

**TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OLDER PERSONS ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD**

**Tuesday, 8th December, 2009**

**Present:** Cllr Mrs F A English (Chairman), Cllr A K Sullivan (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Ms J A Atkinson, Cllr C Brown, Cllr D J Cure, Cllr B J Luker, Cllr Mrs E A Simpson, Cllr Ms S V Spence and Cllr Mrs C J Woodger.

Councillors Mrs Anderson, Balcombe, Mrs Grant, Heslop, Miss Sergison and Worrall were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Brown, D Davis and Miss Moloney.

**PART 1 - PUBLIC**

**OP  
09/001      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Worrall declared a personal interest in the scoping report on the grounds of being a recipient of Disability Living Allowance.

**MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET**

**OP  
09/002      OLDER PERSONS ISSUES - SCOPE OF THE BOARD AND  
BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Decision Notice D090169MEM

The report of the Chief Executive set out the scope of the work to be addressed by the Older Persons Issues Advisory Board and provided background information on older people in the Borough. Reference was made to the adopted Kent Policy Framework for Later Life together with a schedule of services provided by the Borough Council for older people. These stretched across a broad range of responsibilities including housing services, planning, community development and community safety and indoor and outdoor leisure.

Presentations were received from David Jessop of the Royal British Legion, Barry Lock from Tonbridge Baptist Church, Keith Austin of Age Concern Malling and Tina Sterling from the Alzheimer's Society. Each speaker gave details of the services provided by their organisation and a number of common themes emerged including the need to address social isolation, the concerns of carers, provision of transport and ensuring external funding and resources were appropriately directed.

During discussion the following specific issues were identified for future

consideration by the Board:

1. Consider the delivery of relevant actions set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy – community hub service model and formation of an Older People’s Forum.
2. Focus on issues involving older people with care and support needs and separately give consideration to the needs of active older people.
3. Address cross-cutting issues affecting all older people, for example debt issues, access to services and advice.
4. Explore with partners the scope to develop innovation in service delivery for older people through new partnership working.
5. Reach out to socially isolated older people, identifying their needs and overcoming their reluctance to involvement with support services.
6. Promote opportunities for inter-generational activities to break down the barriers and misconceptions between the young and old.
7. Address the needs of carers of older people, the challenges faced and what support funding should be made available to assist them.
8. Investigate issues of resources and funding to assist older people, for example Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance claims issues.

It was suggested that the Borough Council should work with the Tonbridge and Malling Local Strategic Partnership in pursuing the issues affecting older people and thus act as a catalyst for local partnership working and innovation. In the meantime, appropriate visits would be arranged for members of the Advisory Board and Cabinet to inform the way forward.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the scope of the work of the Advisory Board, as identified in the report and amplified above, be endorsed.

### **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**

**OP  
09/003**

#### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

No items were considered in private.

The meeting ended at 2124 hours

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

## RECORD OF DECISION

Decision Taken By: **CABINET MEMBER FOR  
Community Development**

Decision No: **D090169MEM**

Date: **8th December 2009**

### **Decision(s) and Reason(s)**

#### **Older Persons Issues - Scope of the Board and Background Information**

**(Report of Chief Executive)**

**(Annex A)**

**(Annex B)**

**(Annex C)**

**The report set out the scope of the work to be addressed by the Older Persons Issues Advisory Board and provided background information on older people in the Borough. Reference was made to the adopted Kent Policy Framework for Later Life together with a schedule of services provided by the Borough Council for older people. These stretched across a broad range of responsibilities including housing services, planning, community development and community safety and indoor and outdoor leisure.**

**Presentations were received from representatives of the Royal British Legion, Tonbridge Baptist Church, Age Concern Malling and the Alzheimers Society. Each speaker gave details of the services provided by their organisation and a number of common themes emerged including the need to address social isolation, the concerns of carers, provision of transport and ensuring external funding and resources were appropriately directed.**

**It was suggested that the Borough Council should work with the Tonbridge and Malling Local Strategic Partnership in pursuing the issues affecting older people and thus act as a catalyst for local partnership working and innovation. In the meantime, appropriate visits would be arranged for members of the Advisory Board and Cabinet to inform the way forward.**

Following consideration by the Older Persons Issues Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Community Development resolved that the scope of the work of the Advisory Board, as identified in the report and amplified above, be endorsed.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Older Persons Issues Advisory Board of 8 December 2009.

Signed Cabinet Member for N Heslop  
Community Development:

Signed Leader: M Worrall

Signed Chief Executive: D Hughes

**Date of publication:** 11 December 2009

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.