

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**26 July 2011**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Information**

**1 ECONOMIC UPDATE – FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES**

**To receive a presentation from the FSB on economic issues affecting small businesses in the area.**

**1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1 The economy of the Borough, and of the wider West Kent area, is dominated by small businesses. Over 85% of businesses in the Borough employ less than five people. From time to time, the Federation of Small Businesses, the main representation body for this important sector, has been invited to meetings of the former Community Development Advisory Board to provide an update on their work and a summary of the key issues that small businesses are having to deal with.

1.1.2 Andrew Aves, Kent Development Manager for the FSB, will be attending the Board meeting to provide a further update. In particular, he will be outlining the results of the most recent FSB 'Business Barometer': a six month survey of FSB members that seeks to monitor trends and performance of small businesses in the county.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

David Hughes  
Chief Executive