

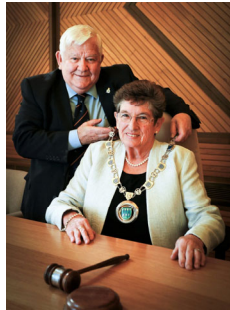
Legal & Democratic Services Portfolio

2015 - 2019

- Progress Update -

Anna Firth
Portfolio Holder

The services we cover:



**Land
Charges**



Company Setup



**Licensing
Partnership**



2015/16 Corporate & Strategic Priorities

- *Set up commercial trading company to enable SDC to invest in property on a commercial basis*
- *Expand licensing partnership to four partners*
- *Align role of Chairman with Council's corporate priorities & remodel administrative support*
- *Continue to maintain successful partnerships & shared services*

Example highlights and successes: -

Quercus 7

- Registered with Companies House December 2015
- To allow SDC to invest in residential property on a commercial basis ensuring a sustainable income
- Non-executive Directors
- £5m of £25m approved for the Property Investment Strategy has been earmarked for Quercus 7
- Potential joint ventures with Quercus Housing



Croft Road, Westerham

- Q7 purchased a 3 / 4 bedroom new house in Westerham on 21.1.19 for £500,000
- The property will be rented to the private sector.
- The return we expect is close in excess of 5% over a 10 year average.



Expand Licensing Partnership

- London Borough of Bexley joined Licensing Partnership on 31st October 2016
- The first District Council Licensing Partnership to incorporate the work of a London Borough
- Further savings from 4th partner resulted in service becoming cost neutral for Sevenoaks residents (first time since LA 2003)
- Majority roll out of on-line forms allows residents to access licensing services 24/7

Winners DBEiS Regulatory & Business award

Licensing
Partnership



LICENSING PROACTIVE SUCCESSES

- Introduced a partnership wide computerised knowledge test for all new drivers in July 2017 - this has substantially raised the professional standards of new drivers, as the new test covers safeguarding, numeracy, road & route knowledge
- Recently the partnership was part of the a successful bid to get government funding to install charging points exclusively for use of taxi vehicles which are Ultra Low Emission Vehicles. Once installed, this should encourage more taxi drivers to change over to ULEV vehicles which will benefit air quality.
- The tri-annual statutory review of Gambling policy was carried out across the partnership in 2018 ensuring policies were in line as much as possible and strengthened where needed
- The partnership supported the delivery of the Metropolitan Police initiative WAVE (Welfare and Vulnerability engagement) throughout 2018 ensuring all licensees were aware of the presentation
- Following concerns raised by residents (and Members) about the use of a particular event site which was increasing in frequency, Licensing intervened with the main event organiser (Neverworld) and as a result of their robust approach, this lead to an agreement that the site would only be used for that one event each year, and not many events.

Democratic Services & Chairman



- Supported around 340 council meetings
- Bespoke members new training programme
- Chairman's role realigned to support Council's corporate priorities
- New team approach to supporting Chairman at no extra cost



Won Civic Office of the Year Award 2017

Shared Services & Partnerships

- Shared services continue to deliver in excess of £700,000 in savings to Council's budget, circa 5%
- Following new shared service contracts won:-
 - Parking services - enforcement for Tandridge DC
 - Revenues & Benefits additional savings
 - "One You" health advisors



2017/18 Corporate & Strategic Priorities

- *Set up social Housing company to enable SDC to provide affordable housing for local working people*
- *Deliver on Council's equality objectives, in particular, to increase the number of health walks & raise awareness of mental health issues*
- *Streamline electoral services & focus on IER via digital channels & further youth engagement*

Example highlights and successes: -

Quercus Housing

- Registered with Companies House in 2018
- Aim to supplement affordable housing delivered by partner HAs
- Funded by S106 affordable housing planning gains
- New form of delivery
- Potential joint ventures



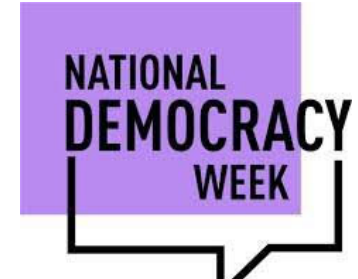
Housing Strategy Priority 1.1-1.5; 1.12

Electoral services

- Successfully administered 13 elections including:

National Referendum	General Election
Kent County Election	1 County by-election
3 District by-elections	5 Town/Parish by-elections
Police and Crime Commissioner Election	

- Focus on registration process via digital channels
- Rolled out 3 “Democracy Roadshows” for National democracy week with Lizzy Yarnold OBE
- Centenary of women voting & standing for Parliament for the first time - all day social media campaign



Legal services

- Lexcel accreditation maintained for 6th year running
- Embedded GDPR
- Adopted EU procurement by October 2018
- Provide all necessary legal advice across Council.
- Successes have included:-
 - High Court injunction at Combe Bank to prevent any development taking place
 - High profile environmental health prosecution against UK Chicken Doner & Poultry Ltd and Sukru Ahmet which resulted in a 4 months custodial sentence



Lexcel
Legal Practice Quality Mark
Law Society **Accredited**

SDC Health Inequalities Action Plan

- Places focus on raising awareness of mental health issues
- **Teenagers' sleep quality and mental health at risk over late-night mobile phone use.**

The Guardian

- **There is a link between social media and depression. Recent studies show teenage and young adult users who spend the most time on Instagram, Facebook and other platforms have a substantially (from 13 to 66 percent) higher rate of reported depression than those who spent the least time.**

The Child Institute, US



Award Winning for Excellence & Innovation

- National Civic Office of the Year (running first class Chairman's office on a shoestring)
- **Institute of Licensing** Jeremy Allen Licensing Award 2017 - awarded posthumously to previous Licensing Partnership Manager.
- DBEiS Regulatory & Business Award
- Equalities Award “Making it Happen” for protecting vulnerable residents (children) for Digital Sunset Challenge




Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy





That's all Folks!

DAY 366

(FOR NOW)

