

## Responses to questions posed to KCC at the November T&M Parish Partnership meeting

### Library services for the future

People across Kent will be asked to help Kent County Council plan new and better ways to run local libraries. Libraries play a vital role in different communities and are determined to work with local people to deliver an excellent service for future generations.

Kent has one of the largest library services in the country and KCC wants residents to get involved and take part in transforming it for the future.

KCC Cabinet member for Customer and Communities Mike Hill stated: “We know libraries are valued very much by local people and we are tremendously proud of how popular they are in Kent. This approach represents a fresh way forward for library services. It balances the needs to modernise services, work with communities to find innovative and efficient ways to maintain a local library service and meet our statutory responsibilities, while delivering further revenue savings. This is an exciting time for libraries as Kent sets out on a unique journey to really tailor library services to the needs of each community.”

KCC is committed to listening to everyone and will work with local representatives to make sure everyone is heard. Discussions are now starting with groups within each district, made up of councillors from the local and county councils and community representatives. Over the next few months these groups will start local debates, inviting local people to give them their views and ideas, and comment on the developing plans. These plans will help KCC develop forward looking and sustainable library services, at the heart of local communities, which meet local needs. There are currently 99 libraries in Kent, 11 mobiles and 236,013 active borrowers.

Meetings will shortly be set up with local members (district and county) to agree how discussions, debate and consultation will be managed in every district. The county wide Libraries Project Manager for this work, Sue Sparks (Strategic Manager), will be setting up an initial meeting to progress this piece of work for the Tonbridge and Malling area. Local Library Managers and the Community Engagement Officer will also be working with local members. In the meantime, if there are any questions or comments please email Sue - [sue.sparks@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sue.sparks@kent.gov.uk) or telephone 01622 696446.

### HWRC Consultation

The questions posed are answered below:

1. Does the permit scheme proposal for 'West Kent Border' include Medway? - **No**
2. Has Medway been included in the discussions regarding proposed permits and changes as many T&M residents use the Cuxton site as there is not one within the district? - **Not in relation to possible permit schemes.**
3. How have KCC engaged TMBC in the process so far? - **A presentation was made to the Kent Waste Partnership (KWP) Members Board on 17th November 2011; both paper and electronic copies of the consultation papers were sent to all KWP Members and officers in advance of the consultation opening; All KCC Members were invited to attend a Member briefing about the consultation by Bryan Sweetland (1st November) which was followed by an electronic briefing on 30th November 2011) Contact for TMBC is Howard Rogers.**
4. Are there plans to open a new site in the district as it does not have a dedicated waste site? - **Yes, this is raised in question 20 (page 14 of the paper copy of the questionnaire).**

Link to consultation:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/recycling\\_and\\_rubbish/ways\\_to\\_recycle/waste\\_and\\_recycling\\_centres/hwrc\\_consultation.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/recycling_and_rubbish/ways_to_recycle/waste_and_recycling_centres/hwrc_consultation.aspx)

## Youth Services Restructure

Response from Nigel Baker:

- Consultation ended 29 October.
- Meeting with KCC Members and TMBC Members to discuss the proposals in detail happened on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November
- Close to 700 responses received in total, either completed questionnaires or open correspondence via letter/email. These have been analysed & a report is being written for Mr Hill. KCC Cabinet will wish to review this report as well. It will then be posted on [kent.gov.uk/youth](http://kent.gov.uk/youth) early in the New Year.
- I anticipate a preliminary decision on general direction of travel will be made by Mr Hill in early January.
- This will be followed by further discussion with district/borough officers and Locality Boards or similar groups before final decision on the detailed way forward is made.
- To be clear, we are still some weeks away from final decisions; Mr Hill has clearly indicated that LBs & local officers will be involved.

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