

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

28 March 2012

Joint report of the Chief Executive and Cabinet Member for Communities

Part 1- Public

Executive Non Key Decisions

1 WEST KENT EQUALITY PARTNERSHIP AIMS AND COMMITMENTS, 2012-16

To consider and approve the West Kent Equality Partnership Aims and Commitments.

1.1 West Kent Equality Partnership Aims and Commitments

1.1.1 The West Kent Equality Partnership Aims and Commitments 2012-16 are attached at **Annex 1**. These have been informed and developed by officers from all three authorities and have been reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, who have recommended it be presented to Cabinet for approval.

1.1.2 This document will replace the Council's existing Equality Statement. The West Kent Equality Partnership Aims and Commitments is a more concise document which takes a proportionate approach in responding to the duty, reflecting the demographic profile of our communities and current resource constraints. It also aims to support and strengthen the corporate priorities within each authority.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 The Council is required to comply with the Equality Act 2010. Failure to do so may result in action being taken by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, including issuing a formal 'compliance notice' and possible court action.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 The implementation of actions to achieve the equality objectives will need to be incorporated into appropriate service budgets. The West Kent Equality Partnership is supported by a shared officer. Production of a joint policy statement and objectives is also intended to streamline future progress reports.

1.4 Equality Impact Assessment

1.4.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report.

1.5 Recommendations

1.5.1 To approve the West Kent Equality Partnership Aims and Commitments 2012-16.

1.5.2 To provide delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Communities to permit amendments to the agreed Aims and Commitments document in line with changes required by other authorities in the West Kent Equality Partnership.

Background papers:

contact: Richard Beesley
Sarah Lavallie

West Kent Equality Partnership Aims and Commitments, 2012-16; O&SC 6 March 2012

David Hughes
Chief Executive

Owen Baldock
Cabinet Member for Communities

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The West Kent Equality Partnership Aims and Commitments document is designed to address key of areas of discrimination or disadvantage.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	Yes	The policy statement and objectives document is designed to deliver outcomes that will make a positive difference to our communities. These will be monitored and reported on annually.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.