

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES AND HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

4th March 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 COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (CLLD)

To set out an opportunity to establish a CLLD addressing community development issues in Tonbridge and Malling.

1.1 What is a Community-Led Local Development?

1.1.1 Reports have been made to recent meetings of the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board regarding the new funding role of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership. Significant levels of both future Government and European funding are now being channelled into local areas from 2015 with decisions being made on their distribution by the LEP.

1.1.2 A new funding initiative for local projects has been created called community-led local development. These will focus on the needs of local areas rather than LEP-wide initiatives (typically involving a population of between 10,000 and 150,000 people) and can be used to address a range of community issues and needs. Funding from European sources, the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, can be accessed via a CLLD. 50% match funding is required for these programmes. One of their key advantages over other funding sources is that CLLDs can provide funding for up to seven years with the long-term benefits of that investment remaining in the designated area.

1.2 How a CLLD will operate

1.2.1 CLLDs have been based on the 'LEADER' model. Members will be aware that West Kent was successful in obtaining funding over 4 years for a West Kent Leader programme enabling grant support of over £1m to be provided to the rural and land-based sectors. The model for CLLDs therefore involve the formation of a 'Local Action Group' (LAG) made up of local partners which prepares a Local Development Strategy setting out what local needs are to be addressed and what resources are required. A bid is submitted to the Local Enterprise Partnership and

if successful, annual funding is then provided and administered by a nominated 'Accountable Body' (usually the local authority involved).

1.3 The Bidding Process

- 1.3.1 A formal call for expressions of interest from local partners within the South East LEP area is to be opened in March of this year with a deadline of June 2014. The LEP will assess those bids received and will then invite successful applicants to prepare a Local Development Strategy. These will need to be submitted by March 2015. Final decisions will then be made by May 2015.

1.4 A Suggested CLLD for Tonbridge and Malling

- 1.4.1 The suggested focus for a Tonbridge and Malling CLLD is to support our community development objectives particularly related to addressing the needs of our more deprived communities. As Members will be aware, partner organisations (including the Borough Council) currently contribute to the funding of community workers for Snodland, East Malling and Trench who are provided by the Beat Project. This local funding commitment and any additional resources being invested by specific partners on such work, for example, Russet Homes, could then be used as match funding to draw down additional LEP funds, effectively to double the resources currently available.
- 1.4.2 A Community Led Local Development project could therefore seek to achieve the following key outcomes:
- § To consolidate and build on the existing community development work in Snodland, East Malling and Trench to extend its local impact, engage more families in need and extend the range of local innovative projects that can be delivered;
 - § To extend the support available to areas in need additional to the three main priority communities via outreach work in other areas including, for example, Hadlow, Aylesford, Larkfield, and South Tonbridge;
 - § To enable a longer term approach towards community development to be adopted with sustainable funding to bring about long-lasting positive change to local communities in need; and,
 - § To bring together the three community partnerships under an umbrella Local Action Group to better co-ordinate community development work, set a clear, challenging agenda for future work and achieve a focus on interventions that have the best, positive outcomes for local people in need.
- 1.4.3 It is therefore suggested that a draft Expression of Interest be submitted to the SELEP when the invitation period is opened, based on the above.

1.5 Legal Implications

- 1.5.1 If this expression of interest is successful, these issues will need to be dealt with as part of the preparation of a Local Development Strategy.

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.6.1 As set out above. The opportunity for additional matched funding will enable a wider range of community development work to be undertaken across the Borough.

1.7 Risk Assessment

- 1.7.1 N/A

1.8 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.8.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.9 Recommendations

- 1.9.1 That an expression of interest for a Community-Led Local Development initiative focused on addressing the Borough's community development objectives **BE SUBMITTED.**

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	

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?	Yes	Additional community development work will focus on the specific needs of our more deprived communities.
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.