



## **GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

#### **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

##### **1. Aims and Objectives**

The Town Council, will work in partnership with the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan (an amalgamation of the Town Plan Steering Group and Town Design Steering Group), and other local authorities and community initiatives to promote manageable and appropriate change and regeneration consistent with the historic character and values of our town.

The Town Council will continue to work with all tiers of local authority and stakeholders to improve services which will increase efficiency and benefit both the local and business community.

The Town Council will continue to support the work of the Three Rivers Partnership – a community charity which gives assistance to local projects, initiatives, services in and around Gillingham – enabling fledgling volunteer groups to become sufficiently established to apply for grant funding and help towards promoting a stronger and more resilient community.

##### **2. Engaging with the Community**

The Town Council together with the Three Rivers Partnership, Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Group and other organisations will engage with all of its community to ensure that equal opportunities apply to everyone regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion/faith and sexual orientation.

The Town Council will engage with individuals and representative groups in its area and also with business representatives, other agencies, the district council and the county council to extend the opportunity to influence the future to enable greater participation in local democracy.

Where appropriate, focus groups, working parties, questionnaires and consultations will be organised to seek the opinions of the wider community.

##### **3. Provision of Information to the Community**

All items which are in the Town Council's Freedom of Information Publication Scheme are available to the public.

A great deal of information is available via the Town Council's web site including the following information:

- The Annual Council meeting report\*
- The Annual Town meeting report\*
- Annual Accounts.
- Regular financial monitoring reports

- Agendas and minutes\*.
- Quarterly newsletters\*.
- Action Plan

\*Also available at the local public library.

The Town Council offices are open from 9am until 4pm each week day.

#### **4. Opportunities for Community Involvement**

The Town Council will seek to work with representative groups to assist in the delivery of projects of benefit to the area.

The Town Council will support community groups to deliver their projects through its grants scheme.