

## Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee

05 November 2025

### Part 1 - Public

#### Matters for Information



Cabinet Member

Des Keers – Community Services

Responsible Officer

Damian Roberts – Chief Executive

Adrian Stanfield – Director of Central Services and  
Deputy Chief Executive

Robert Styles – Director of Street Scene, Leisure and  
Technical Services

Report Author

Gill Fox – Corporate Policy and Communities  
Manager

### Annual Portfolio Review – Community Services

#### 1 Summary and Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an overview of the Cabinet Member update on Community Services.

#### 2 Corporate Strategy Priority Area

- 2.1 Efficient services for all our residents, maintaining an effective council.
- 2.2 The services provided within the communities' portfolio ensure accessible services for residents, provide health and leisure opportunities, strengthens community engagement and improves community safety.

#### 3 Introduction and Background

- 3.1 The update from the Cabinet Member for Community Services will include details regarding a diverse range of services, covering leisure, customer services, events, community engagement and community safety.
- 3.2 The work includes partnership arrangements and grant allocations, such as the Community Development Grant Scheme, our ongoing grants to the voluntary and Community Sector, work around safeguarding and equalities and diversity. It will cover the work of the Community Safety Unit and the partnership arrangements in place with Kent Police.

- 3.3 It will also cover details regarding the range of leisure facilities and equipment provided to residents and the continued need to maintain and improve these to meet community need and achieve income targets.

#### **4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

- 4.1 All the services are delivered within the Council's budgetary framework.

#### **5 Risk Assessment**

- 5.1 None associated with this report.

#### **6 Legal Implications**

- 6.1 None associated with this report.

#### **7 Consultation and Communications**

- 7.1 The Cabinet Member update is to ensure all Members are aware of the work underway in relation to community services and how the activity meets objectives in the Council's Corporate Strategy and Annual Service Delivery Plan.

#### **8 Implementation**

- 8.1 Community services are delivered across several council departments, to ensure a coordinated approach that meets diverse community needs effectively and efficiently.

#### **9 Cross Cutting Issues**

- 9.1 Climate Change and Biodiversity

- 9.1.1 Limited or low impact on emissions and environment.

- 9.1.2 Climate change advice has not been sought in the preparation of the options and recommendations in this report.

- 9.2 Equalities and Diversity

- 9.2.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. The work undertaken in relation to the community services portfolio will make a positive contribution in supporting those with protected characteristics.

- 9.3 Other If Relevant

- Business Continuity / Resilience
- Health and Safety
- Healthy Lifestyles

- 9.3.1 The work of the Customer Services Team ensures consistent communication and essential service delivery to residents.
- 9.3.2 The Community Safety Team works to prevent harm, reduce risk and create safer environments for residents and visitors.
- 9.3.3 The Leisure Team and the Community Team support healthy lifestyles by providing facilities, programmes and activities that encourage physical fitness, wellbeing and community engagement.

Background Papers	None
Annexes	None