

	PAGE NO.
1. <a href="#">Population Key Highlights</a>	B1
2. <a href="#">Housing Key Highlights</a>	B2
3. <a href="#">Key projects / initiatives to address 2 and 3 above</a>	B3
4. <a href="#">Economy, Business and Employment; Transport and Infrastructure Key Highlights</a>	B6
5. <a href="#">Budget, Funding and Investment Key Highlights</a>	B7
6. <a href="#">Education and Skills Key Highlights</a>	B9
7. <a href="#">Key projects / initiatives to address 5, 6 and 7 above</a>	B10
8. <a href="#">Health and Wellbeing Key Highlights</a>	B14
9. <a href="#">Deprivation and Poverty Key Highlights</a>	B15
10. <a href="#">Community Safety and Quality of Life Key Highlights</a>	B16
11. <a href="#">Key projects / initiatives to address 9, 10 and 11 above</a>	B17

**This chapter focuses on key highlights from the State of the District 2015 report and gives examples of how the Council's Corporate Plan, and work with partners, is addressing them:**

**The main aims of the Corporate Plan (2012-2016) are:**

- 'Enabling and supporting growth of the economy and opportunity for investment and jobs'
- 'Facilitating strong communities with a sense of place and identity'
- 'Serving our communities effectively'

A range of programmes, projects and initiatives have been developed, or were on-going in 2014/15, by the Council and partners to deliver the Corporate Plan and ultimately address the challenges highlighted in the report, a sample of these are included in the summaries of each section, below:

**1. Population Key Highlights (including new information or changes from the previous year):**

- The most up to date information available, at both district and ward level, at the time of drafting this report is the 2013 ONS mid-year population estimates, enabling year on year comparisons. The 2014 mid-year estimates are only currently available at a district level only and these show a further 0.7% increase in district level population.
- Between 2012-2013 there was an increase of 0.5% (600 people) in the population across the District. This is lower than the county average (0.9%) and only Tunbridge Wells and Shepway saw a smaller growth rate (0.1% respectively). Migration was the largest component of this population change (500 people) – more people entering the district than leaving. Dartford saw the largest population increase in percentage terms with +1.6%.
- Working age population is falling and is lower than South East and Great Britain average. The 65+ age group has risen and the 0-15 age group has also increased.
- The District remains the 4<sup>th</sup> smallest local authority population in Kent.
- The mean age of the population in the Dover district is 42.6 years; this is higher than the mean averages for Kent (40.6 years) and England (39.5 years) – all increased slightly on the previous year.
- Mill Hill, Buckland and Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory wards have the highest number of working age people.
- Buckland and Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory have the highest number of people aged 0-19.

- Little Stour and Ashtone, Sandwich, Middle Deal and Sholden, Mill Hill and Walmer have the highest number of 65+ years.
- Wards with the highest teenage conception rate are Tower Hamlets (one of the highest in Kent and Medway), Buckland and St.Radigunds – all are in the most deprived quintile of wards in the District.
- The population remains predominantly White – higher than the averages for Kent, South East and England. The District still has the lowest number and proportion of residents from a BME group in Kent.
- There is no further update for this year's report on length of residency, year of arrival, household language, proficiency in English or religion and belief (from Census 2011).
- The Mosaic Group definitions have changed since last year's report. In 2013 the largest grouping was '*K and MJ Middle aged parents receiving benefits, living in neighbourhoods of social housing with higher levels of unemployment*' (17.5%). In 2014 the largest grouping is '*Group G – Rural Reality – householders living in inexpensive homes in village communities*'. At 16.6% this is significantly higher than the Kent average of 7.1%.
- The next highest grouping is '*Group A: Country Living - Well off owners in rural locations enjoying the benefits of Country life*'. At 10.6% this is again higher than the Kent figure if 8.5%.
- This is followed by '*Group F: Senior Security - Elderly people with assets who are enjoying a comfortable retirement*' (10.1% compared to 10.2% for Kent).
- The Socio-Economic Position has not been updated since last year's report (from Census 2011).

## **2. Housing Key Highlights (including new information or changes from the previous year):**

- House prices are historically lower in the Dover district than county and regional averages.
- During 2014, the average house price in the Dover district was £214,433. This is an increase of +10.16% from £194,664 in 2013.
- This compares to £260,943 in Kent (up +6.02%) and £303,841 in the South East (up +6.23%).
- All dwellings price up by 154% over the last 15 years.
- At £214,433, the Dover district has the third lowest average house price in Kent in 2014.
- During 2014 there were 2,126 property transactions in the district, which is 22.18% higher than in 2013.
- Dover district is the most affordable area for housing in Kent, using the ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile earnings, at 6.77. The most expensive district in Kent is Sevenoaks (10.95) and Tunbridge Wells (9.73) where property prices are close to or above 10 times annual salary.
- The number of households in the Dover district, using the KCC methodology, is forecast to increase by 27.7% to 62,400 by 2033.
- In 2014, the Dover district had a total dwelling stock figure of 52,110, up 0.37% from the previous year.
- Since 2009, the dwelling stock in the district has risen by 3.13%, which is above the national average (2.99%) but below the average for Kent (3.58%).
- The vast majority of dwelling stock in the district (86.7%) is Private Sector (either owner-occupied or privately rented).
- Social housing dwelling stock consists of Local Authority and Private Registered Providers' stock. Local Authority stock in the Dover district amounts to 8.5% of the total dwelling stock, whilst Private Registered Providers' stock amounts to 4.8%.
- According to VOA records, 27.8% of the dwelling stock in the Dover district was built before 1900. This is higher than the average for Kent (19.5%), South East (14%) and England (16%). The district has the second highest percentage of properties built before 1900 in Kent (behind Tunbridge Wells on 32.3%).
- The majority of properties (84.7%) in the Dover district fall in council tax bands A to D. (i.e. in or below band D, which is the band used to calculate average council tax payments). The largest percentage of homes (31.7%) are in Band B, the second lowest value band. Only 0.1% of properties in the Dover district are in Band H, the highest value band.
- Over the course of the year 2014/15, 68 homes have been made 'Decent' through action taken by the PSH service: 44 of these were from enforcement action and a further 24 empty homes. This is an increase from 41 homes in 2013/14.

- Over the year 2014/15, 79 Disabled Facilities Grants have been completed, with a total value of £731,201. An additional 18 urgent home loans were granted, totalling £116,845.
- Since 2000, the dwelling stock owned by Dover District Council has decreased every year; falling from 5,368 in 2000 to 4,404 in 2015. This 2015 figure includes 5 new builds.
- Half of the dwelling stock are houses (50.6%) and over a third are flats or maisonettes (35.6%). The remainder are bungalows (13%) and bedsits (0.9%).
- Over the past ten years, the council has sold 148 properties under the Right to Buy (RTB) scheme. Government changes to reinvigorate the RTB, including increasing the level of discount available, has led to an increased interest in the scheme and, in 2014/15, 23 council properties were sold. This is the highest number since 2006/07, when 24 properties were sold.
- Council Tax base lists, as at October 2014, show there are 1,168 dwellings recorded as being second homes in the Dover district. This is 2.30% of the total dwelling stock of 50,807 and is the second highest proportion in Kent.
- Across Kent, there are 8,104 dwellings recorded as second homes, which equates to 1.26% of the total dwelling stock. Nationally, 1.07% of dwellings are classed as second homes.
- The number of long-term vacant dwellings in the Dover district has declined for six consecutive years – from 952 in 2009 to 436 in 2014, a fall of -54.2%.
- Since 2007/08, No Use Empty has returned 188 homes back into use in the Dover district and provided over £3.7 million in interest free loans. This has enabled projects to be delivered to the value of more than £8.8 million.
- During the year ending 31 March 2014, there were 228 dwellings completed (net) in the Dover District. This is the same as the previous year, compared to a decrease of 1.91% across Kent
- This brings the total number of additional homes in the Dover district to 1,146 in the last five years.
- Early indications suggest that housing completions in the Dover district for 2014/15 are on the upward trend with numerous large sites under construction. The Council's Annual Monitoring Report (published December 2015) will include an update on the number of housing completions against the supply.
- The actual number of affordable dwellings provided in the Dover district during 2013/14 is 14 (13 of these are new build affordable rent units and the remaining dwelling an affordable home ownership acquisition). This total is a fall from the 100 affordable homes completed in 2012/13 and represents the least number of affordable home completions since 2000/01.
- As at 01 April 2015, the number of households on the housing register in the Dover district had increased to 2,194 (this figure does not include Dover District Council transfer requests). Of these, 1,267 applicants (57.7%) are in a 'Reasonable Preference' category
- In April 2014, 56.8% (1,171) households were requiring a 1-bedroom property, which is a higher proportion than seen across Kent (46.1%) and nationally (51.5%). 2015 figures for DDC show 58% of households requiring a 1-bedroom property, however Kent and national comparisons were not available at the time of this report.
- In 2014/15, the Council made 195 homelessness decisions and 78 households were accepted as homeless and in priority need. This is an increase of 39.3% over the year. The main reasons for the homelessness cases seen are exclusion by parents, relatives/friends (23) and termination of assured shorthold tenancies (16).
- The two highest main priority need category groups in 2014/15 are 'families with dependent children' and those with 'mental illness or disability'.

### **3. Key projects/initiatives seeking to address the Population and Housing highlights:**

- In order to address the balance of the population the Council's Local Plan sets out plans to build 14,000 new homes, with a minimum of 10,100 homes to be provided by 2026. In keeping with the Adopted Core Strategy the focus is on building family homes. The Local Plan also requires around 200,000m<sup>2</sup> of employment floor space, creating 6,500 new jobs and developing a stronger retail offer.
- The Local Development Order for Discovery Park was adopted in 2013. The Land Allocations Local Plan was adopted in 2015 and allocates land for 2,465 new homes. The Council has not yet introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy as it is currently monitoring the effectiveness of continuing to rely on planning obligations as a means of securing the infrastructure needed to support development.

- Eight affordable homes have been completed at a new development in Deal. This is one of a number of new affordable housing developments being delivered directly by the Council. Latest figures from the Homes & Communities Agency show that Dover has the highest level of affordable housing starts on site and completions in East Kent, (from HCA statistics for 1 April-30 September 2014).
- The number of long-term empty properties in the District has dropped by more than 50% over the last five years, as part of the successful No Use Empty initiative. The figures show that the number of long-term empty dwellings in Dover District has reduced from 952 in 2009 to 436 in 2014 – a reduction of 516, or 54%.
- A recent example of DDC's successful work in bringing empty homes back into use is the refurbishment of 3 two-bedroom flats in Dover town centre, which had been empty for several years. DDC and the Homes & Communities Agency jointly funded the project. The project completed at the end of March 2015 and the homes have been let to households on the Council's housing register.
- The current Private Sector Housing Strategy 2010-2015 aims to secure improvements in private sector housing that will help tackle health inequalities as well as tackling poor quality housing.
- Our planning policy seeks that 30% of the new homes within developments of 15 homes or more should be affordable in order to meet the housing needs of people who cannot afford to buy a home in the market and to ensure a balanced housing market and the development of mixed, inclusive communities. If our overall housing growth aspiration of 14,000 new homes is realised, this should result in around 4,200 new affordable homes being delivered.
- In 2014/15, the council enabled the delivery of 112 new affordable homes. Of these, 72 are for affordable rent, 17 social rent and 23 shared ownership. Within this number, there are 46 affordable rent and 23 shared ownership units in Sholden, 15 affordable rent units in Aylesham, 12 social rent units and a further 11 affordable rent units in Dover.
- HCA grant funding of approximately £9000k supported the Aylesham scheme, whilst the Sholden homes have been secured through a S.106 planning agreement and additional HCA grant funding.
- Looking ahead over the next two years we anticipate a significant increase in the number of new affordable homes being built. A further 207 units are planned for completion in 2015/16 (117 affordable rent, 21 social rent and 26 shared ownership) and 116 units in 2016/17.
- As well as continuing to invest in improving the quality of its existing housing stock, the Council has started building its own new affordable housing funded from a combination of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), excess RTB receipts that local housing authorities can use for investment in new social housing, and developer financial contributions. The first three homes in Elvington were completed in October 2014 and were built on Council, HRA owned land. Earlier this year, the Council also acquired 8 newly built homes on a development in Deal under the terms of planning agreement and is currently completing a new scheme comprising 8 flats in Castle Street, Dover. Other schemes are being appraised.
- The Council also aims to try and make best use of its existing housing stock and this is underpinned by its approach to the provision of flexible tenancies as set out in its Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy and by providing opportunities that enable households to downsize.
- Work on updating the Council's current Housing Strategy 2010-15 will start once the detail of key housing policy changes recently announced by government are known and the HRA Business Plan has been updated to take account of the changes.
- It is likely that the updated Housing Strategy will continue to highlight the need for more specialist housing to meet the needs of a growing older population. The Council has made good progress towards meeting its strategy target in relation to the provision of 200 extra care homes. We expect that by the end of the current financial year, 162 extra care homes will have been completed.
- 121 new 'extra care' homes for older people are planned for completion in 2015/16 (81 units at Caesar Court, Sholden and 40 at Cranleigh Drive Whitfield). The Sholden development includes a mix of affordable rent and shared ownership, whilst the Whitfield development is all affordable rent.
- Progress is also being made with regard to the delivery of specialist housing for people with physical disabilities. The Council tries to include some provision of wheelchair accessible housing in new affordable housing developments where the location is appropriate. An example is a Dover Town centre site where the Council is working with a housing association partner to bring forward 20 affordable flats with six ground floor flats being specially designed for people with a physical disability.

- The district also has a large number of standard residential care homes. Kent County Council's 'Accommodation Strategy Better Homes: Greater Choice' has identified the need to develop additional nursing home provision within the independent sector across the district and to develop services in Sandwich where there is a high population of older people.
- In light of the aging population, providing housing options that enable older and disabled people to live independently for as long as possible is therefore a priority. This will be factored in to the consideration of new affordable housing schemes that come forward in the future.
- The Council is on target to spend the funding provided by government for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) this year and there is currently no waiting list for a grant offer. The Council no longer receives grant funding for DFGs directly from government. Currently, the grant is received from KCC via the Better Care Fund and we are waiting for clarification as to how the funding will be provided from 2016/17 onwards. The Council is also involved in county-wide discussions about the potential for greater service integration in relation to DFGs.
- A new scheme for single homeless people is due to open shortly in Aycliffe.
- There has been a significant reduction in the number of homeless 16 & 17 year olds being placed in B&B accommodation over the past 18 months.
- Housebuilders are showing renewed confidence, with developments under construction across the district including the regeneration of the former Buckland Paper Mill, Old Park Barracks, Aylesham and Sholden. Some of the larger housing developments in the district include:
  - **Hammill Brickworks:** Planning permission has been granted for Quinn Estates to redevelop the former Hammill Brickworks site in Woodnesborough site and transform it into a rural business park. It is a 5.80 hectare site and is being developed for mixed use, with 24 light industrial units and 19 family homes, over 50% of which have sold off plan.
  - **Buckland Mill Village:** Gillcrest Homes, working with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), are building 400 new homes on the Buckland Mill Village site. Phase 1 of construction is currently underway and 56 affordable units have been completed (Conqueror House and Watermark House providing 51 affordable homes for rent and five for low cost home ownership. This was a partnership between Town and Country Housing Group, Dover District Council and the HCA). Phase 1 is due for completion around December 2016. Residential development, new community facilities, including a doctor's surgery, play area, care home, along with shops, café and restaurant are planned for a subsequent phase of the development.
  - **Whitfield:** This is the single largest strategic allocation in the Core Strategy, comprising of at least 5,750 homes – development has commenced on site.
  - **Sholden New Fields:** Planning permission has been given for a residential development of 230 units at Sholden New Fields, Sholden, Deal. This development will offer a range of accommodation with a mixture of 2-4 bedroom homes of which 30% will be affordable housing (69 units). The site will offer public space and informal play areas along with a circular walk and cycleway around the outside of the development.
  - **Elysium Park:** This is a development of 41 homes (two, three and four-bedroom) at Old Park Close in Whitfield. This development is the final phase. The developer (Pentland Homes) has been pleased with the market take up of the site.
  - **Aylesham Garden Village:** Aylesham has been identified as a key location for housing growth in the district and outline planning permission for 1,210 new dwellings along with a host of local infrastructure and public realm works, including new roads, a market place, play area, and retail units has been granted. Ward Homes (Barratt Developments PLC) and Hillreed Homes (Persimmon Plc) are the development partners for project. Construction of 191 dwellings is underway as part of the first phase of the development. In July 2013, the Planning Committee voted to approve the variation to the planning permission that will see an enlarged first phase of development. This includes an overall increase in the number of units from 446 to 770 (Phase 1A and 1B), and an increase in the number of affordable homes from 38 to 53, or 27% of the total units in Phase 1A. The affordable housing at Aylesham was completed and handed over to a housing association at the end of March and is now occupied.
  - **The Quarterdeck:** The Council sold The Quarterdeck site in Deal to Rogate Developments in 2012 and the site has been developed as thirteen 2-bedroom and one 3-bedroom apartments, and there are two commercial units on the ground floor.
  - **The Lanes, Ash:** The site of a former sheltered housing scheme, The Lanes in Queens Road, Ash is a mix of eleven 3-bedroom houses and three 4-bedroom houses arranged in a series of

terraces. The scheme was a finalist in the Best Small Housing Development category at the Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Building Excellence Awards for the South East.

**The above is working towards/meeting the following aims of the Corporate Plan (2012-2016):**

**SP1 Priority Actions (by 2016):**

- The Local Development Order will be in place
- Adoption of the Land Allocations Document
- Introducing the Community Infrastructure Levy

**SP1 Outcome (by 2016):**

- Encouraging investment and development in areas to support the continuing prosperity of the district and improve the quality of life for all

**SP1 Priority Actions (by 2016):**

- Through the Housing Strategy we will enable housing growth and the delivery of more affordable homes, as well as improving the condition of existing homes, addressing inequality, and enabling vulnerable people access to quality housing to live independently.

**SP2 Outcome (by 2016):**

- Supporting economic growth and prosperity through carefully managed housing growth.

The Council's Local Development Framework and Core Strategy can be found at:

<http://www.dover.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-Policy/Home.aspx>

The Council's Housing Strategies can be found at: <http://www.dover.gov.uk/Housing/Strategic-Housing/Strategic-Housing.aspx>

**4. Economy, Business and Employment Key Highlights (including new information or changes from the previous year):**

- The % of 16-64 year olds claiming out of work benefits has fallen from 12.2% to 11.5%, this has been a steady decline since 2011/12.
- The Unemployment Rate has also fallen from 3.4% in 2014 to 2.7% in 2015, however the Employment Rate has fallen from 71.2% in 2014 to 64.8% in 2015 – This could potentially be due to a number of the older age workforce not classed as employed but not in employment.
- Median Gross Weekly Workplace earnings and Resident earnings have both increased (£508.90 and £532.90 respectively). Earnings by residence in 2014 were lower than Kent and South East figures but higher than the national figure. Workplace based earnings were above Kent but below the national and South East figures.
- The percentage of those gaining NVQ4+ has decreased from 32.4% in 2014 to 28.6% in 2015 – this was after a large increase in number from 2013 (18.4%).
- All councils across Kent saw an increase in GVA and GVA per head during the 2012-13 period, with the Dover district experiencing the largest increase in both GVA (8.5%) and GVA per Head (8.1%). However, Dover remains as having the second lowest GVA per head in Kent and the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest in the South East (£14,874). Thanet has the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest (£15,299).
- The Dover District is home to 3,000 businesses – this number is up from 2,905 in 2013.
- 'Construction' has increased by 40 enterprises between 2013 and 2014 and now comprises 14.3% of all enterprises in the district. Although this is below the county average (15.2%) it is above regional (12.7%) and national levels (11.7%).
- There has been a steady increase in the number of 'Professional, Scientific & Technical' enterprises in the district, which now make up 13.3% of all enterprises in the district. However, this still lower than county (17.0%), regional (20.1%) and national (18.0%) figures.
- It remains the case that the majority of enterprises in the Dover District are small businesses
- In 2013 (most up to date available figures) in the Dover district, there were a total of 31,300 jobs – an increase from 29,800 in 2012. 20,400 (65.2%) are full-time and 10,900 (34.8%) are part-time. The proportion of part-time jobs in the district is above the regional (33.5%) and national averages (32.3%) but below county (35.0%).

- In 2013, the number of new enterprises starting in the Dover district rose from 340 to 440 (29.4%). This compares to 22.5% in Kent, 23.4% in the South East and 28.6% across Great Britain. All districts in Kent, except Shepway, saw an increase in the number of enterprise births.
- There was also an increase in the number of enterprise deaths from 320 to 345 (+7.8%). This compares to falls in enterprise deaths seen in Kent (-2.7%), South East (-6%) and Great Britain (-6.1%).
- There has been a percentage growth in the number of active enterprises in the Dover district – increasing by 3.9% (125 enterprises) from 2012 to 2013. This compares to an increase of +2.6% in Kent, +2.4% in the South East and +3.3% across Great Britain.
- There was a total of 518 new National Insurance Numbers (NINOs) allocated to overseas nationals in the Dover district in 2013//14. This is up from 489 in 2012/13 (+5.9%). This compares to increases of 7.7% in Kent, 11.2% in the South East and 7.7% in England over the same period. Economic inactivity has hardly changed since the previous year.
- From 2014 to 2015 there has been no change in the wards with unemployment above the average for Dover District; Castle (5.3%), Tower Hamlets (4.8%), St Radigunds (4.4%), Town and Pier (4.0%), Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory (3.6%), Buckland (3.2%) and Middle Deal and Sholden (2.4%).
- Over the year, all wards (except Lydden and Temple Ewell where there was no change) saw a fall in the percentage of benefit claimants. North Deal saw the biggest percentage change (-45.1%), followed by Castle (-41.8%) and Town and Pier (-40.7%).
- More wards in the Dover District have seen a higher drop in unemployment than the Kent average.
- As at August 2014, there were 7,160 residents aged 16-64 (10.6%) in the district claiming key out-of-work benefits. This is a fall from 7,610 (11.2%) the previous year. This compares to 9.3% in Kent, 7.4% in the South East and 10.6% across the country.
- Over the year, the number of people claiming carers allowance has increased by 100 to 1,230 (8.9%).
- The number of people claiming Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and incapacity benefits has also increased by 120 to 4,550 (2.7%).
- In March 2015, the JSA claimant rate for the resident population in Dover (2.2%) was higher than the claimant rate for Kent (1.7%), the South East region (1.2%) and nationally (2.0%). The number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) in Dover has fallen from 2,162 (3.2%) in March 2014.
- In March 2015, the 18-24 year old age group claiming JSA in the Dover district (4.6%) was also higher than the averages for the South East (2%), Kent and Great Britain (both 3.1%).
- The level of JSA claimants has generally followed the national, regional and county trend.
- On the whole, claimant count levels have been below those experienced in previous recessions. This may be explained by greater labour market flexibility (including increased recourse to part-time working and less secure contracts) and reluctance by employers to lose key skills.

## **5. Budget, Funding and Investment Key Highlights (including new information or changes from the previous year):**

### Key DDC Budget Highlights are:

- Prudent General Fund balances maintained in 2015/16;
- Council Tax levels frozen at 2014/15 rates;
- Revenue Support Grant reduced by 31.6% in 2015/16, and forecast to be reduced by a further 20.0% in 2016/17;
- Fully financed 2015/16 capital programme but limited capital resources for the future;
- Significant potential future years' volatility in the Council's main income streams from Council Tax, Business Rates, Revenue Support Grant, New Homes Bonus and Enterprise Zone Grant.
- The General Fund revenue budget projects a £92k surplus in 2015/16 and forecasts projected deficits of £360k in 2016/17 and £728k in 2017/18. The General Fund Balance is forecast to remain above the £2m preferred level in 2015/16. The forecasts for future years show the General Fund Balance reduced to £1.47m by the end of 2017/18 if no action is taken to address the forecast deficits.

- In 2015/16, the average council tax for the area of the billing authority for a Band 'D' property, including parish precepts, across Kent ranges from £1,593 in Shepway to £1,482 in Ashford. This compares to £1,537 in the Dover district.
- Dover District Council has the fifth lowest council tax charge in Kent (£167) and the lowest council tax charge in East Kent.
- Total chargeable dwellings for 2015/16 (as at 01 December 2014) in the Dover district stood at 50,057.
- Of these, a high majority fall within the lower charging Bands A – C, with 35,711 chargeable dwellings within these bands (71.34%). Only 52 properties fall within the highest charging Band H (0.10%).
- Dover District Council's share of the total average bill for 2015/16 is 11.4%, which equates to £167.49 on a Band D property. This has not increased from last year.
- For every £1 collected (including Town and Parish precepts):
  - Kent County Council receives 70.9p
  - Dover District Council 10.9p
  - Police and Crime Commissioner 9.6p
  - Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue 4.6p and
  - Town and Parish Councils 4p.
- Business rate income in the Dover district is heavily concentrated in its largest sites, with 32% of its business rates income from the top 3 sites: Channel Tunnel, Discovery Park and Dover Harbour Board.
- In the Dover district, as at 31 December 2014, there were 1,377 hereditaments benefitting from the Small Business Rate Relief scheme through paying the lower multiplier and getting a discount. In addition, 1,137 hereditaments were paying the lower multiplier and not getting a discount. .
- At the same time, there were 522 hereditaments in receipt of mandatory relief and 782 in receipt of discretionary relief. This figure includes 531 hereditaments benefitting from the new retail relief.
- Development contributions, including S106 receipts, have been received from five developments during financial year 2014-15:
  - Cannon Street, Deal
  - 59, The Marina, Deal
  - Land at Honeywood Parkway
  - Sholden (land North East of Sandwich Road)
  - Whitfield Phase 1a
- The total monies raised from these projects amounts to £398,131, some of which was paid to Kent County Council, with £189,440 secured for DDC direct.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund has ring-fenced £3.1 million for the Parks for People project at Russell Gardens and Kearsney Abbey, which is expected to start in autumn 2016.
- The Council has secured funding from a number of competitive central Government programmes during 2014/15. This is included:
  - Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Site Delivery Fund (£45,000) for an efficiency programme in planning, including a review of planning conditions, extending the use of planning performance agreements, and improving S106 processes.
  - £20,000 from DCLG to help set up two new Coastal Community Teams; for Dover, and Deal and Sandwich. These teams will bring together partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors to deliver a Local Economic Plan to drive growth in jobs and prosperity.
  - £10,000 from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Community Covenant Scheme to host an event to help foster stronger links between the armed forces (serving, veteran, cadet) communities and the local population. We are currently working with local groups to develop the event for Spring/Summer 2016 to coincide with the Kearsney Parks HLF project.
  - The Community Covenant Scheme, administered by Dover District Council, also secured funding to the value of £250,000 for local community groups across the district.
- In 2014 lottery grants awarded for the Dover district totalled £3,850,058, broken down in to the following categories:
  - Heritage: £3,405,500
  - Sport: £104,371
  - Arts: £130,388
  - Health, Education, Environment and Charitable Expenditure: £209,799



## 6. Education and Skills Key Highlights (including new information or changes from the previous year):

- Skill levels and educational attainment in the resident population in the district remain generally low compared to county, region and national averages.
- The percentage of people in the Dover district with no qualifications has fallen overall from 9.1% in 2010 to 7.7% in 2014.
- The percentage of people in the Dover district qualified to NVQ4 and above also shows a fall from 29.7% in 2010 to 28.6% in 2014. However, this has picked up from 18.2% in 2012.
- It should be noted that sample sizes at district level are fairly small and district-level time series for workforce qualifications can be volatile.
- Compared to the previous year the number of nursery school/units remains unchanged at 3, the number of early years settings has increased from 75 to 79 and the number of Children's Centres has fallen by 1, from 8 to 7.
- There are 52 Secondary and Primary Schools in the Dover district, 14 of which are academies (8 Primary and 6 Secondary); this is up from 12 in 2013.
- There are also two special schools in the district (1 x Behaviour & Learning SEN need and 1 x behavioural, Emotional & Social SEN need).
- There are 4 'other independent schools' in the District, and 4 'other independent special schools'.
- There are 41 Primary Schools in the district with 8,343 pupils enrolled. Total roll has increased from 7,956 in 2013 and 8,164 in 2014.
- Eight Primary Schools are now academies, one of which is sponsor-led. This is up from six in February 2014.
- There are nine Secondary Schools in the district, with 7,658 pupils enrolled. Total roll has decreased from 8,042 in 2013 and 7,831 in 2014.
- Six Secondary Schools are academies, two of which are sponsor-led.
- 156 children attend one of the two Special Schools in the district.
- Primary capacity is 8,912, down from 8,922 in 2014. Secondary capacity is 8,155, down from 8,856 in 2014.
- Of the Year 11 leavers in 2014, 1,259 pupils (86.4%) continued in education, either in school or college, and 33 pupils (2.3%) became Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
- 15.5% of pupils in the district are eligible for free school meals (down from 15.7% the previous year), compared to 13.2% across Kent and 16.3 nationally.
- With regards Early Years Performance, in the Dover district, the percentage of pupils at, or exceeding, the expected level of attainment for Specific Learning Goals are above the Kent and national figures in all overall areas.
- Good Level of Development refers to pupils achieving at least the expected level in the prime areas of learning plus Literacy and Mathematics Early Learning Goals. In this area, pupils in the Dover district achieved 69.7%, compared to 69% for Kent and 60% nationally.
- With regards Primary School Performance, Level 4+ Reading, Writing and Maths results in the Dover district have improved from 61% in 2011 to 81.1% in 2014. This achievement is higher than seen across Kent and Nationally (both 79%). 29 schools in the Dover district were above the national average, with four achieving 100%.
- In 2013/14 four schools in the Dover District achieved below the government floor of 65% of pupils getting a Level 4 in maths, reading and writing.
- With regards secondary school performance, in 2013/14, the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A\* - C including English and Maths GCSE's in the Dover district was lower than the average for Kent but above the national average.
- Four schools in the district achieved above the Kent and National averages for the percentage of pupils achieving 5 A\*-C GCSEs (or equivalents) including English and Maths.
- The percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate in the Dover district was lower than the average for Kent and England. Four schools in the Dover district achieved above the national averages for the English Baccalaureate, this is down slightly from 5 schools in the previous year.
- Value Added scores, including English and Maths bonuses, measure the progress made by pupils from the end of KS2 to the end of KS4 using their best 8 exam results. There are four schools in the Dover district with above national average scores.
- Three schools achieved above the national average for A-Level attainment

- The Dover District had 204 young people (5.85%) aged 16-18 years old classed as Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) and available to the labour market, which is lower than the Kent average; and has fallen from 7.94% in April 2014.
- Of those NEET but not available to the labour market in the district, the majority are due to illness (31), teenage parents (19), followed by pregnancy (15).

#### **7. Key projects/initiatives seeking to address the Economy, Business and Employment; Budget; Funding and Education and Skills highlights, being supported by Regeneration Delivery:**

- In order to address the key issues facing the district Economic Regeneration remains the Council's top priority and significant progress is being made on the delivery of major regeneration projects across the Dover district.
- The Council's Land Allocations Local Plan, which identifies the sites for future development across the district up to 2026, was adopted in January 2015 and allocates land for 2,465 new homes. Alongside the Core Strategy, it sets out how we will achieve our plans to deliver 10,100 new homes in the district by 2026 and 14,000 in the longer term.
- Following a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum in November 2014, Dover District Council made the Worth Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the Development Plan for the Worth Neighbourhood Area in January 2015.
- The Council is engaged in increased partnership working with a range of partners to maximise the resources available to enable and encourage delivery of a number of projects that will transform the district, including aiming to raise skills levels, offer employment opportunities and encourage inward investment.
- Companies operating in the Dover district have gained access to over £12 million in funding from Expansion East Kent, creating and safeguarding 809 full and part-time jobs (as at August 2015). It is also evident that the businesses within the Dover district that have secured funding are also providing substantial levels of match-funding. Currently this is running at £26m. A further £5m has been allocated from the RGF to improve high speed rail services
- Three wards in the Dover district have Assisted Area Status for the period 2014-2020, including Eastry, Little Stour & Ashstone, and Sandwich. Businesses locating to Assisted Areas may be eligible for regional aid under European Commission state aid rules, which is typically offered as a capital investment.
- The former Pfizer's pharmaceutical research and development operation to the north of Sandwich was designated as an Enterprise Zone in August 2011. Spread over 82 hectares, Discovery Park is one of the largest science and technology facilities in Europe with 280,000m<sup>2</sup> of laboratory and office space.
- There are now 125 companies operating from the Discovery Park, with 2,300 jobs created or retained on site. This number is expected to rise to 2,500 by the end of 2015, with an Enterprise Zone target of 3,000 jobs by 2017. Discovery Park currently houses in excess of 10% of the jobs in the national EZ programme. The jobs figure include a retained presence by Pfizer of 650 jobs (focused on pharmaceutical science research) and Discovery Park is now attracting life science R&D companies from around the world - providing a core of activity at the site.
- A wide range of spin-out proposals companies have located at the site, offering business and professional support services such as financial, legal and marketing etc. Discovery Park Ltd is determined to deliver 3,000 new local jobs by 2017, in line with Enterprise Zone objectives.
- Planning consent has been granted for renewable energy company Estover Energy to develop a £65m biomass Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant, creating 100 jobs.
- Discovery Park Ltd's Masterplan for the whole of the site has now received planning consent following completion of the S.106 agreement. The plan includes up to 500 homes, new employment floorspace and hotel provision. A separate planning application has also been approved for a supermarket.
- The site's attractiveness to investors has been reinforced with £21.7 million funding flood alleviation package to deliver 1-in-200 year flood protection for the site and the town of Sandwich. The scheme was a partnership between the Environment Agency, Kent County Council and Pfizer.
- Following the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) allocation of £5m secured as part of a match-funding proposal to reduce journey times from London to East Kent, South Eastern confirmed a new

timetable commencing in January 2015. This will provide for increased services for Sandwich and Deal and many other locations.

- Several transport schemes in the Dover district have secured funding commitments from the £442.1m South East LEP Growth Deal announced 07 July 2014. The plans include a commitment from the Department for Transport to work with the SELEP to develop further the business case for improved links between Dover Waterfront and Dover Town Centre. Also included are plans for a new link road in North Deal to help facilitate the free flow of traffic, addressing safety concerns at existing junctions, and improving access to a new residential development site.
- Dover District Council is working with its development partners, Bond City and Stonehurst Estates, on a prime 8-acre site in the heart of Dover town centre. The multi-million pound St James's development comprises 120,000 sq. ft. of retail and leisure, 440 parking spaces, and will feature a 16,000 sq. ft. M&S Simply Food store, a 21,000 sq.ft. six-screen multiplex Cineworld cinema, a 120-bed hotel, five national chain restaurants, and 12 retail units.
- Demolition of the buildings situated on the site, including Burlington House, County Hotel and the Multi-Storey Car Park, have all started. Practical completion of the development is scheduled for late 2016 and is set to provide a major stimulus to the night-time economy of the town and a major step forward in the regeneration of the town.
- The development of eight new affordable residential units on the corner of Castle Street and Maison Dieu Road is now well underway. The development will consist of three one-bedroom flats and five two-bedroom flats and completion is expected in autumn 2015.
- The Port of Dover has committed to the major redevelopment of the Western Docks, as part of the "Western Docks Revival" scheme, investing £200 million in capital construction projects over the next five years. This includes the development of a new cargo terminal and logistics hub. The development will create 600 new jobs as well as safeguarding 140 existing jobs. The development also includes a new marina to be built in the outer harbour and unlocks non-operational land for a major waterfront regeneration project.
- A £5m Local Growth Fund contribution has been awarded by the South East Local Enterprise partnership (SELEP) to fund improvements to two roundabouts (Prince of Wales and York Street) located on the A20 adjacent to the western docks. These improvements will improve traffic flow along the A20, reducing delays and supporting development of Dover Marina, town centre and Dover Western Dock.
- Regeneration development continues apace across the district including the regeneration of the former Buckland Paper Mill, Old Park Barracks, Aylesham and Sholden. Some of the larger developments include:
  - Planning permission has been granted for Quinn Estates to redevelop the former Hammill Brickworks site in Woodnesborough site and transform it into a rural business park. It is a 5.80 hectare site and is being developed for mixed use, with 24 light industrial units and 19 family homes, over 50% of which have sold off plan. Also creating 2,352m<sup>2</sup> commercial floor space.
  - Dover District Council granted planning permission on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 for a major mixed use development at Farthingloe, together with landscaping and ancillary infrastructure works on land at the Western Heights, Dover. CPRE Kent has now lodged a Judicial Review at the High Court into the Council's decision to approve the above.
  - The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has transferred Fort Burgoyne and surrounding open space to the Land Restoration Trust who will be developing proposals in liaison with Dover District Council, the community and others. In parallel, the HCA has appointed consultants to prepare proposals for the Officer's Mess site and new access as a first phase development of the remaining estate.
  - Whitfield is the single largest strategic allocation in the Core Strategy, comprising of at least 5,750 homes supported by transport, primary education, primary health and social care, utility services and green infrastructure together with retail, financial and professional offices, eating and drinking establishments. Development has commenced on site (Bowman's Place) for the residential development known as Phase 1A. Legal agreements have been completed and planning consent issued for Phase 1, which will see development commence at the south-east corner of the site adjacent to the A2/A256.
  - Local distribution business, Salvatori Group has completed its relocation to the Aylesham Industrial Estate during 2014/15. The move is part of a series of land deals involving the

- relocation of the Salvatori business from its former headquarters in Preston to a safer, more sustainable site to grow the business and create jobs. Salvatori employs over 100 people.
- A major investment has recently been undertaken at Honeywood Retail Park, Whitfield. The 41,450 sq.ft of new retail space comprises three units let to B&M Stores, Pets at Home and a KFC drive-thru restaurant, along with 179 car parking spaces. Construction on the £10million site was finished in June 2015 and the occupiers have moved in
  - A £10.9 million investment at Dover Christ Church Academy will see the school extended to offer specialist and vocational teaching spaces. Work started in May 2014 on the new extension that will provide science laboratories, and hair and beauty, textiles and catering facilities. Also included in the development is a large sports hall with dance and fitness suites and new changing facilities. Parts of the development opened in June 2015, with the finished building being unveiled in September.
- The Council is looking to expand its modern apprenticeship scheme and further partnership working with Job Centre Plus.
  - Development contributions will be used to fund a range of infrastructure projects including children's play spaces, libraries, adult social services, public rights of way, affordable housing and public rights of way.
  - Dover District Council continues to proactively promote the 'Enterprise Coast – Dover, Deal, Sandwich' as a great place to live, work and play. An inward investment website [www.investindover.co.uk](http://www.investindover.co.uk) continues to develop as a platform for potential investors, and local businesses, to find out more about key locations, financial incentives, and news and information for business. This is complemented by a Twitter feed (@InvestInDover) that has over 450 followers.
  - Working in partnership with the Port of Dover and the Discovery Park Enterprise Zone, DDC exhibited at the MIPIM UK exhibition at London Olympia in October 2014 and will repeat the exercise this year from 21-23 October. This provides an excellent showcase for the district at the most prominent investment and property exhibition in the UK.
  - Dover District Council is working on its round two submission (development phase) to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the 'Parks for People' project at Russell Gardens and Kearsney Abbey.
  - Following a successful round one application in 2014, development funding of £274,100 was awarded to DDC to develop the plans in detail. This includes a conservation plan, activity plan, along with planning permissions. The final submission will be made in February 2016 with a decision expected in June 2016. The Heritage Lottery Fund has ring-fenced £3.1 million for the project which is expected to start in autumn 2016.
  - During the year, the Communication & Engagement team continued to support voluntary and community groups across the district with advice on funding applications. The team also managed the administration and delivery of the following funding programmes:
    - 'You Decide' (DDC & KCC): 29 projects supported (£34,500)
    - Community Covenant: 15 projects supported (£258,385)
    - Save the Children: Eat Sleep learn & play (£60,000)
  - The Council has also secured funding from a number of competitive central Government programmes during 2014/15. This is included:
    - Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Site Delivery Fund (£45,000) for an efficiency programme in planning, including a review of planning conditions, extending the use of planning performance agreements, and improving S106 processes.
    - £20,000 from DCLG to help set up two new Coastal Community Teams; for Dover, and Deal and Sandwich. These teams will bring together partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors to deliver a Local Economic Plan to drive growth in jobs and prosperity.
    - £10,000 from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Community Covenant Scheme to host an event to help foster stronger links between the armed forces (serving, veteran, cadet) communities and the local population. We are currently working with local groups to develop the event for Spring/Summer 2016 to coincide with the Kearsney Parks HLF project.
    - The Community Covenant Scheme, administered by Dover District Council, also secured funding to the value of £250,000 for local community groups across the district.
  - East Kent College has invested £2.9 million in new facilities at its Dover campus in 2015. Working with local employers to identify their skills needs, the facilities include new high-tech mechanical engineering, plumbing and automotive workshops, an aircraft cabin interior for hospitality and tourism training, IT suites and a hairdressing salon. EKC has also announced it is establishing a

new centre at Discovery Park, which will see the science curriculum being taught at the Sandwich site, and will also be home to its 70 strong corporate services team.

- The Council has been working with East Kent College to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure future job opportunities are aligned to training opportunities for greater job prospects. The partnership is also developing Dover district's first skills fair linked to DDC regeneration projects, being held in November 2015 – enhancing the offer by inviting future employers to the skills fair to link to the training being offered - and align to jobs of the future.
- In partnership, the Council is working on a website [www.skills4dover.co.uk](http://www.skills4dover.co.uk) to guide people through their options if considering further or higher education, vocational skills or an apprenticeship.
- Building work commenced on Viking Recruitment's £6.5 million training facility, next to their head office on the Beechwood Business Park in Dover, in February 2015.
- The £3.2 million construction of Phase 1, with completion in Spring 2016, will see the swimming pool complex built, that will house all survival training for the commercial, yacht and offshore industries. The 12m x 10m survival pool will be able to simulate all weather conditions, be at a depth of 4m to accommodate 'Helicopter Underwater Evacuation Training' (HUET) and evacuation jumps from high platforms, have davits cranes for launching survival rafts and will house all equipment necessary in the training of ship's crew for emergencies

**The above is working towards/meeting the following aims of the Corporate Plan:**

**SP1 Priority Actions (by 2016):**

- Continue the District's regeneration programme with the following as a priority focus:
  - The Dover Waterfront, St.James' and Town Centre improvements;
  - The 1st Phase of the Whitfield Expansion Programme
  - Connaught Barracks
  - The new development at Aylesham
  - The White Cliffs Business Park Phase 3
- To make land available at Western Heights/Great Farthingloe Farm to enable progress towards the comprehensive proposals for regeneration, linked to the Town Centre, and maximise the tourism potential of this area, enabled and facilitated through a Planning Performance Agreement.
- A review to identify our potential housing construction role, working with our partners and available Government initiatives.
- Providing improved parking and facilities to support and promote HS1.
- Following the granting of the Harbour Revision Order for Terminal 2, we will support the development of the Port of Dover to regenerate the area.
- Working with the HCA and Hadlow College to develop the Betteshanger Colliery and Fowlmead Country Park Sites as a Sustainable Futures Campus, a mixed use educational, employment and tourism facility, to secure the long term future of the area.
- Working with partners to enable and facilitate a centre of excellence for the Marine Skills sector.

**SP1 Outcomes (by 2016):**

- Encouraging investment and development in areas to support the continuing prosperity of the district and improve quality of life for all.
- To further develop the district to enhance business growth and employment opportunities.
- Raising aspirations, educational attainment and skills: we will continue our enabling role working with local employers and training providers to identify skills shortages to meet local business needs and improve access to local job opportunities.

**SP3 Priority Action (by 2016):**

- Increasing funding into the district (Council or communities)
- Ensuring buildings are safe and compliant, with the Building Regulations, by delivering a sustainable and effective Building Control service.

**S31 Outcome (by 2016):**

- The Council will act as a community leader to influence a fair share of resources for the district and hold partners to account.

## 8. Health and Wellbeing Key Highlights (including new information or changes from the previous year):

- Public Health England (PHE) released its annual Health Profiles in June 2015 and there are 6 areas considered significantly worse than the England average (compared to seven in 2014). These are:
  - Children in poverty (under 16's),
  - Violent crime,
  - Smoking status at time of delivery,
  - Smoking prevalence,
  - Hospital stays for self-harm and
  - Recorded diabetes.
- In comparison to last year, GCSE achievement has moved from significantly worse to not significantly different to the England average, as has life expectancy at birth (females). However smoking prevalence has moved from not significantly different to significantly worse than the England average.
- There are also 6 indicators significantly better than the England average (compared to 7 in 2014) and 18 indicators not significantly different from the England average.
- Priorities in Dover include improving life expectancy by preventing suicide, heart disease and reducing smoking prevalence (especially at time of delivery for expectant mothers), improving teenage pregnancy rates, and improving physical activity in children and adults.
- The average life expectancy in the Dover District (2010-2014, pooled) is estimated to be 80.95 years for all persons, broken down as Male 79.34 years and Female 82.53 years.
- The average life expectancy for males has been improving. However, the average life expectancy for females has fallen from 2009-13, as has the average life expectancy for all persons.
- Male and female life expectancy from birth in the Dover district are below Kent averages.
- The Life Expectancy Gap in the district is estimated to be 8.05 years (Males 10.55 years and Females 7.49 years). This gap has increased from 7.7 years from the 2008-2012 pooled figures (Male 11.3 years and Female 7.6 years).
- The ward with the highest life expectancy at birth is St.Margarets and the ward with the lowest is Lydden and Temple Ewell.
- The Dover district has the fourth lowest life expectancy for all persons (80.95 years) across Kent, with Tunbridge Wells having the highest total life expectancy (83.31 years), and Thanet having the lowest total life expectancy (80.19 years).
- There is a statistically significant relationship between living in the poorest wards in Dover and the likelihood of having an urgent hospital admission. The wards with the highest emergency admissions, aged 65 are Buckland; Lydden and Temple Ewell; Tower Hamlets; Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory; Whitfield; Castle and Aylesham. This is similar to the previous year, however Town and Pier and St.Radigunds were included last year and not this year, Castle ward not included last year has been included this year.
- Trends in all cause, all age mortality in the Dover district have been steadily falling over the past 20 years or so and are comparable with those for Kent and England.
- In 2014, cancer was the biggest killer in under 75's, being the underlying cause of death in 44.65% of cases.
- Cancer (30%) and circulatory disease (27%) remain the main causes of death.
- The General Health snapshot was taken from the Census 2011 and therefore there is no further update available for this report.
- There were a total of 53,906 emergency hospital admissions for all causes in the Dover district 2008/9 to 2012/13 (estimated from MSOA level data). This is up from 50,062 for the period 2006/7 to 2010/11.
- Emergency hospital admissions in the Dover district are either significantly better than, or not significantly different, compared to the England average.
- Prostate cancer is significantly worse than the England average.
- As at November 2014, there are 10,070 people receiving disability benefit in the Dover district. The majority of claims are for physical disability (7,820 people or 77%). Although this is down from 8,220 people or 80% (as at August 2013) it is still higher than the Kent average of 55.9%.

- There are also 1,260 (12.4%) claimants for a mental health condition (up from 10.3% as at August 2013) and 990 (9.8%) claimants for learning difficulty (up from 9.3% as at August 2013).
- The proportion for both of these categories are below Kent averages (14.5% and 11.4% respectively).
- Dover district has the 3rd highest mortality rate from causes considered preventable.
- In 2013, it is estimated that 24.3% of adults smoked in the district. This is up from 22.9% in 2012 and is significantly worse than the England average of 18.4%.
- The percentage of people in the Dover district smoking is higher in deprived areas than in non-deprived areas.
- The percentage of adults classed as obese in the district is 22.2%, which is below the England average of 23.0%, this has fallen from the previous year (26.8%).
- It is estimated that 54.8% of adults in the district are physically active (achieving at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week), which is below the England average of 56.0%.
- Locally, it is estimated that 89 deaths could be prevented each year if 100% of the population aged 40-79 years were engaged in the recommended levels of physical activity (with 59 preventable deaths if 75% and 29 preventable deaths if 50%).
- The estimated health costs of inactivity in the Dover district is £1.6m, whilst the economic value of improved quality and length of life plus health care costs avoided is estimated to be £39.4m.
- The latest available data shows that Canterbury continues to have the highest excess winter death ratio (22.6), whilst Dover district continues to have the lowest (13.1). This compares to a Kent average of 17.5. However, the trend in the Dover district is increasing when comparing 2004-08 and 2009-13.
- The number of deaths from suicide and undertermined causes in the Dover district has fluctuated, from 8 in 2006 to 14 in 2014.
- The rate of infant mortality has risen over the past two years and is above the Kent average but below the national average.
- In the Dover district, 8.7% of children at reception age are obese and 17.8% at Year 6.
- This is a fall from 9.9% (reception) and 19.3% (Year 6) for the period 2009/10 to 2011/12.
- The percentage of obese children at reception age in the district is above the Kent and South East averages' but below the average for England.
- The percentage of obese children at Year 6 is above the average for the South East but below the averages' for Kent and England.
- With a rate of 30.3, the Under 18 Conception rate in the district is higher than the England (24.3), Kent (22.9) and South East (20.5) averages'. However, teenage pregnancy rates have been reducing over the past couple of years.
- In 2013/14, the Dover district had the third lowest hospital admission rate for children aged 0-17 years admitted for deliberate or unintentional injury, with a rate of 88.4. This is below the average for Kent and Medway.
- Tooth decay in children is a cause for concern in the Dover district
- The number of children killed or seriously injured in Dover roads has been falling, from a high of 10 in 2007 to 1 in 2013.
- The rate of smoking at time of delivery in the Dover district was 15.6 per 100 maternities, which is significantly worse than the England average of 12 (2013/14).
- The proportion of children and young people in South Kent Coast CCG within the main CAMHS service was higher than expected.

## **9. Deprivation and Poverty Key Highlights (including new information or changes from the previous year):**

- There are no updates yet available for this section of the report. It was understood the Department for Communities and Local Government would release an updated English Indices of Deprivation in the summer, however this is now due to be made available late September/early October.
- A full update on this section will be circulated once the information for the district has been analysed.

## 10. Community Safety and Quality of Life Key Highlights (including new information or changes from the previous year):

- The level of recorded crime in the Dover district has fallen from 8,132 as at Y/E March 2003 to 6,716 as at Y/E March 2015. However, the number of recorded crimes in the district has risen over the past two years. (It should be noted that, during this time, the Kent Police system for recording crime was scrutinised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. As a result, the reporting mechanisms have been tightened and improved leading to an increase in reported crime).
- Total recorded incidents of crime in the Dover district have increased by 302 incidents (+4.7%) from the year ending March 2014 to March 2015.
- In the year ending March 2015, the average recorded crime rate across the Kent force area was 62.5 per 1,000 population. The Dover district had a total recorded crime rate of 59.8 per 1,000 population, which is lower than the average for Kent.
- Nationally, there was a 3% increase in police recorded crime in the year ending March 2015. The rise in police figures was driven by increases in violence against the person offences (up by 23%). The ONS reports that this increase is thought to reflect changes in recording practices rather than a rise in violent crime.
- The 'other recorded crimes against society' category was introduced to separate out crimes that do not normally have a specific identifiable victim. It comprises categories of 'Drug offences', 'Possession of weapons' 'Public order' and 'Miscellaneous crimes against society'. Trends in such offences can reflect changes in police activity rather than in levels of criminality. There were 451 crimes recorded in this category in the Dover district as at Year Ending March 2015. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest in Kent and Medway.
- Violence against the person offences contain the full spectrum of assaults, from pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm, to murder. Even within the same offence classification, the severity of violence varies considerably between incidents.
- For the year ending March 2015, just under 43% of all violence against the person incidents resulted in injury to the victim in the Dover district.
- For the year ending March 2015, the Dover district had a 'Violence against the person' rate of 17.6 per 1,000 population.
- This is up from a rate of 16.6 per 1,000 population for the year ending March 2014 and is the 5<sup>th</sup> highest in Kent.
- The Dover district has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest number of troubled families in Kent, yet successfully turned around 241 families, meaning they went into employment, children attendance at school was above 85% and Anti-Social Behaviour and crime was reduced.
- The Dover district has 155 families that have been identified and verified for the Phase 2 programme. 60 families are currently engaged and receiving intensive support from Troubled Family Intervention workers (FIPS). Dover has six full-time troubled family workers.
- In 2013/14 Dover district continued to have the lowest residual household waste figure in Kent and Medway
- In the Dover district, 44.2% of household waste was sent for reuse, recycling or composting in 2013/14 (the latest data available from Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs).
- Although this is down from 2012/13, it is still above the average figures for the South East (43.7%) and England (43.5%) and represents a percentage point increase of 31.1% on the district's recycling rate for 2005/06, when it stood at 13.1%.
- Estimated total carbon dioxide emissions decreased by around 26% between 2005 (the earliest year for which data is available at a local authority level) and 2013.
- In 2013 the estimate of carbon dioxide emissions for the Dover district was 5.4 tonnes per person. Since 2005 there has been a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 2.2 tonnes per person for the district.
- Dartford (6.5%) has the highest fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution in Kent and Medway.
- Dover is joint lowest, with Shepway, on 4.9%. This is below the England and Kent average of 5.4%.
- In 2014/15 a total of 582 noise complaints were investigated, down from 620 complaints in 2013/14.



- Over 83% of rated businesses within the district have a rating of 4 or 5, an increase of just under 24% within the last three years. Only 0.2% of businesses inspected had a rating of 0.
- Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), for environmental crime, have increased from 10 in 2012/13 to 156 in 2014/15. Although the number of enviro-crime prosecutions for non-payment of FPNs has fallen over the past year, there are still more cases due.
- Of the 205 sporting facilities identified by Sport England in the district, 151 (74%) are for private use and 54 (26%) public access. This compares to an 80% / 20% split in the South East and 83% / 17% split in England.
- 32 of the facilities are in commercial ownership, 100 education, 59 local authority and 14 other.
- Bathing water sites in the district, Deal Castle, Sandwich Bay and St.Margarets Bay all received an 'excellent' classification in 2014.

**11. Key projects/initiatives seeking to address the Health and Wellbeing; Deprivation and Poverty; Community Safety and Quality of Life highlights:**

- The new £20 million Buckland Hospital opened in June 2015 and represents a major investment by the East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust in local healthcare, with the aim of providing around 85% of all out-patient services in Dover. The new hospital provides a wide range of co-located diagnostic services, alongside a day hospital and minor injuries unit.
- The South Kent Coast Health and Wellbeing Board (SKCHWBB) held 2 workshops to discuss cardio vascular disease (with actions taken forward by a CCG led group) and a Local Alcohol Strategy workshop with actions taken forward by the local Substance Misuse Group.
- The Children's Operational Group has now been established with the following priorities: Obesity, breast-feeding, emotional and mental health and wellbeing, tooth decay.
- The Council is a partner in the development of the Integrated Care Organisation – seeking to integrate health and social care and deliver seamless, joined up services to residents. Four local delivery groups have been established, with one workstream focusing on 'Housing, Health and Social Care'. This will include identifying issues, developing and promoting solutions to assist, wherever possible, the above client groups to live as independently as they choose in accommodation that is suitable for their needs and contributes positively to their health and wellbeing.
- The Council is a committed partner to Up on the Downs - continuing to deliver a number of landscape and heritage projects, such as; the establishment of a new 40 hectare nature reserve complex on the edge of Dover with 35 hectares of chalk grassland restored and Frontline Britain - attempting to survey, record and better understand the important military heritage. The Projects also include promoting access and understanding of the landscape of the area, encouraging people to get involved- from volunteering to building a brand new education hub at Samphire Hoe and innovative interpretation.
- Up on the Downs also administers two grant schemes to support community projects that conserve and enhance landscape heritage and help people learn about and enjoy heritage. All projects need to take place in the scheme area, which includes Dover, Lydden, Kingsdown, St. Margaret's, Alkham and Wooton. Successful grant schemes in the district include Alkham Valley Green Wood Project, Mini Beast Safari and St Margaret's Bay Guided Walk.
- The Council remains a committed funding partner of the White Cliffs Countryside programme and a number of walks and events have been undertaken during the year, including; the Walking Festival, the Wildlife Migration Watch Exhibition, Western Heights Open Weekend.
- The Parks for People continues to progress with consultation and engagement taking place throughout the summer ahead of the final submission being made in February 2015.
- Kearsney Parks Farm and Forest Day was held in August 2015, a free fun packed family day - including farmers' market stalls, the chance to meet a local farmer and her sheep, a forest school, a bunting workshop, tractors, model boating, and the opportunity to try out a tree trail
- New play area in Aycliffe and new-look play areas in Colton Crescent, Dover and The Butts in Sandwich following a £89.5k investment in new facilities at the sites completed in May 2015.
- The work is part of Dover District Councils commitments to develop strategic play areas and upgrade some existing facilities to strategic status. Consultation is also currently underway for the play area refurbishment at the William Pitt & Wilson Avenue Play Areas in Deal (consultation ending August 2015). A new play area at North Deal Recreational Field is also being developed.

Improvements to surfacing at Pencester Gardens play area in Dover are also planned for 2015/16 and the Council is working with Triangles Community Centre to provide a new children's play space in St Radigund's.

- The Council continues to support community projects and events across the district, such as the Royal Marines Band Concert on Walmer Green and the Christmas in Dover community event through advice and guidance and with grants available from the Neighbourhood Forums ('You Decide') and Coalfield Regeneration Trust funding, the Council also continues to support voluntary and community groups to access funding not available to local authorities and remains a financial supporter of the Citizens Advice Bureau in the district.
- In December 2014, the R&A announced that the 2017 Amateur Championship will be hosted by the Royal St George's Golf Club in Sandwich, with qualifying stroke play rounds at the nearby Prince's Golf Club. The event will take place from 19-24 June 2017.
- The Council is in on-going dialogue with the R&A, promoters of the Open Golf Championship, and other transport providers, around future dates for its return to the district.
- Working with other Kent councils, Dover District Council has launched a new online events package in January 2014. The package includes a simple notification form and an event toolkit to help organisers.
- Dover District Council remains part of the Kent Air Quality Partnership (K&MAQP). During 2014-15 closer ties have been made with Kent Health Authorities and NHS agencies to pursue avenues of improving raising the profile of air pollution and the resulting health effects. K&MAQP were represented at the Kent's Health and Sustainability conference 2014.
- Following a grant of £30k from Public Health England, the KMAQP are working with Ricardo-AEA to develop an Air Quality Information Toolkit, following the example of other local authorities and Devolved Administrations in the United Kingdom. Proposals include new 'Kentair' webpages which will consist of a learning repository, providing a range of background information on air pollution – pollutants, sources, impacts and actions that could reduce emissions.
- On-going enforcement and educational activities are carried out on a regular basis to improve the street environment in the Dover district. In 2014/15 this included routine patrolling by enforcement officers, educational school talks, targeted domestic waste and commercial waste campaign, attending local events and holding dog micro chipping days.
- During 2014/15 Dover District Council in conjunction with Dover Town Council introduced of an educational campaign to reward those caught doing the right thing by putting their rubbish in the bin and clearing up after their dogs. The scheme is in addition to DDC's robust approach to enforcement. People seen disposing of litter responsibly, or picking up after their pets in the Dover Town area are being rewarded with a post card, which allows that person to enter a monthly prize draw, and gives them the chance to win a £25 'Love to Shop' voucher.
- Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) have increased from 10 in 2012/13 to 158 in 2014/15. The number of enviro-crime prosecutions for non-payment of FPNs has fallen over the past year from 21 to 19. However 8 cases are being reviewed with a view to prosecution
- Dover District Community Safety Partnership held its first Community Clear Up Day in March.
- The Dover District Community Safety Partnership Plan sets out the aims and objectives for the partnership and looks to tackle the whole aspect of community safety as opposed to only crime and disorder. The current plan, which combines the statutory requirement to produce a three-year plan and the annual strategic assessment, covers the period of April 2015 to March 2018 but is refreshed annually.
- The current priorities are:
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Substance Misuse
  - Road safety
  - Violence (other than domestic abuse)
  - Offenders and repeat offending.
- Throughout the year the Dover District Community Safety Partnership works on a number of projects to benefit the local community. Projects and events it has been delivered during 2014/15 include the Community Safety Day and Regatta (with Dover Harbour Board); Reduce the Strength campaign; Road Safety projects; Challenger Troop and Troubled Families; Folkestone Road Community Hub; Prevent Youth Project; Sobriety Tags and setting up a new Domestic Abuse Sub Group.

- In March 2014, Dover District Council secured £100,000 in consultancy and professional advice from the Government's 'Delivering Differently Challenge' to explore options for transforming the delivery of its museum and tourism service. The project will explore options for the creation of a heritage co-operative, mutual or trust, to bring together heritage assets managed by a range of local authority, business and community partners. Following work with external consultants a feasibility study is being carried out to determine the business model and structure of an overarching heritage body and this work will be completed during early 2016.
- DDC is working in partnership with Dartford, Gravesham, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells councils to operate the Energy Deal scheme - round five of the popular collective switching campaign, which aims to help residents looking to reduce their gas and electricity bills.
- Dover District Council's work to reduce fuel poverty and improve the energy efficiency of homes in the district has been recognised at the National Green Deal & Eco Awards 2015. DDC was runner-up in the Council of the Year category for its Aylesham External Wall Insulation Project and delivery of the 'Warm Homes Scheme'. DDC had already been awarded Project of the Year in the South East Region for the Aylesham Project.
- The innovative project involved installing external wall insulation and weather-proof render to 72 council homes and five private 'Dorlonco' properties in Aylesham
- Dover and Shepway District Councils also won a major national award for recycling and waste collection service at the 6th Annual Improvement & Efficiency Awards 2015. The awards recognise public sector innovation, transformation, and excellence. The two councils jointly won the Gold Award for Transformation in Waste and Environment for their shared working on recycling and waste collection services - Delivering a 50% improvement in the recycling rate, to around 50% of all waste collected being recycled, and with £30m savings to East Kent taxpayers over 10 years.
- Recycling advisors working on behalf of Dover District Council carried out a district-wide door-to-door campaign to help residents sort their plastic waste, and continue to increase the amount we all recycle.
- The Folkestone Road Community Hub was established in January 2015. to bring members of the community together and promote cohesion and integration. It has been a great way to help people interact and have fun, and access information and advice. The hub has delivered a number of projects, from art and craft workshops to cooking sessions, music and a range of games and activities. The Hub is funded by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, and is led by the Dover District Community Safety Partnership.
- A major study is underway to look at the provision of indoor leisure facilities across Dover District - including a specific review of options for the future of Dover Leisure Centre – a consultation process is currently underway. The study will include an action plan for the next ten years, and will include a review of Dover Leisure Centre, looking at options to reconstruct or replace it, either where it is or at an alternative site.

**The above is working towards/meeting the following aims of the Corporate Plan:**

**SP2 Priority Actions (by 2016):**

- Holding Neighbourhood Forums meetings and Participatory Budgeting events, with partners, across the District.
- Helping local groups to access available funding for example, through the Participatory Budgeting and Bridging the Gap (Coalfields Regeneration Trust).
- Involving and engaging with the voluntary and community sector to manage and deliver the transfer of identified assets.
- Introducing a fully enhanced recycling service across the district.
- Enabling smarter use of the CCTV service and working with partners to reduce the fear of crime.
- Continue coordinating the activities of the Dover District Community Safety Partnership (CSP), ensuring it achieves the objectives in the CSP Plan to make the district a safer place in which to live.
- Improving the energy efficiency of our corporate buildings and supporting delivery of the actions in the Kent Environment Strategy.

**SP2 Outcomes (by 2016):**

- Thriving and self-reliant communities, able to identify their own community needs and how to address them.

**SP3 Priority Actions (by 2016):**

- Increasing funding into the district (Council or communities)
- Coordinating high profile events to support the economy and profile of the district such as the Olympic Torch Relay
- Improve the Health, Safety and Welfare of people working in, living in, and visiting the district by:
  - Providing an efficient, effective and consistent customer focused Environmental Health and Licensing service
  - Supporting and identifying sport, leisure and recreation opportunities through the Delivery of the Local Development Framework
  - Providing a co-ordinated and integrated Parking Service that is complementary to traffic management strategies, ensuring enough parking is available where needed
  - Implementing the National Food Hygiene Rating System (formerly Scores on the Doors)
  - Increasing the level of street scene related enforcement activities.
- Creating in partnership a local Health and Wellbeing Board to identify health and social care needs and improve health outcomes.
- Working with partners to promote the district as a visitor destination and maintaining a clean and green approach to the appearance of the district.
- Heritage Lottery Fund allocation for a landscape partnership scheme to manage grassland areas around Dover, dependant on match-funding.

**SP3 Outcomes (by 2016):**

- The Council will act as a community leader to influence a fair share of resources for the district and hold partners to account.
- Maintaining a clean, green and safe district.

Information on the Council's Health and Wellbeing arrangements can be found at:

<http://www.dover.gov.uk/Community/Health--Wellbeing/Home.aspx>

Information on the Community Safety Partnership can be found at:

<http://www.dover.gov.uk/Community/Community-Safety/Community-Safety-Partnership.aspx>

Information on the sports and leisure strategies can be found at: <http://www.dover.gov.uk/Leisure-Culture-Tourism/Home.aspx>

Information regarding Dover Museum can be found at: <http://dovermuseum.co.uk/Home.aspx>