

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

11 September 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 PROMOTING YOUTH ENTERPRENEURSHIP

To endorse a proposal for a West Kent pilot project aimed at promoting youth entrepreneurship.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A recent meeting of the West Kent Partnership, the minutes of which are reported elsewhere on this agenda, included a detailed discussion on what needed to be done to support young people into work. One of the issues addressed as part of that discussion was the potential to do more to increase awareness of self employment as a potential option and to engender more enthusiasm for young people to think about starting their own businesses.
- 1.1.2 Paul Barron of the Kent Foundation attended the meeting of the West Kent Partnership to deal with youth entrepreneurship and he has kindly agreed to attend the meeting of this Board to explain more about the role of the Kent Foundation generally and outline a proposal for a pilot project for West Kent to promote youth entrepreneurship.

1.2 The Pilot Project

- 1.2.1 The proposal is to carry out a pilot project across West Kent, starting in early 2014. The initial phase will be to engage with local young people via local schools, colleges and through contact with other youth organisations such as the Kent Youth Service, YMCA/Platform 51, and the Prince's Trust. The aim would be to recruit interested young people to attend one of a number of initial awareness sessions about entrepreneurship, held in different locations across West Kent, and to follow this up with a more detailed second stage event for those young people who are interested in taking this idea further forward. The sessions would be run by trained business mentors from the Kent Foundation.
- 1.2.2 If this programme proves successful, those young people would then be referred on to 'Young Start Up Talent'. This is an annual young entrepreneurs competition

which currently holds regional heats in West Kent, Gatwick and Brighton followed by a final event for the heat winners. Winners of the West Kent regional heat can win a £2,000 cash prize and receive access to a wide range of free support from business experts to help set up their business.

- 1.2.3 The suggested pilot programme is currently being further developed. Funding for this is likely to be drawn from underspends in the KCC business support budget which has funded 1-2-1 support and business seminars in West Kent (reported elsewhere on this agenda). It will therefore also require formal approval from KCC in due course.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 None

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 As above

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 Recommendation

- 1.7.1 That the proposed Youth Entrepreneurship initiative as set out in this report, **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	No	Any initiative would be open to all young people.

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
different groups in the community?		
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	N?A	
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.