

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES ADVISORY BOARD

23 July 2012

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 PRESENTATION – JOB CENTRE PLUS

To receive a presentation on the role of Job Centre Plus in tackling local unemployment.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 As Members will be aware, Jobcentre Plus supports people of working age from welfare into work and helps employers to fill their vacancies. It is part of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).
- 1.1.2 Currently, Tonbridge and Malling enjoys relatively low levels of unemployment. In May 2012, there were 1,604 people unemployed in the Borough, a residential rate of 2.2%. The county rate at this date was 3.3% and the national average was 3.9%. The Tonbridge and Malling figure for May 2012 was a 2.7% reduction over the figures for April 2012. However, compared to May 2011, the 2012 figure represented an increase of 11.5%. Unemployment is not spread evenly across the Borough's wards. There are higher concentrations particularly at Trench (4.8%), East Malling (3.8%) and Snodland East (3.8%).
- 1.1.3 JCP has recently appointed two new managers who now cover the Tonbridge and Malling areas. Colm Cronin is the Partnership manager whose responsibilities include the Tonbridge area. He will be attending the Board to give a short presentation on the role of Job Centre Plus locally. For information, the Malling area is covered by Ailsa Whitmarsh.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

David Hughes
Chief Executive