

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**Decision Taken By: Cabinet Member for Economic  
Regeneration**

**Decision No:  
D160064MEM**

**Date: 07 September 2016**

**Decision(s) and Reason(s)**

**Work Readiness and Careers Advice**

**(Report of Chief Executive)**

**The report provided additional background to support the presentation given by Mike Rayner, Participation and Progression Manager for West Kent at Kent County Council, regarding the provision of careers advice, the key challenges faced and current initiatives to improve the work readiness of school leavers and job seekers. A draft Skills Action Plan, set out at Annex 1 to the report, provided details of a number of initiatives to support efforts to improve work readiness.**

Following consideration by the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration resolved that:

A Working Group of Members of the Council be established to assess the size and scope of the work readiness and skills issues, explore opportunities for working in partnership to improve communication between business and schools to create sustainable employment streams and to report its findings to a future meeting of the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board of 7 September 2016.

Signed Cabinet Member for  
Economic Regeneration  
and Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 9 September 2016

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.

**Decision Taken By: Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration**

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**Decision(s) and Reason(s)**

**Support for Village Stores Initiative**

**(Report of Chief Executive)**

**The report summarised the progress to date of the District and Local Centres Initiatives which had provided a variety of environmental improvements in retail areas to create a positive and supportive environment for local traders. The report provided an overview of a proposed 12 month scheme to support Village Stores within the Borough which would include the provision of 1-to-1 guidance and support from a specialist retail advisor through Action with Communities in Rural Kent's Rural Retail Service.**

Following consideration by the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration resolved that:

- (1) the progress to date on the District and Local Retail Centres be noted;
- (2) if there is no evidence of tangible progress on either of the initiatives in Snodland and West Malling by the end of September 2016 at the latest, the proposal to withdraw funding for the current projects be approved; and
- (3) the Village Shops Initiative, as detailed in paragraph 1.3.2 of the report, be approved.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board of 7 September 2016

Signed Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 9 September 2016

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**Decision Taken By: Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration**

**Decision No:  
D160066MEM**

**Date: 07 September 2016**

**Decision(s) and Reason(s)**

**Business Incubator Proposal**

**(Report of Chief Executive)**

**The report set out details of a proposal for the creation of a business facility to support the development of ‘fledgling’ businesses within vacant office space at Gibson Building, Kings Hill, as part of the Council’s Economic Regeneration Strategy to facilitate economic growth within the Borough.**

Following consideration by the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration resolved that:

- (1) the proposed Gibson Building Business Facility be supported in principle;
- (2) the engagement with key partners by the Economic Regeneration Officer be supported in order to help promote take up of the new facility by local businesses; and
- (3) a report regarding proposed financial arrangements related to the new facility be submitted to the Finance, Innovation and Property Advisory Board.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board of 7 September 2016.

Signed Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 9 September 2016

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