability, availability and deliverability of sites to meet a requirement for residential, employment, retail and other uses.

Sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) - surface water drainage systems which consider quantity, quality and amenity issues.

Use Class - classes of land and building use as categorised by the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 as amended. The various classes and categories appropriate to that class are as follows:

A1 Shops for the sale, display or provision of goods and services (except hot food) to visiting members of the public - includes hairdresser, funeral director, post office, dress or DIY hire shop, ticket and travel agency, internet cafe, sandwich bar, dry cleaner and pet shop.

A2 Financial or professional services (other than health or medical services) - includes betting shop, building society office, estate agent and bank.

A3 Restaurant and cafe.

A4 Drinking establishment – includes public house and wine bar.

A5 Hot food takeaway

B1 Business - includes office (a), research and development premise (b) and light industry appropriate in a residential area (c).

B2 General industry - any industrial use not covered by B1.

B8 Storage and distribution – includes wholesale warehouse (but not retail warehousing), distribution centre and repository.

C1 Hotel – includes boarding house and guesthouse.

C2 Residential institution – includes residential school and college and training centre, hospital and convalescent/nursing home.

C2a Secure residential accommodation – includes prison, young offenders institution, detention centre, custody centre, secure hospital and military barracks

C3 Dwelling house used by single person or family (a), supported housing schemes (b) and small groups of people living together as a single household (c).

C4 Houses in multiple occupation

D1 Non-residential institution - includes place of worship, law court, church hall, clinic, health centre, crèche, day nursery, consulting room, museum, public hall, library, art gallery, exhibition hall, non-residential education and training centre.

D2 Assembly and leisure –includes cinema, music and concert hall, dance hall, bingo hall, sports hall, swimming bath, skating rink, gymnasium and other indoor and outdoor sport or recreation.

Sui Generis (SG) Uses not falling within any of the above classes - includes theatre, night club, casino, sale of motor vehicles, sale of motor fuel, taxi service, launderette, hostel, live/work unit and motor sport or firearm activities.

Windfall Site - Sites which have not been specifically identified as available in the Local Plan process. They normally comprise previously-developed sites that have unexpectedly become available.