

**Sustainable Community Plan 2006-2011  
performance report: annual review  
(2008/09)**

**Paper 4**

## **Background**

The Sustainable Community Plan 2006-2011 sets the vision for the borough 'Enhancing the quality of life for all.' The Borough Council and its partners are collectively working, on behalf of the Local Strategic Partnership, towards meeting the targets set within the plan in order to meet this vision.

This report reviews the performance of the current action plan over the past financial year (2008/09), comparing performance at September 2008 against that at the year end (March 2009). It also highlights those areas that may require more focus.

It is important to note that this report will be the last review of the current Sustainable Community Plan action plan, in light of the planned refresh during 2009.

The last performance update reported the progress made between December 2007 and September 2008. Seventy nine percent of actions were either on target, or had made some progress, which is exceptional performance for the second year of the plan.

We are still awaiting updates on 10% of the action plan, which could alter performance levels slightly. Therefore a copy of the full report will be made available on the 'Tunbridge Wells Together' website for your reference once this data has been submitted.

## **Monitoring the Sustainable Community Plan**

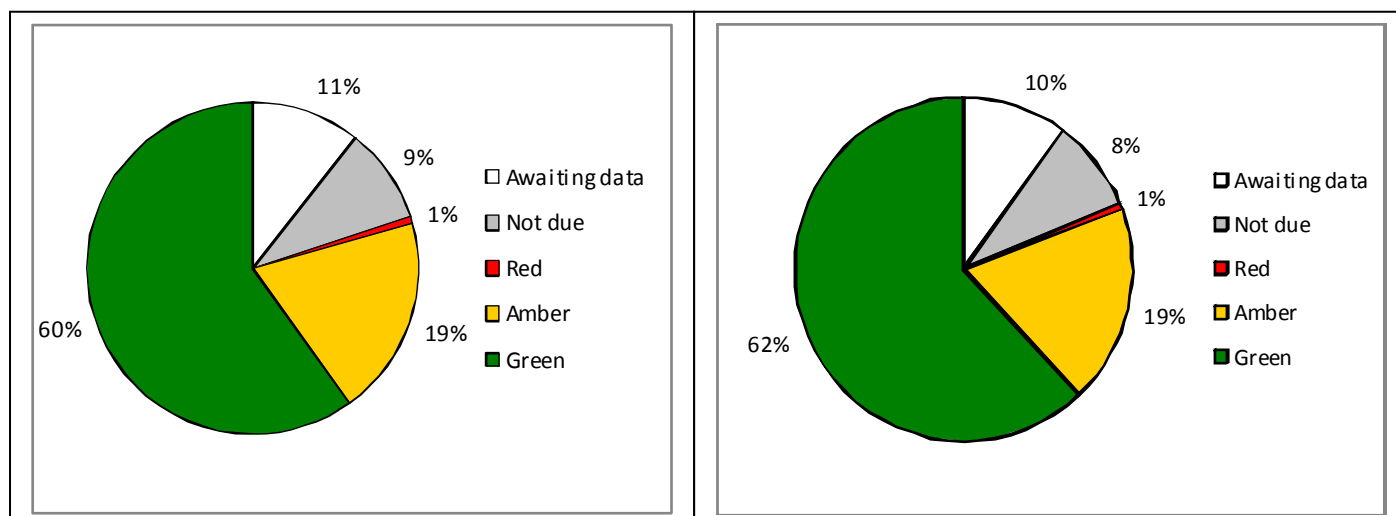
There are 152 actions within the action plan and the performance of these actions has once again been measured using the RAG (Red, Amber and Green) grading method. There were a number of actions, which could only be measured on an annual basis or were currently awaiting information, which has altered the final level of performance for this period.

## **Performance update**

Over two years after the plan's adoption, 62% of actions within the action plan are on target or already achieved. A further 19% have made some progress, producing a total of 81% of actions on target or making progress. This is a 2% increase from that recorded in September 2008. However we are still awaiting information on 10% of the plan, which relates to 15 individual actions. Twelve actions sit within theme 9: Learning for all. Updates on all these actions, are expected shortly.

Jul – Sept 2008/09

Jan – Mar 2008/09



Only one action is underperforming (1%). Detail on this action is provided below:

Theme	Action
1. Environment	1.1 Carefully control the amount, location and design of development including: planning committees, comment on planning applications and carry out sustainability appraisals
	Work deferred on programme of developing sustainability appraisals due to other priorities

Themes that have achieved a high level of performance during 2008/09 are:

- Maintaining a thriving local economy
- Maintaining community safety and reducing fear of crime
- Enabling people to take part in and enjoy leisure activities

## Achievements

A summary of the progress made within each theme is detailed in appendix A. In terms of the progress made within individual actions, it is important to note that a large number of actions have already fully achieved their desired outcomes. These actions are as follows:

Theme	Action
1. Environment	1.3 Increase community involvement in the protection and management of the countryside
	1.5 Ensure 90% of new dwellings are built on previously developed land
	2.3 Arrange heritage open day in Royal Tunbridge Wells
	2.5 Present Conservation awards for: high standards of architecture and planning; shop fronts
	2.7 Produce the Cranbrook Heritage Trail for the 2007 tourist season
2. Economy	1.7 Support local produce and producers by fortnightly Farmers Market
	2.7 Implement the Cranbrook Tourism Action Plan
	3.1 Under the Tunbridge Wells Business Forum, establish a proactive Town Centre business working group in Royal Tunbridge Wells and produce an outline Town Centre action plan focusing on joint marketing and other issues

3. Leisure	1.1 Bring together voluntary, commercial and Council run leisure organisations and schools to offer a Go and Try incentive scheme for a limited period to young people
	1.2 Work with youth clubs, the youth service and artists to give young people opportunities to try out different arts activities
	1.3 Encourage participation by children and young people in youth, cultural and community initiatives through: delivering workshops for schools, contributing to Kent and Medway Museum's partnership Inside Out project for young people in Kent
	1.4 Improve provision of play and recreation facilities in Royal Tunbridge Wells and the parishes, as identified in the Local Plan review and the Playing Pitch Strategy
	3.2 Improvement to parks through: landscape management plans, green flag applications
5. Transport	1.10 Continue the programme of pedestrian improvements in Royal Tunbridge Wells town centre, in accordance with the Pedestrian facilities Audit, needed to facilitate walking and movement
	2.5 Provide easy access buses on route 402
6. Housing	1.4 Increase the provision of affordable housing and smaller homes in our towns and villages by developing and implementing planning policies and a Supplementary Planning document on affordable housing.
	3.1 Develop, implement and monitor a West Kent Homelessness Strategy
	4.5 Introduce a Choice Based lettings scheme by 2008 to increase choice in the allocation of an maximise the use of existing social and privately rented housing in partnership with other Kent local authorities
7. Health	1.3 Provide play activities for young people at various outdoor locations across the borough
	3.7 Reduce the patient pathway time from referral to treatment to a maximum of 18 weeks
8. Social Inclusion	1.2 Develop neighbourhood forums including: Develop Sherwood Community Trust, Grant support No.1 Community Trust (Showfields)
	1.3 Identify and establish group in Showfields and run pilot project to increase participation and improve community
	1.5 Develop and support community facilities in Sherwood and Showfields
	2.2 Provide appropriate pre-school opportunity in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
9. Education	3.4 Increase number of schools achieving Healthy Schools status
	3.7 Provide lifelong learning to include: independent living, family learning, vocational training, creative skills, healthy living and languages.

## Next Steps

On the approval of 'Tunbridge Wells Together' and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Cabinet, the Sustainable Community Plan is due to be refreshed during 2009. Much of our partnership focus will be placed on this refresh over the next few months, particularly within the thematic delivery groups. The refreshed strategy will look to identify a number of high level and long term priority objectives to meet our vision 'Enhancing the quality of life for all.'

Monitoring of the current action plan will cease from this point, however it should be noted that this level of performance demonstrates a strong commitment to achieving the targets within the action plan and has brought together a range of partners to ensure we achieve the priorities which were set out in the current community plan.

## Recommendations:

1). That TWT note the progress made between September 2008 and March 2009, within the action plan of the Sustainable Community Plan.