

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

5 April 2006

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Council

1 **COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2006-2009**

To recommend to Council that the draft Community Strategy be adopted following earlier consideration by Policy and Best Value Committee and in the light of further responses to the consultation.

1.1 **The Draft Community Strategy**

1.1.1 A draft of the revised Community Strategy for the Borough was reported to Policy and Best Value Committee on 28 February 2006. Subject to the incorporation of a number of comments on that draft, the Committee recommended that draft document be adopted. As the Community Strategy is part of the Council's formal policy framework, its final adoption will be a matter for Council. A copy of the Strategy document is being circulated separately.

1.1.2 As reported to Policy and Best Value Committee, consultation on the draft strategy with key partners is being undertaken. The draft strategy which accompanies this report contains a number of minor adjustments to the text to reflect individual comments received to date. Whilst the majority of these have now been received, it is possible that some further comments will come forward between now and the meeting of Council. To expedite matters, I therefore seek delegated authority to make further minor changes to the Strategy in response to consultation between now and the meeting of Council on 25th April.

1.1.3 The Community Strategy is to be reported to the West Kent Partnership on 28th April for its formal endorsement. I will be reporting to a future meeting of the Community Development Advisory Board on arrangements for the implementation and monitoring of the action plan contained with the Strategy.

1.2 **Legal Implications**

1.2.1 The adoption of the Community Strategy fulfills the Council's legal obligations set out in the Local Government Act 2000.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 The financial implications for the Borough Council relate to those proposed actions that fall to us to take forward. Management Team have given careful consideration to those specific actions and can confirm that they are ones where there is an existing commitment and available resources in place to take forward. Actions identified for other agencies will need to be considered as part of the adoption process. It will be for those agencies to judge the resource implications of those when indicating their support for the Strategy overall.

1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 Risks associated with the lack of action over a key issue identified in the strategy can be overcome by effective partnership working both at the West Kent level and locally within the borough. The Borough Council is not responsible for the implementation of the Strategy as a whole. The Implementation pages make it clear to readers who is the lead agency for each of the suggested actions.

1.5 Recommendations

- 1.5.1 That the Draft Community Strategy 2006-2009 **BE COMMENDED** to the Council for adoption.
- 1.5.2 That delegated authority **BE GRANTED** to the Chief Executive to make further minor wording changes to the Strategy in the light of representations prior to its final adoption.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

David Hughes
Chief Executive