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TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

Thursday, 4th September, 2014

Present: Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman), Cllr M A Coffin (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs J A Anderson, Cllr J Atkins, Cllr D Keeley and Cllr Miss A Moloney and Aylesford, Borough Green, Burham, Hadlow, Hildenborough, Kings Hill, Leybourne, Snodland, West Malling and Wrotham Parish and Town Councils.

Councillors M R Rhodes, Mrs S Murray and O C Baldock were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillors J A L Balcombe, M A C Balfour, Mrs J M Bellamy, M Parry-Waller, H S Rogers, A G Sayer and Mrs C J Woodger and County Councillors Mrs V Dagger and Mr M Balfour.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

PPP 14/10 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 February 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PPP 14/11 UPDATE ON ANY ACTION IDENTIFIED IN THE LAST MINUTES

There were no actions identified.

PPP 14/12 KENT POLICE SERVICES UPDATE

Inspector Hutcheon (Community Safety Unit manager) provided an overview of the achievements made in the performance and the neighbourhood policing agenda. Reference was made to a new way of recording using 'anticipated', or estimated, levels of crime taking account of seasonal trends and peaks and troughs over a 5 year period. This type of analysis proved useful in understanding the reasons behind causes of crime, informed where to direct resources and focused on a longer term strategy.

Members were advised that all crime within Tonbridge and Malling remained reasonable, despite a slight increase above the 'anticipated' target; although crimes against society were better than 'anticipated' for July. It was noted that domestic abuse was included in violence against the person and that the increase in 'victim based crime' could be due to the way these were now recorded.

The strategic principles of the recent Kent Police restructure were set out and included a focus on maximising officers in frontline roles, reducing unnecessary demand and retaining a reactive and proactive capability to tackle crime. It was reported that Tonbridge remained a main reporting station and the Community Safety Unit, based at Kings Hill, was the 'hub' of local policing activity.

Successful recent initiatives within the Borough included Operation Horizon, tackling nuisance vehicles at Oakdene Café in Wrotham; crime prevention measures and promotion at Sainsbury, Aylesford; Police Contact Points hosting a range of initiatives such as bike marking; Operation Gear, tackling criminals using the rail network and multi-agency Water Safety Days of Action to raise public awareness at Leybourne Lakes Country Park and Tonbridge Town Lock.

In response to a question raised by Snodland Town Council regarding the DVLA changes to the taxing of vehicles, which came into force on 1 October 2014, the Panel was advised that members of the public, parish councils and private landowners could search on the DVLA website to check if vehicles were taxed and/or insured. However, it was likely that initially there would be an increase in the number of vehicles being reported as abandoned.

PPP 14/13 PRESENTATION ON 'LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE'

The Environmental Projects Manager gave a presentation outlining the key points of the Love Where You Live campaign, which encouraged a sense of civic pride across communities, aimed to change littering behaviour and significantly reduce the amount of litter in England by 2020.

It was reported that the Borough Council had made a significant contribution to the campaign and the reduction of litter remained a key priority. In addition, the Borough Council gave regular talks to community groups and schools, held street monitor meetings, assisted with litter picking events and clearing dog fouling and had been a national Love Where You Live Ambassador authority. The support of many local partners, communities and parish councils was also very important and appreciated.

Particular reference was made to the Voluntary Litter Code for Business, which contributed to economic regeneration as customers were encouraged into shops/businesses by well-kept and tidy premises. The scheme had been initiated successfully in Larkfield and was now adopted by Ditton Parish and Snodland Town Councils, with 60 plus businesses currently involved.

Responsible dog ownership was also encouraged by Bag and Flag and The Big Scoop initiatives and the Borough Council worked with parishes

throughout the year. On average there had been an 80% reduction in dog fouling.

In response to a question raised by Wrotham Parish Council it was confirmed that any 'side waste' collected as a result of a litter picking event could be disposed of in household bins, although the Borough Council appreciated notification if there was a large volume.

Reference was made to the Kent County Council Waste Disposal centres and whether they would accept fallen trees dealt with by parish councils. In addition, the Panel asked that if parish councils did take waste to KCC centres consideration could be given to the relaxation of vehicle size limits, particularly length of trailers. It was also noted that the Medway operated Cuxton centre did not have any such restrictions. The Community Engagement Manger offered to direct these queries to the relevant County officers and circulate his findings.

Snodland Town Council commended the enthusiasm of officers which attracted and encouraged involvement in the Love Where You Live campaign. In return the Borough Council appreciated and recognised the important contribution of local communities, especially volunteers, who all helped to sustain the initiative.

PPP 14/14 FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH PARISH COUNCILS

The joint report of the Director of Finance and Transformation, the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance, Innovation and Property outlined the proposed methodology to be adopted to determine the Scheme of Financial Arrangements with Parish Councils budget for the financial year 2015/16.

Members were reminded that in 2013 the Council in liaison, with the Parish Partnership Panel, agreed that the budget for the Scheme of Financial Arrangements with Parish Councils would increase or decrease by the same percentage as the increase or decrease in the Borough Council's Local Government Finance Settlement, including New Homes Bonus funding in the previous year.

The Director of Finance and Transformation proposed to adopt this methodology for the forthcoming financial year. As a result the Scheme of Financial Arrangements with Parish Councils budget for 2015/16 would increase by 1.3%, subject to final approval at Cabinet.

Members were advised that although there was an increase in funding for this year it could not be guaranteed for the longer term and was subject to central Government decisions regarding New Homes Bonus. It was reiterated that when the New Homes Bonus scheme reached its sixth year or was replaced by something else it could result in a marked percentage decrease.

The Leader and the Cabinet Member for Finance, Innovation and Property confirmed that the proposed methodology would be used for as long as possible in recognition of the good working relationship between the Borough and Parish Councils. Members were assured that whatever the future of the New Homes Bonus, the financial arrangements with parish councils would remain transparent.

The Chairman of the Kent Association of Local Councils (Tonbridge and Malling) welcomed the good news and commented that it was a fair settlement given the current financial constraints being experienced by local authorities. It was acknowledged that the funding model was heavily dependent upon the New Homes Bonus funding and any future implications regarding financial arrangements would be monitored and raised.

Final details for individual parishes would be shared once known.

PPP 14/15 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

The Kent County Council Community Engagement Manager reported on the progress made in the transformation programme and advised that recommendations for Phase 1 Service Reviews had been endorsed in May 2014. Significant budget saving had already been achieved. Phase 2 reviews would begin shortly.

Reference was made to the Care Act 2014, which introduced major changes to adult social care from April 2015. Some of the benefits included clearer financial arrangements, better information and advice, improved support for carers and greater choice of services. It was reported that local authorities would have legal duties to provide information and advocacy to prevent care needs; together with powers to delegate social care functions to another organisation, except safeguarding, decisions on charging and integration.

The Kent County Council would arrange a number of engagement and briefing opportunities over the next six months to raise awareness of the changes to partners and residents. A programme of events was being prepared, including workshops and presentations, and any ideas were welcomed and invited.

Finally, Members were advised that the new Member Grant Scheme was now open and more details were available from local County Members or from the Community Engagement Manager (james.harman@kent.gov.uk)

In response to a question regarding the street light night time switch off, Members were advised that a review of the process of engagement and consultation was currently underway. The Kent County Council recognised that lessons had been learnt, particularly around communication. Concern was expressed at the slow reaction of the

County Council in addressing issues on street lights, particularly those not working or on all the time.

Snodland Town Council referred to the Kent Highways website which no longer provided a reference/job number via return email once a problem had been logged and asked for this to be reinstated.

It was suggested that if specific street lighting issues were passed to the Community Engagement Manager he would forward these to the relevant officers in KCC to address, together with the website issue.

PPP 14/16 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

The Director of Finance and Transformation provided an update on key points relevant to Tonbridge and Malling. The headline messages included:

- South East Local Enterprise Partnership funding

Working with partners across Kent and Medway the Borough Council had recently submitted bids for the Regional Growth Fund and had been successful in securing funding for two key local projects. Improvements to Junction 4 on the M20 had been awarded £2.19M and Tonbridge town centre High Street improvements had been given £2.37M.

In addition, a further £4.89M had been secured for local transport initiatives and part of this would be used to carry out improvements to Snodland station.

- Housing

It was announced that for the period 2015/18 over £7 million of capital grant had been allocated to the Borough Council to provide affordable housing in Tonbridge and Malling. This was the highest level obtained for any local authority in Kent and reflected the work with partners in bidding for schemes.

- Community Enhancement Funding

The deadline for submissions was Monday 8 September and parish councils were encouraged to apply for a grant if they had not yet done so.

- Heritage Open Days

Events would take place during the weekend of 13 – 14 September. Twenty one properties were participating and there were three new

entries this year, including Aylesford Pottery, the control tower at Kings Hill and Hadlow Tower.

Further details were available online at www.tmbc.gov.uk or nationally at www.heritageopendays.org.uk

- Music at Malling

The fourth music festival would take place from 23 – 28 September and this year would commemorate the centenary of the start of World War 1.

- Christmas Refuse and Recycling Collection Arrangements

It was reported that the majority of residents would see no change to their regular service. However, those who had a Thursday collection, due to Christmas and New Year's Day falling on that day, would experience a temporary suspension of their green waste service. Details would be communicated to residents via the website, a calendar delivered during October and the festive bin hangers delivered in December.

In addition the current street monitor guidance for use by parish councils and the wider community in reporting a range of street scene related issues was in the process of being updated and would help maximise use of online reporting systems.

- Health Initiatives

The Borough Council's Healthy Living Team delivered a range of health improvement programmes, such as adult weight management and family based healthy lifestyle programmes. Details of all programmes were available online and Parish Councils were encouraged to promote these programmes locally. A range of promotional material was made available for collection at the end of the meeting.

The Chairman also referred to upcoming activities of the Tonbridge and Malling Seniors Forum which were set out in further detail in the leaflets tabled for collection at the end of the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm

Kent Police Update

Tonbridge Parish Partnership Panel

4th Sept 2014

Inspector Mark Hutcheon

Kent Police Restructure

Strategic Principles

- **Maximise officers in frontline roles**
- **Back office cuts explored before front line**
- **Reduce unnecessary demand**
- **Local Leadership at District/Borough level**
- **Retain a reactive & proactive capability to tackle crime**



Kent Police Restructure

The Local Look

- **3 Policing Divisions – North/West/East**
- **Senior Officer to lead each Borough/District/Unitary**
- **Specialist Teams remain eg. CID officers, Public Protection Unit etc**
- **Central Response Function & Neighbourhood Functions merge**
- **5 Local District Policing Teams operating 24/7 – Inspector lead**
- **Tonbridge remains main reporting station**
- **Community Safety Unit is the 'hub' of local policing activity**



Current Initiatives

- **Operation Horizon**
- **Large Scale Fuel Thefts**
- **Bike Marking**
- **Crime Prevention – Sainsbury Aylesford**
- **PCC Visit**
- **Operation Vortex**
- **Operation Gear**
- **Focus Ward**
- **Multi agency Water Safety Days of Action**



Tamsin Ritchie
Environmental Projects Coordinator
Parish Partnership Panel
4 September 2014



Why Love Where You Live?

- Government Litter Convention (2010) brought together partners from government, local authorities, business and the voluntary sector to work together to tackle the ever growing litter problem.
- Combined action developed the 'Love Where You Live' brand
- Improvements for Olympic Games and towards 2020



Brand Ambassador

Kirstie Allsopp



What is Love Where You Live?



- Love Where You Live has been developed in partnership with businesses, national and local government, land managers and civil society organisations to develop a single, unified “anti-littering” approach.
- Love Where You Live sets out to encourage a sense of civic pride across communities
- Aims to drive 3,000,000 people and 3,000 organisations to take action over the next three years – we want to change littering behaviour & significantly reduce the amount of litter in England by 2020.

Aims



- Inspires and enables **everyone to take action** to reduce littering and **improve the quality of local places**
- Engages the **public in changing behaviours** and drives local action through **fostering pride** and understanding
- Raise the profile of how important **caring for local places** is given its importance to individuals' quality of life
- Encourages, supports and **brings together leaders** from government, business, media and civil society.



What TMBC have done

- National LWYL Ambassador Authority
- Committee report to Members
- Parish Partnership Panel
- Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)
- Talks to community groups
- Schools
- Street Monitor meetings
- TMBC Environmental Champions Awards
- Veolia training / communications
- Youth Forum

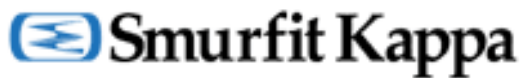


National partners



Local Partners

- Schools
- Businesses
- Housing Associations
- Kent Community Wardens
- Kent Police
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Individuals
- Community groups
- Agencies



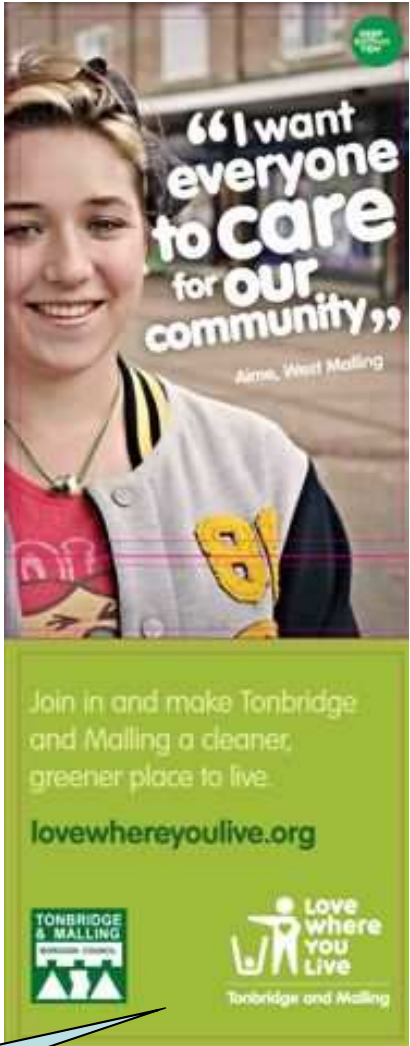


Bill Boards

Railway station advertising



Bus backs



Mobile AD-van

Phone boxes



Launch – Tonbridge High Street

Handed out
McDonalds
Drinks
Vouchers
with staff,
Mayor

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The Malling School – East Malling



Social Values group 'bash the trash' around their school.

Over 400 pupils have received the LWYL litter talks

Larkfield Litter Pickers

80 people
From the
local
schools,
churches,
guides,
football
Club
supported
by Russet
Homes and
B&Q



HadLOW CARBON Community



Bulb planting

Clearing dog
Fouling (bag
& flag)

Litter picking



Voluntary Litter Code for Businesses

- Initiated successfully in Larkfield through Neighbourhood Watch and Kent Police
- Adopted in by Ditton Parish Council and Snodland Town Council (Snodland Goes Cleaner)
- Over 60 businesses committed



Snodland Station grounds improvement



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Housing Association – Junior Wardens

Young people
earning respect
and
gaining
Responsibilities.

Housing
association and
Kent Community
Wardens



Neighbourhood Police and ASDA



Clearing litter with
young Kings Hill
Residents

Neighbourhood
Policing Team
and ASDA



Tonbridge Canoe Club – River Medway



30 volunteers

13 bags
collected



Hadlow Primary School

Worked with
their Kent
Community
Warden to
litter pick
open
spaces
in the village

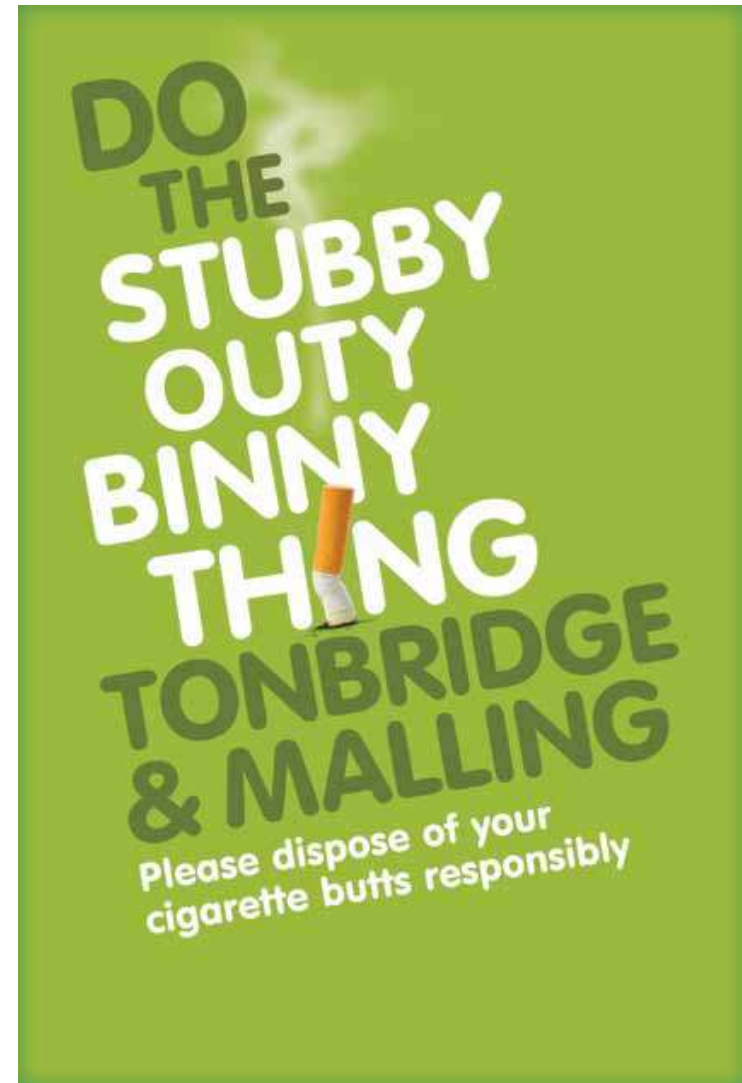


East Malling Wombles win national award



2012 Smoking-related litter campaign

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Responsible Dog Ownership events

- Dog Fouling
- Dog Behaviour inc barking
- Yellow Dog Scheme
- Free micro-chipping
- Dog Shows



Dog Fouling: Bag & Flag / The Big Scoop

- 20+ Bag & Flag events each year
- The Big Scoop in partnership with Dogs Trust and Keep Britain Tidy covered 10 'hotspot' locations in 2014
- Work with parishes throughout the year e.g. Leybourne, Wouldham, Hadlow and East Peckham



Environmental Champions 2013



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Love Kent – Hate Litter 2014

- Kent-wide June campaign
- All districts committed to ‘highways-related litter’
- Future campaigns October / November
- Feb / March 2015



Love Where You Live: Gold Award

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Wild About Gardens Awards

In partnership with Kent Wildlife Trust
From small, young and novice gardeners to large scale community gardeners

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Love
where
YOU
Live



Tonbridge and Malling

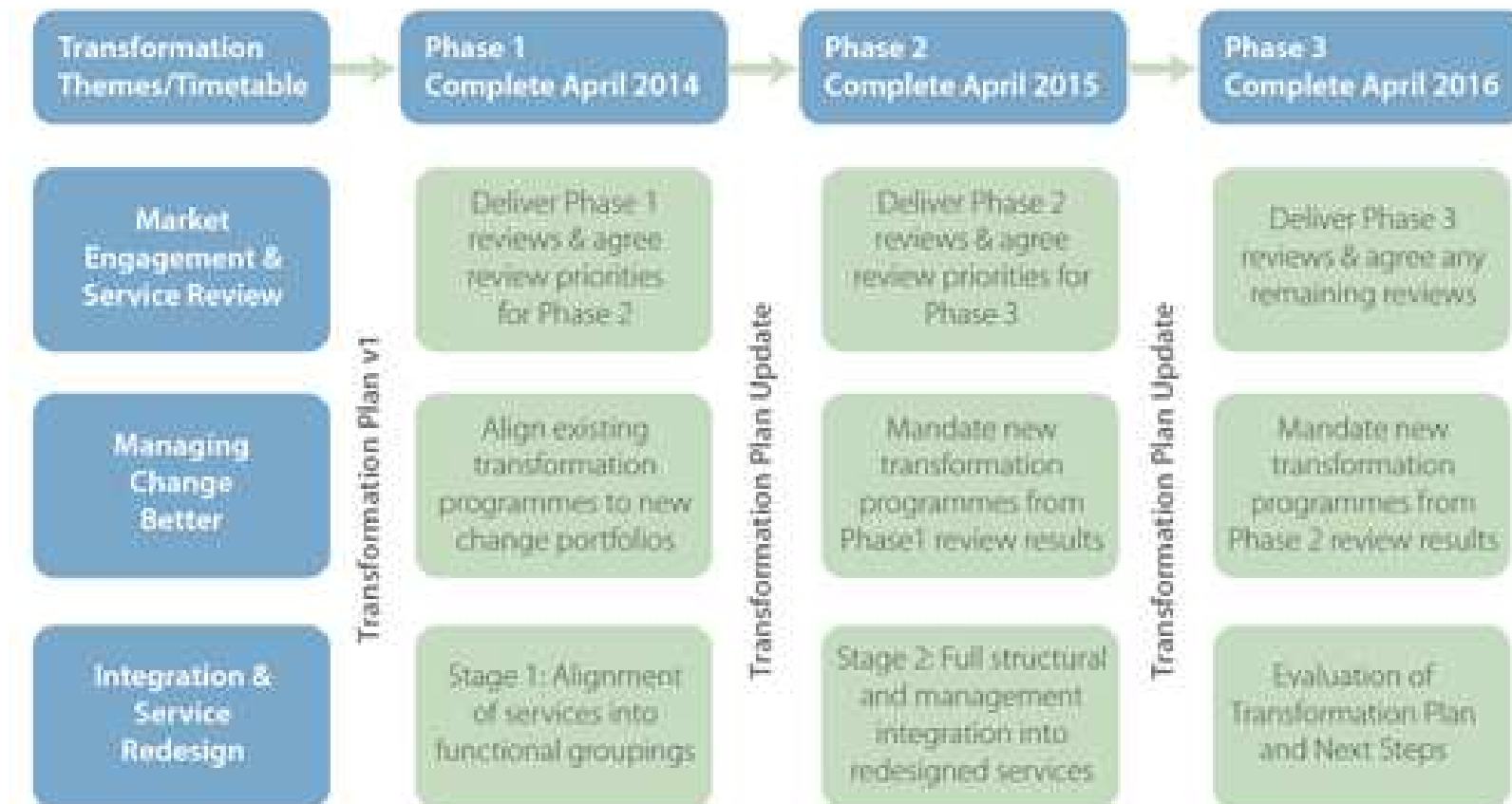
KCC Services Update Sept 2014



Community Engagement - Bringing People Together

Facing the Challenge

KCC Transformation Programme timeline



The progress so far

- All phase 1 milestones achieved
- Phase 1 reviews to proceed to full business case
- Working with Phase 1 services to coordinate handover
- Recommendations for Phase 1 Service Reviews have been endorsed by County Council - May 2014

Various alternative business models have been taken forward to Full Business Case including:

- Trust Vehicle
 - Joint Venture Organisation
 - LATCo
-

Phase 2 Reviews

The service review and market engagement process will focus on working with the services to find out:

- what outcomes are needed
- what is currently achievable within the service
- what options are available in-house to optimise delivery

The next stage will focus on engaging with the market to see whether there are any alternative models that could achieve the same at a lower cost.

The services and teams to be reviewed in Phase 2 are listed below:

- SEN Assessment, Support and Transport
 - Home to School/College Transport
 - Adoption, Fostering and Leaving Care
 - Community Safety and Regulatory Service
 - Procurement
 - Countryside Access
-

Care Act 2014

The [Care Act 2014](#) introduces major changes to adult social care from April 2015, but some of the key changes won't come into effect until April 2016.

- The Care Act brings together a number of new duties and powers, as well as making some changes to existing duties and processes. In some cases existing duties are simply consolidated into the new legislation.

Benefits of the changes are:

- Clearer financial arrangements
 - Better information and advice
 - Improved support for carers
 - Greater choice of services
-

Care Act 2014 -cont

Some key changes include:

- Introduction of a new national eligibility criteria..
- New rights to support for carers.
- Nationally defined universal deferred payments to be administered by local authorities (to pay back care costs later if assets are tied up in a property).
- Legal duties on local authorities to provide information and advocacy to prevent care needs.
- Statutory Safeguarding Adults Board
- Power for local authorities to delegate social care functions to another organisation, except safeguarding, decisions on charging and integration.

School Admissions – Application Dates

Secondary Schools

- If your child is due to start secondary school in September 2015 you can now apply until the 5th of November 2014.
- It is now too late to apply for the Kent Test for children starting secondary school in 2015.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places>

Primary Schools

- If your child is due to start Primary school in September 2015 you can apply from 11 November

Combined Member Grants

- New Scheme now open over 25 Community Groups and 6 Highways projects funded since May
- One scheme cover Community and Highways Projects
- 25k per Member available for this year
- Last year over 50 different organisations operating in Tonbridge and Malling benefitted from Member Grants.
- More details by contacting your local Members or by contacting myself.

Community Engagement Overview

The core aims and objectives of the Community Engagement Team are key to delivering the 'Facing the Challenge' vision of “**putting the customer at the heart of our services**” The Team aim to;

- Ensure engagement is inclusive and accessible
- Reach those groups that are rarely heard
- Support Members and local communities to identify blockages, find solutions and ultimately improve local services provided by KCC.
- Work in partnership with organisations across Kent connecting people and sharing information.
- Bring people together and making best use of resources across the County.
- Support KCC Decision makers, ensuring commissioning plans meet service users and resident needs.



Any Questions?

James Harman

Community Engagement Manager

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