

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

12 November 2018

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 FAIR UPDATE

To provide an update on the recent Community Fair held in Tonbridge and to seek approval to hold a similar event in 2019.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 During a meeting of the Tonbridge and Malling Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) earlier in the year, partners agreed that there was a need to promote local charities and organisations in order to raise awareness of the benefits of volunteering. A task and finish group was established to progress this initiative and the decision to hold a "Community Fair" in September 2018, at the Angel Centre in Tonbridge was agreed.
- 1.1.2 Partners from the LSP, agreed that Stronger Kent Communities (SKC) would be best placed to help with the delivery of this event. SKC provides support to voluntary sector organisations in Kent. They are a consortium of 11 different organisations working across Kent to support and empower the voluntary sector to make communities in Kent fairer and stronger.
- 1.1.3 In addition to SKC, the Tonbridge and Malling Seniors Forum (TAMS) were also involved in the event, as the timing fitted with their annual Seniors Information and Advice Day, which would feature many of the same organisations and charities.

1.2 Community Fair

- 1.2.1 The event took place on the 22 September in the Medway Hall of the Angel Centre. Nicolas Heslop provided the opening speech as Chairman of Tonbridge & Malling LSP as well as representing TMBC (as the Mayor was unfortunately unable to attend).
- 1.2.2 Whilst our main aim was to promote volunteering opportunities, the focus of the advertising and engagement was on a general "Community Fair" as it was felt that this would appeal to a broader audience. The event successfully promoted and celebrated local charities, community groups and hobby/interest groups. It

provided an excellent networking opportunity for all involved as well as encouraging members of the public to find out more about opportunities available to them locally.

- 1.2.3 A TMBC stand provided information on all of our available volunteering opportunities such as the country park volunteer schemes, walk leader volunteers and litter picking activities. In addition to this, information and advice leaflets were available to promote and raise awareness of all TMBC services. We also had a “One You” Health Advisor available to promote health campaigns and offer health tips and advice.
- 1.2.4 It is estimated that over the 2 hour session, just under 200 people attended the event, to see the 46 different local groups and organisations who attended. A summary of the feedback received from the organisations who took part is included at Annex 1. The feedback received is extremely positive with support for a similar event next year.

1.3 Future Events

- 1.3.1 To build on the success of this year, it is suggested that another event is planned for autumn 2019. Ideally this would be a larger event, either using the bigger sports hall and/or including the Riverside Suite. Additional space would allow more organisations to get involved and could provide opportunities for organisations to run brief workshops, taster sessions or deliver short talks about the opportunities and events that are available.
- 1.3.2 Any future event would be a partnership project with SKC and again would involve members of the LSP and the TAMS Forum.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 N/A

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 Hall hire and refreshment costs for the event were met by SKC who have a budget to deliver community fairs across Kent. It is anticipated that the same arrangements would be in place for any future events, with costs therefore being limited to staff time to assist with the organisation and set up.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 N/A

1.7 Recommendation

- 1.7.1 Following the success of the recent Community Fair an additional event **BE AGREED** for autumn 2019.

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:

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Nil

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Chief Executive