

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**17 July 2013**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision**

**1 ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD – PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**To set out and endorse terms of reference for the new Advisory Board**

**1.1 Proposed Terms of Reference**

- 1.1.1 The creation of a new Advisory Board for Economic Regeneration requires new terms of reference to be drawn up. Your Management Team has discussed this in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and draft Terms of Reference are attached as Annex 1 to this report.
- 1.1.2 Economic Regeneration is a genuine cross-cutting issue. Many activities and functions undertaken by the Council have some impact on the local economy. However, it should not be the remit of this Board to cut across or duplicate work covered by other existing Advisory Boards. For example, tourism is a key economic sector for the Borough but the work of the Council in this area is adequately covered by the Leisure and Arts Advisory Board. Similarly, the Council's ongoing work on town centre regeneration in partnership with Sainsburys is a matter mainly for the Cabinet supported by the Finance and Property Advisory Board. On the other hand, the work of the Town Team, which is seeking to focus on new initiatives for Tonbridge town centre would justifiably be a matter for this Board to oversee.
- 1.1.3 The Borough Council's role in delivering 'core' economic development activity (supporting small businesses and entrepreneurship, promoting inward investment, general engagement with businesses and addressing skills and learning issues) will form the main agenda for this Board. Much of this work is not undertaken in isolation but is taken forward by the Council in partnership with other relevant agencies.
- 1.1.4 The West Kent Partnership is the principle partnership body which deals with economic issues and initiatives across Tonbridge and Malling, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells. Each authority makes an annual financial contribution to the

partnership which funds the post of a dedicated co-ordinator (Wendy Wood) and a small activity budget. The West Kent Partnership provides partners with good value for money. Its key role is to ensure that the economic needs of the West Kent area are not overlooked in relation to North and East Kent. The Partnership also takes a lead on the identification of external funding opportunities and was the body which successfully bid for rural Leader funding which has resulted in £1.6M being invested in the rural economy over the last 4 years. Reports elsewhere on this agenda set out further initiatives led by the West Kent Partnership, including enhanced business support services and proposals for a major Business Loan fund for West Kent and East Sussex.

- 1.1.5 Minutes of the West Kent Partnership meetings, previously reported to the former Communities Advisory Board, will now be reported, for information, to this Board to ensure Members are fully informed of its current activities.

## **1.2 Legal Implications**

- 1.2.1 The Director for Central Services has, under delegated powers, updated the Council's Constitution to reflect the existence of the new Advisory Board and the terms of reference set out at Annex 1.

## **1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

- 1.3.1 As set out above.

## **1.4 Risk Assessment**

- 1.4.1 N/A

## **1.5 Equality Impact Assessment**

- 1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

## **1.6 Recommendations**

- 1.6.1 That the Cabinet **BE RECOMMENDED** to adopt the draft Terms of Reference for the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board as set out at Annex 1 to this report.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

Julie Beilby  
Chief Executive

<b>Screening for equality impacts:</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Explanation of impacts</b>
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	
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	N/A	
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.*