

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES ADVISORY BOARD

28 March 2013

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 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS – ACTION PLANS

To set out, and endorse, action plans that will guide community activities of the three development partnerships operating in the wards of East Malling, Trench and Snodland for the coming financial year.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 As Members will be aware, the Borough Council focuses community development activities on three local communities: East Malling, Trench and Snodland. Consistently, these three communities stand out as the most deprived in the Borough. Community Partnerships have been established in each of these communities and via a local charity, The Beat Project, independent community workers are employed to co-ordinate activity and community engagement.

1.2 Recent Updates

1.2.1 Due to some recent staff changes, there are two new community workers for Snodland (Laura Bailey) and for Trench ward (Yasmin Logronio). Angela Borsos continues to cover the East Malling area. At the current time, Laura Bailey is working only one day in the local community as she has other duties in the Beat Project to undertake. We have been assured by the Beat Project Director, however, that the full resource of three days per week will be re-established from April and that funding will be carried forward to account for the temporary reduction in hours.

1.2.2 As reported to a previous meeting of this Board, funding for the three community workers is maintained via contributions from the Borough Council, Community Safety Partnership and other local partners. A funding shortfall for 2013/14 had been identified in previous reports to this Board. However, I am pleased to confirm that the Beat Project has been able to secure additional external funding to enable all three posts to continue for the coming financial year.

1.3 Community Partnership Action Plans

- 1.3.1 Each year, local partners discuss and agree action plans to guide community development activity for the coming year. This process is now well established for both East Malling and Trench. Community plans for these communities have now been drawn up and are appended to this report.
- 1.3.2 Work is underway with Snodland partners to establish a similar process. An initial meeting with local partners has been held and further follow up meetings are being planned. Although not yet enshrined in a formal 'action plan' for the town, the local action group has identified the following initial community priorities for partners to progress:
- Establishment of a job club/support shop to help those seeking employment, or in need of others forms of support including debt advice, health issues, etc.
 - The need to promote attendance at the SAMAYs youth club following its transfer from KCC to Holmesdale School and the appointment of a new community youth tutor for the Town;
 - Ensuring all local partners are aware of existing programmes and activities available locally and encouraging them to make help promote these and to make referrals as appropriate.
- 1.3.3 The Snodland Partnership, having recently achieved Charity Trust status, will be directly involved in helping to develop the action plan further.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 None

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 Partnership funding for the three community workers is in place for 2013/14. Further work will be required over the coming year to identify additional external funding sources for 2014/15 to ensure the important work undertaken in each of the Borough's priority communities can continue.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 As above.

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

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

1.8 Recommendations

1.8.1 That the action plan for East Malling and Trench, and the initial community priorities for Snodland, as set out above, **BE ENDORSED**.

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

Julie Beilby
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	The three community partnerships seek to engage all sections of the community focusing on those most in need.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	Yes	As above
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.