

**TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF EXECUTIVE NON-KEY DECISION**

<b>Decision Taken By:</b> Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration	<b>Decision Number:</b> D220092MEM
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**Date: 28 September 2022**

<b>Decision(s) and Reason(s)</b>
<b>WEST KENT BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME</b>
Following consideration of the options, the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration resolved that:  (1) The Cabinet Member Reasons report (attached) be noted; and  (2) Subject to the UKSPF Investment Plan being approved by Government, the proposed approach to the West Kent Business Support Programme as set out in this report BE AGREED.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>  In anticipation of the approval of the Tonbridge & Malling UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan by Government, the Economic Regeneration team are pulling together a number of initiatives that support the local economy. Some of these initiatives will be delivered in partnership with West Kent authorities, in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• address shared issues, especially relating to business survival rates, skills and employability.</li><li>• ensure a consistent approach across West Kent</li><li>• maximise the efficient use of resources in delivering the scheme.</li></ul> One such scheme is the delivery of a West Kent Business Support Programme. Each of the three local authorities will be using £54,500 of UKSPF funding to create this programme, which will run up until March 2025.  The programme will be led by Sevenoaks DC as the Accountable Body for the West Kent Partnership, with all three authorities closely involved in the oversight of the programme. Business advisers will be commissioned to deliver the advice and support.

Signed Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration	V Branson
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Signed Leader:	M Boughton
Signed Chief Executive:	J Beilby
Date of publication:	28 September 2022

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.