

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

6 March 2008

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 KENT AGREEMENT 2

To set out the emerging terms of the Second Kent Agreement.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The current Kent Agreement covers the period 2005-08. Work is now underway on developing a second Agreement for the County to cover the period 2008-11. This report sets out what areas of joint working the revised Agreement is likely to focus upon.

1.2 What is the 'Kent Agreement'?

- 1.2.1 The Kent Agreement is one of a number of Local Area Agreements adopted across the country. The focus of LAAs is on either County or unitary areas. In two-tier areas such as Kent, there is a requirement for strategic service providers to work with local partners such as district councils, to secure the delivery of the Agreement. In Kent, it is the Kent Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership for Kent) rather than the County Council itself, who is leading work on developing the new Agreement and will be the body which monitors its delivery.
- 1.2.2 The Agreement itself sets out a number of key priorities for the improvement of public services which need to be achieved over a three year period. Improvement is measured by the selection of up to 35 key indicators (from the national list of 198) which best reflect local priorities. A further 15 statutory indicators about education are also included in all Agreements. All selected indicators have to be first agreed with the Government Office and then local partners negotiate with them over the setting of baselines and 3 year targets for each. These form the nucleus of the Agreement itself.

1.3 Progress to Date

- 1.3.1 Work has been underway across the County for some months on the initial stages of developing Kent Agreement 2. We have now reached the stage where the 35

indicators have been selected and provisionally agreed with the Government Office. Work is now underway on setting baselines and targets for each of these.

- 1.3.2 Attached as Annex 1 to this report is a schedule outlining those selected indicators and an assessment of the extent to which they relate to the core work of the Borough Council. This shows that there is a substantial linkage between the adopted indicators and our work.
- 1.3.3 Once the baselines and targets have been agreed and the Kent Agreement document itself prepared, partner organisations, including the Borough Council, will be asked to formally sign up to the Agreement which commits them to assisting with its delivery over the next 3 years. This process is likely to be completed by May of this year.

1.4 Benefits of the Kent Agreement

- 1.4.1 One of the key benefits of the Agreement is the ability for partners to achieve more across a wide range of areas of work than could perhaps be achieved by one organisation working alone. There is also scope to pool the resources of several organisations to achieve more than via working with individual budgets.
- 1.4.2 The first Kent Agreement is shortly to end. In addition to the benefits of joint working focused on a small number of key outcomes, achievement of the targets set out in that Agreement will be rewarded with additional grant from Government. All partners, including district councils, will have a share of this reward grant. It must, however, be re-invested in the original work areas covered by the Agreement, including crime and disorder work, and its distribution agreed locally by the district Local Strategic Partnership. Partners are awaiting a formal announcement from Government as to whether the same reward grant system will operate for the second Kent Agreement.

Background papers:

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Nil

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