

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, 9th March, 2011

Present: Cllr D A S Davis (Chairman), Cllr Ms S V Spence (Vice-Chairman), Cllr J A L Balcombe, Cllr A G Sayer, Cllr Miss J L Sergison, Cllr Mrs E A Simpson and Cllr Mrs C J Woodger.

Councillors Mrs Anderson, Baldock, Court, Dobson, Heslop and Worrall were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Brown, Chartres and Lancaster.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

**CD
11/001 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members declared personal and prejudicial interests in the item regarding Voluntary Sector Grants - 2011/12 on the grounds of membership of the organisations indicated and they withdrew from the meeting during its consideration:

- § Councillor Mrs Anderson (Tonbridge and Malling Citizens Advice Bureau)
- § Councillor Mrs Woodger (Tonbridge Volunteer Centre)
- § Councillor Worrall (Director of Trustees of Age Concern Malling)

Councillor Worrall declared a personal interest in the Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Strategy for Public Health in England - Consultation on the grounds that he was a non-executive member of the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust.

**CD
11/002 MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting of the Community Development Advisory Board held on 15 November 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

**CD
11/003 HEALTHY LIVES, HEALTHY PEOPLE: STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IN ENGLAND - CONSULTATION**

Decision Notice D110043MEM

The joint report of the Leader, Cabinet Member for Community

Development and the Chief Executive set out a suggested response to the White Paper on proposals for the future delivery of public health services in England. Additionally, responses to further consultations on funding and commissioning routes for public health and proposals for a public health outcomes framework were set out. The deadline for consultation responses was 31 March 2011 and consideration was given to a composite response from the Borough Council.

The key proposals within the main White Paper were noted and included greater emphasis and investment being placed on preventative health which should, in time, result in savings for acute services.

Concern was expressed at the lack of reference to lower tier authorities in the White Paper; that resources and funding could be diverted away from West Kent and that local need would not be targeted appropriately. It was considered important to ensure that sufficient resources were directed towards Tonbridge and Malling and the emphasis should be on front line services to deliver and focus on local priorities.

Additionally, it was considered that the importance of the County Council specifically engaging with the Acute Trusts, Community Hospitals and other health providers to encourage proper connectivity and effective engagement between all agencies dealing with public health should be emphasised.

Reference was made to the value of community hospitals in providing care and supporting both patients and the health service.

Members supported the need for the maximum amount of financial resources to be made available to the community and neighbourhood level to enable health improvement work to be undertaken where it was most needed and that funding of front-line health improvement services were given first priority. It was noted that the Borough Council was not in a financial position to fund all the services currently undertaken to improve public health and it was important to highlight this concern now.

The Advisory Board welcomed the opportunity for the Borough Council to influence the development of wide-ranging changes to public health services, along with the increased involvement in front-line services. However, the need for West Kent representation on the Health and Wellbeing Board was imperative to support and ensure that services were commissioned appropriately at a local level. It was recognised that district and borough councils had considerable local knowledge about the health issues within local communities, more so than upper tier authorities. Therefore, Health and Wellbeing Boards in two-tier areas should be required to engage and involve district and borough councils in assessing needs and setting health priorities and their involvement should not be left to local discretion. It was noted that there were significant health inequality problems to be addressed and it was important to stress that pockets of deprivation existed even in

affluent areas.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the comments on Healthy Lives, Healthy People, as set out in the report, be endorsed, subject to:
 - § strengthening the response to emphasise the contribution of district and borough councils in addressing local health issues and priorities and that a list of Borough Council activities impacting on Public Health should be included;
 - § emphasising the imperative that local authorities from West Kent had adequate representation on the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure local needs and priorities were targeted; and
 - § the County Council being strongly encouraged to specifically engage with the Acute Trusts, Community Hospitals and other health providers to create proper connectivity and effective engagement between all agencies dealing with public health; and
- (2) the Council be recommended to create a Health and Wellbeing Board, with effect from Annual Council, to address and co-ordinate health issues and priorities at a local level.

**CD
11/004**

VISION FOR KENT - CONSULTATION

Decision Notice D110044MEM

Members received the joint report of the Leader, Cabinet Member for Community Development and the Chief Executive which set out initial comments submitted on a working draft of the County Council's Sustainable Community Strategy: Vision for Kent. It was noted that the main concern at this stage related to the need for the document to recognise local diversity within the County. Members were reminded that the Borough Council had to prepare its own Sustainable Community Strategy and whilst county-wide ambitions might be relevant there could be additional or different local priorities that needed to be addressed.

Members were pleased to see reference in the comments submitted on the success of the Tonbridge and Malling LSP, which was a good example of a well supported and action orientated partnership approach.

Additionally, Members welcomed and supported the response to improve both the economy and tackle disadvantage by requiring alternative curricula being offered to young people from the age of 14 for whom a more academic educational pathway was not suitable.

The Advisory Board was not convinced by the ambitions set out in the Vision for Kent and strongly believed that local authorities in times of austerity should focus on the services needed by residents.

RECOMMENDED: That the comments on the draft Vision for Kent, as set out at Annex 1 to the report, be endorsed.

**CD
11/005**

VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 2011/12

Decision Notice D110045MEM

The report of the Chief Executive reviewed performance against adopted Service Level Agreements for the Borough's key voluntary sector bodies and sought agreement on grant support for the coming financial year. It was noted that all the reports submitted demonstrated good progress against objectives set out in the service level agreements despite increasing financial difficulties at national and local levels, resulting in cutbacks to funding for many voluntary organisations. Additionally, having these agreements in place ensured that value for money was received for the grant support given and provided security and confidence for the organisations, allowing them to plan additional projects and share costs.

Members recognised that financial support was an important means to assist and develop the voluntary and community sector within the Borough and that these organisations offered a high level service to residents.

Reference was made to the merging of Tonbridge Age Concern with the Sevenoaks branch from 1 April 2011. It was explained that this merger was seen as the best way to guarantee their future and to strengthen their position, with the intention of expanding the range of services provided over the next few years. In view of this merger, Members asked for assurances that local need was still being met and that the work undertaken was relevant for the community. It was suggested that the performance in respect of the service level agreement be reviewed at the end of the current extension to ensure that local objectives were being met.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) a grant of £10,000 be offered to the Tonbridge Volunteer Centre for 2011/12;
- (2) a grant of £6,000 be offered to Maidstone Mediation for 2011/12;
- (3) grants of £10,000 be offered to Age Concern Malling and Age Concern Tonbridge for 2011/12 and their Service Level Agreements be extended for a further year; and
- (4) a grant of £111,000 be offered to the Tonbridge and Malling Citizens' Advice Bureau for 2011/12.

**CD
11/006**

BUSINESS SUPPORT UPDATE

Decision Notice D110046MEM

The Chief Executive provided an update on recent and proposed changes to the Business Link Service and his report assessed the provision of local support services funded by the Borough Council.

Reference was made to a new, district based business engagement initiative called 'Survive and Thrive', which involved workshop sessions on a wide range of business support topics including marketing, sales, innovation, cash flow and business planning. It was felt that given the growing importance of business engagement to the Council, support for this new initiative would provide value for money. It was noted that its success would be dependent upon effective marketing and promotion to local businesses.

Members welcomed the approach outlined in the report and recognised the importance of supporting small and medium sized businesses.

A brief discussion followed on the insufficient reinvestment of money produced in the South East and the need for the Borough Council to be supporting the case for appropriate reinvestment into the region to maintain economic growth.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the Borough Council continue to fund one-to-one business counselling services; and
- (2) the proposed 'Survive and Thrive' business engagement initiative be supported on the basis outlined in the report.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

**CD
11/007**

MEETINGS OF THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND WEST KENT PARTNERSHIP

The minutes of the meetings of the Local Strategic Partnership held on 7 December 2010 and the West Kent Partnership held on 27 January 2011 were presented and noted by Members.

A concern was expressed regarding accessing Pembury Hospital maternity services, as it appeared that residents at the north end of the borough were being discouraged from using the new facility. It was possible that this was a temporary situation as the maternity unit was still only partially open. It was expected that the unit would open fully in September and that capacity would then double. The problems appeared to be exacerbated by the attractiveness of the facility and the need to demolish the existing building to provide sufficient space. The Board was advised that the situation would be kept under review.

**CD
11/008**

UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The report gave an update on the work of the Community Safety Partnership with particular reference to crime statistics. It was noted that Tonbridge and Malling was currently the fourth lowest borough/district for all recorded crime for the period April 2010 to January 2011.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

**CD
11/009**

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

No items were considered in private.

The meeting ended at 2105 hours

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION

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

Decision No: **D110043MEM**

Date: **9th March 2011**

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

**Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Strategy for Public Health in England
- Consultation**

**(Joint Report of Leader, Cabinet Member for Community
Development and the Chief Executive)
(Annex 1)**

The report set out a suggested response to the White Paper on proposals for the future delivery of public health services in England. Additionally, responses to further consultations on funding and commissioning routes for public health and proposals for a public health outcomes framework were set out. The deadline for consultation responses was 31 March 2011 and consideration was given to a composite response from the Borough Council.

Concern was expressed at the lack of reference to lower tier authorities in the White Paper; that resources and funding could be diverted away from West Kent and that local need would not be targeted appropriately. It was considered important to ensure that sufficient resources were directed towards Tonbridge and Malling and the emphasis should be on front line services to deliver and focus on local priorities.

Additionally, it was considered that the importance of the County Council specifically engaging with the Acute Trusts, Community Hospitals and other health providers to encourage proper connectivity and effective engagement between all agencies dealing with public health should be emphasised.

Following consideration by the Community Development Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Community Safety resolved that:

1) the comments on Healthy Lives, Healthy People, as set out in the report, be endorsed, subject to:

- § strengthening the response to emphasise the contribution of district and borough councils in addressing local health issues and priorities and that a list of Borough Council activities impacting on Public Health should be included;
- § emphasising the imperative that local authorities from West Kent had adequate representation on the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure local needs and priorities were targeted; and

§ the County Council being strongly encouraged to specifically engage with the Acute Trusts, Community Hospitals and other health providers to create proper connectivity and effective engagement between all agencies dealing with public health; and

2) the Council be recommended to create a Health and Wellbeing Board, with effect from Annual Council, to address and co-ordinate health issues and priorities at a local level.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Community Development Advisory Board of 9 March 2011.

Signed Cabinet Member for M Dobson
Community Safety:

Signed Leader: M Worrall

Signed Chief Executive: D Hughes

Date of publication: 11 March 2011

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.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION

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

Decision No: D110044MEM

Date: 9th March 2011

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Vision for Kent - Consultation

**(Joint Report of Leader, Cabinet Member for Community
Development and the Chief Executive)**

(Annex 1)

(Annex 2)

**The report set out initial comments submitted on a working draft of
the County Council's Sustainable Community Strategy: Vision for
Kent.**

Following consideration by the Community Development Advisory
Board, the Cabinet Member for Community Development resolved that
the comments on the draft of Vision for Kent, as set out at Annex 1 to
the report, be endorsed.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Community
Development Advisory Board of 9 March 2011.

Signed Cabinet Member for N Heslop
Community Development:

Signed Leader: M Worrall

Signed Chief Executive: D Hughes

Date of publication: 11 March 2011

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.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION

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

Decision No: D110045MEM

Date: 9th March 2011

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Voluntary Sector Grants 2011/12

(Report of the Chief Executive)

(Annex 1)

(Annex 2)

(Annex 3)

(Annex 4)

(Annex 5)

The report reviewed performance against adopted Service Level Agreements for the Borough's key voluntary sector bodies and sought agreement on grant support for the coming financial year.

Following consideration by the Community Development Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Community Development resolved that:

- 1) a grant of £10,000 be offered to the Tonbridge Volunteer Centre for 2011/12;
- 2) a grant of £6,000 be offered to Maidstone Mediation for 2011/12;
- 3) grants of £10,000 be offered to Age Concern Malling and Age Concern Tonbridge for 2011/12 and their Service Level Agreements be extended for a further year; and
- 4) a grant of £111,000 be offered to the Tonbridge and Malling Citizens' Advice Bureau for 2011/12.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Community Development Advisory Board of 9 March 2011. [Councillor Worrall declared a personal and prejudicial interest as the Director of Trustees of Age Concern Malling and he withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item]

Signed Cabinet Member for N Helsop
Community Development:

Signed Leader: M Worrall

Signed Chief Executive: D Hughes

Date of publication: 11 March 2011

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.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION

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

Decision No: D110046MEM

Date: 9th March 2011

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Business Support Update

**(Report of the Chief Executive)
(Annex 1)**

The report provided an update on recent and proposed changes to the Business Link Service and assessed the provision of local support services funded by the Borough Council.

Following consideration by the Community Development Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Community Development resolved that:

- 1) the Borough Council continue to fund one-to-one business counselling services; and
- 2) the proposed 'Survive and Thrive' business engagement initiative be supported on the basis outlined in the report.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Community Development Advisory Board of 9 March 2011.

Signed Cabinet Member for N Heslop
Community Development:

Signed Leader: M Worrall

Signed Chief Executive: D Hughes

Date of publication: 11 March 2011

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.