

Key Priorities (2012/15) – Justification

Key improvement priority:

Prioritise, develop and implement new approaches to service delivery to achieve affordable and sustainable levels of expenditure in the context of reduced resources.

Justification – national/county:

Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2010 and Local Government Finance Settlement for the two-year period 2011/12 to 2012/13. The Borough Council is facing a reduction in funding from central government over the next two years of 28% with further cuts expected in future years.

Justification – local:

Taking into account the significant cut in government funding and further cuts expected in future years, the financial difficulties faced by the Council are unprecedented as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Key improvement priority:

Promote and support sustainable development, economic development and regeneration.

Justification – national/county:

Clearer emphasis now given to sustainable growth in emerging National Planning Policy Framework and in financial incentives towards development.

Economic regeneration and development of Tonbridge Town Centre aligned with focus of national policy.

Coordination of infrastructure investment with development opportunities enshrined in national approach (e.g.: Community Infrastructure Levy) and countywide strategy (e.g. Growth Without Gridlock).

Justification – local:

Discussions with local groups (e.g. Chamber of Commerce) and private sector indicate need and potential for town centre development, enhancement and transport improvement.

The adopted Local Development Framework incorporates sites and policies for major development.

The adopted Tonbridge Central Area Action Plan includes allocations for regeneration and development, transport improvement and environmental enhancement.

West Kent Investment Strategy (2010/13).

Key improvement priority:

Promote a continuing supply of homes in the Borough, including affordable housing across all tenures, and work to prevent homelessness.

Justification – national/county:

Homelessness Act 2002.

Housing Act 2004.

Homelessness Code of Guidance 2006.

CLG Rough Sleeper Strategy : No One Left Out (2008).

Comprehensive Spending Review 2010.

Local Decisions: A Fairer Future for Social Housing (CLG consultation on the future of social housing, November 2010).

Localism Bill (2010/11).

Welfare Reform Bill (2010/11).

Justification – local:

Kent Five Year Supporting People Strategy 2010/15.

Kent Forum Strategy.

Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2008/11.

Kent and Medway Domestic Violence Strategy.

T & M Housing Strategy 2009/12 (part of the SCS).

T & M LDF.

T & M Capital Strategy.

West Kent Homelessness Strategy (2011/16).

West Kent Local Investment Plan 2010.

Key improvement priority:

Promote and provide opportunities to improve the health and well-being of individuals and communities.

Justification – national/county:

Vision for Kent (October 2011).

Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS White Paper July 2010.

Health and Social Care Bill 2011.

Agenda and Action Plan of the Kent Forum Ambition Board 2 – Tackling Disadvantage.

Justification – local:

Community Partnership Action Plans for Trench, East Malling and Snodland.

Commitment(s) made in LSBU Business Plan.

Key improvement priority:

Involve, safeguard and meet the needs of children and young people.

Justification – national/county:

Children Act 2004 (requires Council to safeguard children and work in cooperation in others).

Tonbridge and Malling Youth Agreement.

Priorities of the Local Children's Trust Board for Tonbridge and Malling:

- Safeguarding Children and Young People
- Emotional and Mental Health
- A Healthy Start in Life
- Adolescent Engagement.

Vision for Kent (October 2011).

Justification – local:

Residents' Panel (2008) identified facilities and activities for teenagers (7/33) as a priority for improvement.

Commitment(s) made in:

- Safeguarding Children Framework
- Leisure & Arts Strategy (2008/13)
- Play Strategy.

Key improvement priority:

Achieve a cleaner, smarter, better maintained and more sustainable environment.

Justification – national/county:

Vision for Kent (October 2011)

Green Flag Park Award Programme.

“Love Where You Live” – DEFRA initiative.

Kent Environment Strategy 2010/13.

Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007/27.

The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

Justification – local:

Community Safety Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2011/12.

Tonbridge and Malling Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2011/12).

Residents’ Panel (2008) identified clean streets and public areas as the most important factor and top priority for improvement.

The 2008 Place Survey also identified clean streets as important and in need of improvement.

Commitments made in Street Scene Action Plan 2011/12.

Key improvement priority:

Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.

Justification – national/county:

National crime reduction targets.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill 2010/11.

Kent Community Safety Strategy 2011/12.

Justification – local:

Residents’ Panel (2008) identified reducing anti-social behaviour and crime levels as priorities for improvement.

Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan (2011/12).