

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

26 February 2014

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 DRAFT ECONOMIC REGENERATION ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2014/15

To consider and endorse an annual action plan for 2014/15.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The theme of economic regeneration was adopted as one of the Council's key priorities in 2012/13. To guide this work in the future, it is suggested that an annual action plan be prepared and reviewed each year to set out the work that needs to be undertaken to take this agenda forward and to recognise the wider, corporate nature of this particular key priority.

1.2 The Draft Action Plan

1.2.1 A draft action plan for economic regeneration for 2014/15 is attached as Annex 1 to this report. Comments of the Board are invited.

1.2.2 The draft plan seeks to identify key actions on economic regeneration embracing issues related to strategy and external funding (at the current time, principally related to the LEP strategies), business support activities (as previously described in various reports to this Board), business engagement (an area where additional activities are perhaps needed), and corporate initiatives (identifying those activities undertaken by the Council which have an influence on economic matters). A set of simple 'success measures' have been suggested to provide a means to review and adjust the plan on an annual basis. Future versions of the plan are likely to include a further column outlining the progress achieved over the previous year against each action.

1.3 Peer Challenge Review

1.3.1 A Tonbridge and Malling peer challenge review, focusing on economic regeneration as well as a number of wider, corporate issues has been arranged for 28th – 30th April. This will be undertaken by an independent team arranged by the Local Government Association. Further details on this will be reported to the next meeting of the Cabinet in early March. Adoption of a short and concise action

plan on economic regeneration will assist with that review and will enable the Council to more clearly articulate what specific actions need to be undertaken to fulfil our obligations to deliver against one of our key priorities.

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 None

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 As set out in the report and draft action plan.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 n/a

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

1.7.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.8 Recommendations

1.8.1 That the draft Economic Regeneration Annual Action Plan 2014/15 **BE ENDORSED.**

The Chief Executive confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The action plan focuses on support for the wider local economy.

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	n/a	
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.