

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**13 December 2011**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Information**

**1 WEST KENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2011 – MINUTES**

**To receive and note the minutes of the above meeting.**

1.1 A further meeting of the West Kent Partnership was held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011 and the minutes are attached as Annex 1 to this report.

1.2 The key issues of note dealt with at the meeting were

- The need to address the provision of additional, local transport services to The Tunbridge Wells Hospital including dial-2-drive schemes operated by the voluntary sector. It was agreed that the West Kent Partnership would co-ordinate meetings between the Trust and voluntary bodies to ensure that any new services were commissioned as soon as possible.
- Further updates on the work being undertaken to accelerate improvements to the A21 and proposals by Kent County Council to undertake those works instead of the Highways Agency, at a much reduced cost.
- The need to promote further improvements to local broadband services particularly where the market is unlikely to undertake the upgrading of local exchanges themselves and focusing on the needs of local businesses located in remoter, rural areas.
- The development of a partnership with the districts of Wealden and Rother, who, along with the three West Kent districts, are discussing the formation of a sub group to the Local Enterprise Partnership (which covers Essex, Kent and East Sussex).

Background papers: Nil

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Chief Executive