

Tunbridge Wells Together
(Local Strategic Partnership)
Minutes of Wednesday 23 April 2008
Salmons Centre.

ACTION LIST

Item	ACTION	Responsible
2.0	(1) PSB to consider their ToR at first meeting; and (2) PSB to develop thematic delivery groups.	PSB
4.0	That the Public Services Board be asked to consider the draft and ensure local targets are set for the borough in line with partner plan and priorities.	PSB
5.0	Circulate borough audit presentation to partners.	NH

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Present:

Graham Badman (GB)	Kent County Council (KCC)
Daniel Bech (DB)	Town Forum
Cllr Roy Bullock (RB)	Leader of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Chris Colgan (CC)	Kent Fire and Rescue
Rob Cottrill (RC)	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC)
Tom Crookall (TC)	Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)
Clair Fisher (CF)	Government Office South East (GOSE)
Andrew Forbes (AF)	West Kent College (WKC)
Caroline Highwood (CH)	Kent County Council
Nazeya Hussain (NH)	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC)
Jackie Matthias (JM)	West Kent Chamber of Commerce & Industry
John McCready (JMc)	Courier Media Group Ltd
Russ Nyman (RN)	West Kent Police
Dr Brendan O'Connor (BC)	West Kent Primary Care Trust
Linda Prickett (LP)	West Kent Primary Care Trust
Mark Salisbury (MS)	West Kent Police
Caroline Shaw (CS)	Voluntary Action West Kent (VAWK)
Mark Styles (MS)	Learning Skills Council
Paul Turton (PT)	Town and Country Housing Group
Nigel Whitburn	Action with Communities in Rural Kent
Greg MacDonald	Local Futures Group

Apologies:

Susan Priest SEEDA

Item	Notes	Action
1.0	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>Councillor Roy Bullock welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that he was pleased that so many partners had attended this inaugural meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Bullock informed the Partnership that the LSP was to be called 'Tunbridge Wells Together' which he hoped encapsulated the spirit of the Partnership.</p> <p>Action: None</p>	

2.0

LSP Governance and Structures –Draft Terms of Reference

SW gave a summary of the journey that had led to the establishment of Tunbridge Wells Together, which included the following key steps:

1. Community Plan Partnership was established in July 2005 to review the Sustainable Community Plan, which was successful in developing a strong community focused plan and involved over 600 local stakeholders taking part. For the first time this brought together all sectors and was instrumental in shaping future priorities and developing a Vision and Action Plan for the borough.
2. West Kent Partnership was the LSP for TWBC, T&M and Sevenoaks District and has been very important at providing a focus for the West Kent economy in terms of regeneration, economic development, skills and housing.
3. The Council commissioned an I&DeA Peer in 2007, to examine our strategic partnership arrangements, and this proved to be a very useful exercise which captured the essence of strong working arrangements of the CPP and WKP. However it also recognised that in light of the changing agenda that each District should develop a District LSP.
4. A large stakeholder conference was held in November 2007, which looked at the challenges and drivers for change and agreed that we should develop a LSP for the District that built on the Community Plan Partnership and allowed us to shape the borough for the future.

SW took the Partnership through the draft terms of reference and governance arrangements that had been circulated prior to the meeting.

LSP was seen as 'partnership of partnerships' and was established in the spirit of the Local Government Act 2000. It was made up of representatives from the private, public and community, voluntary and faith sectors. The LSP was the single body that:

- Brings together at a local level the different parts of the public sector as well as the private, business, voluntary and community sectors in a partnership arrangement to ensure initiatives and services can be delivered for the residents of the borough.

- TWT operates at a level, which enables strategic decisions to be taken, and allows the partnership to direct services and initiatives at a local level.
- TWT is a non-statutory, non-executive partnership and support the Countywide LSP (Kent Partnership)

Thematic Delivery Groups

TWT would be supported by a number of thematic delivery groups, which reflects the forthcoming Local Area Agreement and the priorities identified by local residents in the Sustainable Community Plan.

Some of these groups were well established, such as CSP and the Borough Housing Partnership and had strong partnership working already in place. Others such as Local Children Services Partnership are KCC structures locally that we want to ensure link and engage within our LSP framework.

Others such as Health and Older People and Cleaner and Greener were emerging and would be focused on ensuring we were actively responding to the changing demographics of our borough and public concerns.

Public Service Board

A Public Service Board was proposed which would support TWT and would be made up of key statutory partners to ensure delivery was taken forward. It was proposed that SW chair this officer group given her position on the Kent Partnership

Vice Chairs

Nominations were sought from the meeting for a Vice Chair. CS would be the new Vice Chair with MS as her deputy.

Agreed:

Terms of reference were agreed and Cllr RB will chair the LSP for a period of two years, with CS and MS as Vice chairs.

Partnership agreed to the establishment of the Public Service Board and agreed that SW chair the PSB.

The structure was endorsed and PSB was requested to further develop the appropriate thematic delivery groups to support TWT.

Actions:

- (1) PSB to consider their ToR at first meeting; and
- (2) PSB to develop thematic delivery groups.

PSB to consider their ToR at first meeting
PSB to develop thematic delivery groups

3.0	<p>Annual Performance of SCP</p> <p>SW took the Partnership through an annual performance report on the Sustainable Community Strategy which was developed following extensive consultation with local residents and was adopted in December 2006.</p> <p>The Strategy had nine themes including transport, economy, community safety, housing and health with an Action Plan of 152 targets.</p> <p>Since adoption, the action plan had been monitored on a six monthly basis using a RAG grading method (Red, Amber and Green).</p> <p>In June 2007, 74% of actions were on target or had made some progress.</p> <p>In December 2007, 80% of actions were on target or had made some progress, which demonstrates that there was a 6% improvement in performance between June and December 2007 and more importantly, that the strategy has achieved an excellent level of performance in the first year of the strategies life span. The report before you summaries performance against each theme.</p> <p>GB congratulated the Council on its summary document to the SCP and stated that this was a succinct document and in particular, the 'Learning for All' theme reflected a broad spectrum of education.</p> <p>Agreed:</p> <p>That TWT note the progress made in the first twelve months of the Sustainable Community Strategy; and</p> <p>That TWT agree that the monitoring of the Sustainable Community Strategy Action Plan be subsumed into the local action plan for Kent Agreement Two.</p> <p>Action: None.</p>	
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4.0

Kent Agreement Two, Local Action Plan 2008 – 2011

SW outlined the current process of negotiating the second Kent Agreement, which would set out an ambitious contract for Kent for the next three years. The process had been time consuming and had involved all partners across Kent in developing the Agreement

CF stated that Kent was well ahead nationally in developing its second Agreement and the package of 35 indicators was now in place. It was expected that Ministers would sign off the Kent Agreement in June 2008 and stated that the focus was now on developing targets and Local Action Plans to support delivery.

SW outlined the summary of the draft Local Action Plan that was before TWT, which set out Tunbridge Wells evidence and priorities in line with the Kent wider targets. She stated that this was the first Local Action Plan to be developed in Kent and was now being used as a template for other plans across the County.

GB informed the meeting that discussions were underway in terms of agreeing the additional 16 statutory DCFS (Department of Children, Families and Schools) targets.

In addition, Tunbridge Wells had been a pilot for a new Local Children Service Partnership and has been successful in looking at innovative approaches to children services in the borough.

GB endorsed the prioritisation of the 35 targets in the LAP and agreed that these reflected the educational achievement of the local schools.

Dr BC sought clarity on how the Kent wide targets were going to be set and NH explained that facilitation officers were currently developing these targets at the Countywide level, but that we needed to develop a local picture of need in parallel to ensure local targets for the borough.

TC commented on the need to ensure central government was not directing a top down approach and that Kent needed to also ensure it was feeding upwards into the targets.

CF stated that the 35 targets has been subject to a negotiation and only 2 of the 35 had been pushed from central government

Agreed:

That TWT note the prioritisation of the 35 targets within the LAP.

	<p>That a final draft be presented for endorsement in July 2008.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>That the Public Services Board be asked to consider the draft and ensure local targets are set for the borough in line with partner plan and priorities.</p>	<p>That the Public Services Board be asked to consider the draft and ensure local targets are set for the borough in line with partner plan and priorities.</p>
5.0	<p>Changing Dynamics of Tunbridge Wells</p> <p>GM took the Partnership through exercises and presentation which outlined the key challenges and opportunities for the borough in the future.</p> <p>The presentation highlighted a number of key point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall in total employment levels • SE Dynamic around M4/M40/ M3 • Low Business start ups v high self employed • Skills divide – schools v resident based workforce • Long term sickness • Family Friendly • Hot spots of deprivation • Housing affordability - major issue • High journey times • Changing geography of Kent – fast rail link <p>It was agreed that the borough audit would be revised in line with the key comments made through the exercises and draft document would be circulated which begin to set out the key priorities for the borough.</p> <p>Action: The Borough Audit to be circulated to partners.</p>	<p>Circulate borough audit presentation to partners</p> <p>NH</p>
6.0	<p>AOB</p> <p>MS informed TWT, that recent data showed that West Kent continued to benefit from low crime, in particular Tunbridge Wells.</p> <p>CB thanked everyone for coming and hoped that they had found the meeting stimulating.</p>	
7.0	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Friday 18th July 2008 14.00 – 16.00 at Saloman's</p>	