

# **TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **TONBRIDGE FORUM**

**8 February 2010**

### **Report of the Vice Chairman, Tonbridge Forum and the Chief Executive**

#### **1 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

**This report provides members of the Forum with some background information on the adopted Sustainable Community Strategy for the Borough and the membership and work of the Local Strategic Partnership.**

##### **1.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy**

- 1.1.1 The Borough Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy [SCS] for its area and to deliver the actions it contains in partnership with other agencies. The third strategy for Tonbridge and Malling has recently been adopted and covers the period 2009-2012. A copy of the strategy can be viewed or downloaded at:

[www.tmbc.gov.uk/assets/businesslinks/Community\\_Strategy/Final\\_SCS\\_09\\_12.pdf](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/assets/businesslinks/Community_Strategy/Final_SCS_09_12.pdf)

- 1.1.2 The overall purpose of the strategy is to identify the key issues affecting the borough, informed by consultation with local residents and businesses, and to set out a number of actions to address those issues over a three year time period. Whilst the Borough Council takes the lead in preparing the document, not all of the actions contained in the document fall to the Borough Council to implement. A wide range of partners including the County Council, Kent Police, NHS West Kent and the voluntary sector must work together to deliver the SCS. Actions set out in the SCS cover a wide range of themes including community safety, street scene issues, health, the local environment, transport, the economy and housing.
- 1.1.3 As a broadly based document, the SCS is intended to provide an overall context for the more detailed plans that are prepared by individual partner agencies.
- 1.1.4 The Borough's Local Strategic Partnership has the responsibility to monitor progress towards implementation of the actions and to ensure, through joint working, that remedial work is undertaken if monitoring suggests that targets are not being met.

## **1.2 The Local Strategic Partnership**

- 1.2.1 The Borough Council established a Local Strategic Partnership for the Borough in October 2008. Previously, the borough had been served by an LSP for the West Kent area (The West Kent Partnership) covering Tonbridge and Malling, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells. However, following a review, it was concluded that each district should form its own LSP and that the West Kent Partnership should continue as a body focused on those strategic issues which affected the sub region as a whole including the local economy, transport infrastructure and skills and learning issues.
- 1.2.2 From the outset, the Tonbridge and Malling Local Strategic Partnership has attracted high level, on-going support from the many public and voluntary agencies working within the Borough. A membership list for the LSP is attached as Annex A to this report.
- 1.2.3 Meetings of the LSP are held quarterly and focus on matters of concern to partners and, as outlined above, actions arising from the adopted Sustainable Community Strategy. Agendas and minutes of the meetings are published on the Borough Council's website.
- 1.2.4 In recent meetings a wide range of issues have been discussed including: the Kent Environment Strategy; community development work in East Malling; anti-terrorism measures; local health inequalities; and older people's issues. The LSP will be meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February and will be considering issues related to childhood obesity; crime statistics and the establishment of an older people's forum for the borough.

David Hughes  
Chief Executive

Nicolas Heslop  
Vice Chairman, Tonbridge Forum

**Annex A**

The Local Strategic Partnership is made up of the following organisations:

Age Concern Malling  
Bridge Trust  
Church of England  
Environment Agency  
The Friars, Aylesford  
Federation of Small Businesses  
Hadlow College  
Ightham Mote (National Trust)  
Kent Association of Local Councils  
Kent County Council  
Kent Fire & Rescue  
Kent Police  
Kenward Trust  
Russet Homes  
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council  
Tonbridge & Malling District Cricket Partnership  
Tonbridge Citizens Advice Bureau  
West Kent College  
NHS West Kent (Primary Care Trust)