

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES ADVISORY BOARD

13 December 2011

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 VISION FOR KENT – ADOPTION

To recommend that Vision for Kent, the County's Community Strategy, be formally adopted by the Borough Council and its themes and ambitions be commended to the Local Strategic Partnership to take forward at the local level.

1.1 Vision for Kent

1.1.1 The Vision for Kent is the community strategy for the County. The preparation of an updated strategy is being led by the Kent Forum and three Ambition Boards. At the local level, actions arising from the Vision for Kent are being taken forward by Locality Boards for those districts which have created them. In other areas, including Tonbridge and Malling Borough, the existing Local Strategic Partnership is the local delivery arm for Vision for Kent.

1.1.2 Formal comments on a draft version of Vision for Kent were considered and agreed at a meeting of this Board on 26 July 2011. A final draft of the document has now been prepared and all districts have been invited to formally adopt the document prior to its formal adoption by the County Council on 15 December 2011 and by the Kent Forum on 27 January 2012. A copy of the final document is attached as Annex 1 to this report.

1.2 Kent Ambition Boards

1.2.1 Work of the Ambition Boards are now progressing. The establishment of Ambition Board 1 regarding encouraging economic growth has been delayed pending discussions on how to align the this Board with the existing Kent Economic Board. With regard to the two other Boards, the following issues have been adopted by each as initial priorities :

(a) Ambition Board 2: To tackle disadvantage, to create opportunities

Priorities:

Create the conditions for families to change their own circumstances
Maximise the positive impact that Children's Centres have on Kent's children and families

Tackle fuel poverty and help reduce the burden of energy costs on Kent families

Encourage people to make healthy lifestyle choices and improve their resilience, in order to tackle health inequalities

Ensure that Kent's social housing needs are met in the future, so that disadvantaged and vulnerable people and families have access to housing that meets their needs

Maximise the positive effects and minimise the potential negative effects of welfare reform proposals on Kent, particularly on disadvantaged people and families

Minimise bureaucracy in delivering Ambition 2 across the county and maintain the benefits of partnership working

(b) Ambition Board 2: To put the citizen in control

Priorities:

Engagement – To give people an effective say in decisions and service development and delivery.

Empowerment – Empower Parish/Town Councils and the Voluntary and Community Sector to take responsibility and deliver certain services locally.

Personalisation and Responsible Citizenship – Encourage citizens to take responsibility to adopt lifestyle choices that reduce demand on public services and improves the quality of life for themselves and their communities.

Partnership rationalisation – Minimise bureaucracy involved in delivering Ambition 3 across the county and maintain the benefits of partnership working.

- 1.2.2 Certain aspects of the work of the above ambition boards will be relevant to the future work programme of the Tonbridge and Malling Local Strategic Partnership. It is suggested that the final version of the Vision for Kent, along with the above priorities, be commended to the LSP for their further consideration.

- 1.2.3 It is suggested, therefore, that the Borough Council adopts the final version of the Vision for Kent as a basis for guiding our involvement in and contribution to the work of the Kent Forum and Ambition Boards. This would leave the Borough Council with the freedom to take a view, and make further comments on, any individual proposals which might arise from this work and from any more detailed strategies or proposals which might then follow.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 None

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 This may be an issue to be addressed should more specific proposals or projects emerge from the above priorities but as noted above, the approach suggested would provide the Borough Council with the freedom to comment further on any detailed proposals.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 N/A

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

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

1.7 Recommendations

- 1.7.1 That the Vision for Kent document **BE ADOPTED** as a basis for joint working within Kent led by the Kent Forum and Ambition Boards and this document and the emerging themes of the Kent Ambition Boards **BE COMMENDED** to the Tonbridge and Malling Local Strategic Partnership for further consideration on this basis.

The Chief Executive confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

David Hughes
Chief Executive

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	[Please explain your answer]
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	[Yes / No]	[Please explain your answer]
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.