

Public Document Pack



Date: 23 March 2015
Our ref: Cabinet/Agenda
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CABINET

2 APRIL 2015

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held at **7.00 pm on Thursday, 2 April 2015** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Membership:

Councillor Johnston (Chairman); Councillors: Nicholson, Everitt, D Green, E Green and Harrison

A G E N D A

Item
No

Subject

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive any declarations of interest. Members are advised to consider the extract from the Standard Board Code of Conduct for Members, which forms part of the Declaration of Interest Form at the back of this Agenda. If a Member declares an interest, they should complete that Form and hand it to the Officer clerking the meeting
3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SCHEDULED MEETING** (Pages 1 - 8)
To approve the summary of recommendations and decisions of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 January 2015, copy attached
4. **MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY CABINET** (Pages 9 - 14)
To approve the summary of recommendations and decisions of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 February 2015, copy attached.
5. **CREDIT METHODOLOGY CHANGES** (Pages 15 - 22)
6. **EAST KENT HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION STRATEGY 2014-19** (Pages 23 - 46)
7. **TRANSFER OF THE FORT ROAD HOTEL FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT** (Pages 47 - 50)
8. **THANET COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN FOR 2015-2016** (Pages 51 - 82)

Declaration of Interest form - back of agenda

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CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2015 at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillor Johnston (Chairman); Councillors Nicholson, Everitt, D Green, E Green and Harrison

In Attendance: Councillors: Bayford, Binks, Bruce, King, Marson, D Saunders, S Tomlinson and Wells

227. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received at the meeting.

228. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Johnston said that she gave a donation to the Save Manston Group as previously declared.

229. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor Nicholson proposed, Councillor Harrison seconded and Members agreed the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 11 November 2014.

230. MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Councillor Johnston proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Members agreed the minutes of the extraordinary Cabinet meeting subject to the following amendments:

Point in Minute 226 be replaced by the following:-

Officers recommended (based on legal advice) that it was inappropriate to undertake a stage by stage approach to funding a CPO. Unless the investment was in place, the prospects of a CPO were much diminished.

231. RECOMMENDATION FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL FOLLOWING CALL IN OF THE MANSTON AIRPORT CABINET DECISION

Cabinet debated the recommendation forwarded by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Members agreed that the Panel had conducted a good debate on the issue before coming up with a recommendation for Cabinet to consider.

Councillor Johnston proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. That no further action be taken at the present time on a CPO of Manston Airport, on the basis that the Council has not identified any suitable expressions of interest that fulfil the requirements of the Council for a CPO indemnity partner and that it does not have the financial resources to pursue a CPO in its own right;
2. That this decision be reviewed by Cabinet on receipt of any new information from the Minister of Transport.

232. COUNCIL TAX - EMPTY HOMES PREMIUM

The proposals for introducing the Council tax on empty properties in the District would see properties that have been empty and substantially unfurnished for more than two years being levied. A public consultation was conducted, whose results show support for the proposal.

Councillor D. Saunders spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor Everitt proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Members approved the introduction of the Council Tax “long term empty” premium from 1st April 2015.

233. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2014/15

Cabinet received an update against the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and capital programmes for 2014/15 based on monitoring undertaken for the period to the end of November.

Eight months monitoring data was used and that reflected a better indication of the potential outturn position, although there remained pressure to deliver a breakeven position. The report provided assurance that Managers would be monitoring the budget performance over the coming months and taking corrective action where required to bring it back to a balanced budget position. The Council would continue to look for further efficiencies over the remainder of the year. Controls over non-essential spending and the restriction on recruitment to where it was absolutely essential would continue.

Councillors Bayford and Binks spoke under Council Procedure 24.1.

Councillor Everitt proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Members Cabinet agreed the following:

1. To note the projected outturn position for 2014/15 for the General Fund;
2. To note the current Housing Revenue Account position;
3. To approve to transfer £1.443m within the HRA to the Earmarked HRA New Properties Reserve ready for the Delivery of the 2015-2018 HCA Affordable home programme;
4. To note the General Fund capital outturn and agree the budget virements detailed as per Annex 2 to the report; for the General Fund capital programme;
5. To note the HRA capital outturn and agree the budget virements as detailed as per Annex 3 of the report;
6. To note the position in relation to Procurement.

234. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY - MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2014/15

Members were provided with an economic update for the 2014/15 financial year. This included information on the latest interest rate forecasts provided by Capita, the Council’s treasury management advisors.

No changes were proposed to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/15 as approved by Council on 2 October 2014. The report set out the Council's capital plans, alongside the latest position against the associated prudential indicators.

The meeting was advised of the Council's current investment portfolio. The Council held £37.243m of investments as at 30 September 2014 for which the yield was 0.55% against a benchmark of 0.35%. Cabinet confirmed that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were adhered to during this period. New borrowing of £1m was undertaken within the first six months of the year and no debt re-scheduling had taken place.

Councillor Everitt proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Members agreed to:

1. Approve the Cabinet report and agree the prudential and treasury indicators that are shown in the report;
2. Recommend the report to Council.

235. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR 2015/16

The report considered by Cabinet covered the Council's capital plans (including prudential indicators), Minimum Revenue Provision policy, treasury management strategy and investment strategy.

Councillor Everitt proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Members agreed to recommend to Council the following:

1. The Capital Plans, Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2015/16 to 2017/18, including the Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator;
2. The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy;
3. The Treasury Management Strategy for 2015/16 to 2017/18 and the Treasury Indicators;
4. The Investment Strategy for 2015/16 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy, including the detailed criteria.

236. 2015/16 BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2015-19

Cabinet considered the draft budget strategy for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital programme for 2015-16, and the draft Medium Term Financial Plan for 2015-19. Members noted that Council had reduced government funding in 2015-16 following the 2013 Spending Review and the 2014 Autumn Statement. Those reductions were already assumed in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2014-18. The MTFS was approved as part of 2014-15 budget setting.

Councillor Everitt proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Cabinet recommended to Council the following:

1. The draft Medium Term Financial Plan at Annex 1 to the report;
2. The draft General Fund Revenue budget estimates for 2015-16 to 2018-19 and the resulting budget requirement for 2015-16;

3. The level of general reserves be held at £2,177k, and specific earmarked reserves be used as identified in Annex 5;
4. The HRA budget estimates for 2015-16 to 2018-19 and the HRA services charges as shown at Annex 3 of the report;
5. That Members agree to a 10% reduction in the grant to minor preceptors as per section 3.26;
6. That Members approve the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Budgets for 2014-16 as detailed at Annexes 2 and 4 to the report;

Cabinet also agreed the following:

1. To delegate the approval of the EK Housing Management Fee to the Director of Community Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning;
2. To delegate decisions on the use of reserves up to and including £100k per movement to the Director of Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and the relevant service Portfolio Holder where appropriate.

237. NOTICE OF MOTION NO.2 - DESIGNATION OF CONSERVATION AREA, CLIFTONVILLE

Members considered the results of the public consultation exercise into the proposal to designate a new conservation area at Ethelbert Road and Athelstan Road, Cliftonville West Ward undertaken from the 22 September 2014 until Friday 31 October 2014.

The public consultation exercise had shown that the area under consideration was generally recognised as having a special character and appearance worth safeguarding and there was widespread support for the designation of the conservation area at Ethelbert Road and Athelstan Road. The public also showed support for measures to control certain permitted developments and alterations within the area identified by use of an Article 4 Direction.

Cabinet then considered the recommendations that the Ethelbert and Athelstan Road area (highlighted in annex 1 of the Cabinet report) plan be adopted as a designated Conservation Area and that officers prepare, consult and undertake the formal designation of an Article 4 Direction in respect of this area.

Councillors Bayford and Marson spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor D. Green proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. To approve the Ethelbert and Athelstan Road area be adopted as a designated Conservation Area and that this be communicated to all parties involved and the matter be reported to Council for information;
2. That officers prepare, consult (including with internal stakeholders) and undertake the formal designation of an Article 4 Direction in respect of this area;

3. That the remainder of the areas are progressed as part of a management plan towards consultation with members of the public for consideration as designated Conservation Areas. Part of this process will include consultation of an Article 4 Direction for each area.

238. WASTE REGULATIONS TEEP (TECHNICALLY, ENVIRONMENTALLY AND ECONOMICALLY PRACTICABLE TEST) REPORT

The conclusions of the Technical, Environmental and Economic Practicability test carried out for recycling in Thanet under the Waste England and Wales Regulations 2011 (amended) were reported to the meeting. The assessment concluded that the impact of moving to fully separated kerbside sorting of recyclable material would not be economically practicable at this stage, even though this would pass the technical and environmental tests.

Councillor Harrison proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Members agreed that the current collection methodology be retained in Thanet for the present as full kerbside sorting is not economically feasible, but the system is reviewed when significant changes to the collection service are being proposed.

239. ASSET MANAGEMENT - DISPOSALS

The Council used its property assets for a range of purposes including direct delivery of services, revenue generation and supporting corporate plan objectives. The current general fund portfolio was diverse and was reviewed regularly in relation to ensuring the property holding continued to provide the best output for the council.

Councillor Bayford spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor Everitt proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Cabinet agreed to the sites contained in Table 1 below as being surplus and authorise the estates team to progress through the disposal framework.

Table 1

Annex Number	Asset Number	Site	Proposal
1	455/1-1	4c York Street, Ramsgate	Dispose of freehold for capital receipt.
2	402/1-1	Bell Meadow St Nicholas-at-Wade	Dispose of freehold for the benefit of the community
3	No asset no	Princes Road Store Ramsgate	Dispose of freehold for capital receipt.
4	1808/1-2	Leigh Road Security hut and adj land Ramsgate	Dispose of freehold for capital receipt
5	317/3-1	Land at Steven Court, Ramsgate	Leased for many years to the residents of Steven Court who use as garden land, disposal freehold subject to charge to remain as garden land.
6	388/2-various	York Gate House, Broadstairs and Broadstairs Pavillion	Disposal of freehold for capital receipt.
7	59/1-1	Land at Covell's Row Margate	Disposal of freehold for capital receipt
8	12/5-2	Former promenade toilets adj to Seaview Terrace Margate	Disposal of freehold for capital receipt
9	No asset no.	Land at Clarendon Road Margate	Disposal of freehold for capital receipt.

240. ASSET MANAGEMENT - THEATRE ROYAL AND 19 HAWLEY SQUARE

Cabinet considered proposals put forward to procure an operator for the Theatre Royal Margate and 19 Hawley Square through an OJEU process, offering the combined estates on a long leasehold to support the capital investment required. Councillor Everitt confirmed that 16A Hawley Square was included in the disposal.

Councillors Wells and M. Tomlinson spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor Everitt proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Cabinet agreed to allow officers to follow an OJEU process to procure an operator for the Theatre Royal Margate and 19 Hawley Square. This will ensure that both premises are contractually tied together and offering them on a long leasehold will support the capital investment required. Cabinet also authorises the estates team to progress through the disposal framework.

241. AGREEING NEW TENANCY CONDITIONS

East Kent Housing on behalf Thanet District Council had been reviewing the current tenancy agreement in light of these changes. In order to introduce a new tenancy agreement for all tenants; a statutory process of consultation had now been undertaken and the final draft of the tenancy agreement and its conditions was brought before Cabinet for consideration.

Councillor Nicholson proposed, Councillor Harrison seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. The granting of new tenancies in accordance with the Council's approved Tenancy Policy on the new conditions of tenancy set out in the tenancy agreement template attached at Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report; with effect from 1st April 2015;
2. That Notice of Variation under Section 103 of the Housing Act 1985 be served on all existing tenants varying the terms of all existing tenancies to those new conditions of tenancy as set out in the draft tenancy agreement template at Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report; with effect from 1st April 2015.

242. ADOPT REVISED HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND DISABILITY ADAPTATIONS POLICY 2015-2019

The Council had a policy that had been adopted in 2003 and last revised in 2009. The proposed policy update was being suggested in order to cover current Council priorities. A full consultation had been undertaken leading up to the final document that was brought to Cabinet for adoption.

Councillor Nicholson proposed, Councillor Harrison seconded and Members adopted the policy and provide delegated authority to the Head of Housing in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to develop further grant and loan schemes within the scope of this policy.

243. THANET PARKWAY STATION

Members received an update on the progress of the Parkway Station Project.

Councillors Bayford and Binks spoke under Council Procedure 24.1.

Councillor Nicholson proposed, Councillor Harrison seconded and Cabinet noted the current position with regard to progress on the Thanet Parkway Station and confirmed their support for the project, subject to the consultation.

244. ESTABLISHMENT OF EAST KENT SERVICES COMMITTEE AND ASSOCIATED ARRANGEMENTS

Members discussed the proposed revised collaboration arrangement for East Kent for those authorities in East Kent which were still sharing services through East Kent Services and East Kent Human Resource Partnership. They also considered a revised committee structure and operating arrangements and a proposed administrative collaboration agreement. Members were advised that once implemented the East Kent Joint Arrangements Committee would cease to exist.

Councillor E. Green proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Members agreed option 7.1 of the Cabinet report which proposed that Members 'approve the proposed arrangements and collaboration agreement.'

Cabinet further recommended to Council that Members:

- i) Approve the operating arrangements, terms of reference and rules of procedure at Schedules 1 and 2 for a new joint committee to be known as the East Kent Services Committee;

- ii) Adopt the Protocol on Scrutiny of the East Kent Services Committee set out at Schedule 3;
- iii) Reaffirm the collaboration objectives and partnership values set out at Schedule 4;
- iv) Agree that each Council (with the approval of each executive) appoints two executive members and two substitute executive members to the East Kent Services Committee. Thereafter each Council to appoint members in accordance with its own constitution;
- v) Approve the arrangements for the discharge of functions and delegations contained in Schedule 5 to this report;
- vi) Authorise their respective Chief Executives to discharge the powers and functions as described in the section of this report headed "The Proposed Collaboration Agreement" together with any other functions as may be appropriate to ascribe to them in the proposed collaboration agreement;
- vii) Agree that the revised arrangements at 1 to 6 above, are effective from 10:30 am on 11 February 2015 subject to the Cabinets and Councils of each of the authorities having made the decisions set out at 1 to 8 in identical terms;
- viii) Authorise the respective chief executives to approve on behalf of their respective councils a collaboration agreements incorporating the above resolutions and any other necessary terms to the ensure efficient and equitable delivery of the collaboration objectives and partnership values as set out in this report.

Meeting concluded: 8.30 pm

EXTRAORDINARY CABINET

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 19 February 2015 at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillor Mrs Johnston (Chairman); Councillors Nicholson, Everitt, D Green, E Green and Harrison

In Attendance: Councillors Binks, Fenner, King, Marson, Poole, D Saunders, M Saunders and S Tomlinson

245. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor E. Green.

246. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

247. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The performance report was considered by the Corporate Performance Review Working Party who made some suggestions about the presentation of the performance data. These suggestions were taken on board by officers when they produced the report for Cabinet.

Some of the highlights are that twenty-three projects were being progressed to work towards Council's priorities, and twenty of these were on track. The report gave account of what officers were doing to mitigate any slippage. The main positive features of project performance were:

- Securing a £1.3 million grant for work on the North Thanet coast seawall;
- The creation of affordable housing units from long term empty properties within the district;
- On-going improvement of play facilities in the area over autumn and winter;
- Continuing improvement of the Yacht Valley facilities at the Royal Ramsgate Harbour;
- Construction has started on Thanet's 'Excellent Homes for all' sites.

The report also added for the first time more information on management of the business, including levels of staff sickness, freedom of information requests, complaints and compliments received, and quarterly figures for performance levels provided by all of the shared services.

Councillor D. Green proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Members agreed to note the council's performance and consider the remedial actions listed (as set out in option 3.1 of the Cabinet report).

248. THANET DISTRICT PARKING POLICY

Cabinet Members noted that there was a need to come up with an effective parking policy for Thanet to cover business, leisure and residential areas and reconcile competing demands whilst achieving safe use of roads. A key aim was to support the local economy. The policy aimed to create space for residents who wanted to park near their properties and would also support the environmental agenda.

The new policy would take into consideration concerns raised by residents and Members regarding some areas in the district that were experiencing parking problems. The policy would also try to balance the challenges posed by balancing peak demand and under-utilised parking spaces in some parts of the district and to ensure that the council meets our statutory obligations.

Councillor King spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor Harrison proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Members approved the Thanet District Council Parking Policy 2015-2020.

249. POLICY FOR SECTION 44A DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATE RELIEF

A review of the Council Tax and Business Rate Discretionary and Hardship Relief Policy was undertaken and the findings were outlined in the report. Members were advised that the proposed changes reduced the risk of financial loss to Council whilst at the same time supporting small businesses without creating a significant impact on the Council's overall financial position. The proposed would introduce a limit of £10,000 above which exceptional cases would be considered by the S151 Officer and appropriate Portfolio Holder.

Councillor Everitt proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Cabinet agreed that the revised Section 3 of the policy as set out in Annex 1 to the Cabinet report be adopted.

250. PROPOSAL FOR THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL TO JOIN THE DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE

Cabinet noted that Thanet had the highest number of people living with dementia in the whole of Kent. The Prime Ministers Dementia Challenge was launched in 2012 which recommended the development of local Dementia Action Alliances to bring together people with dementia, their carer's and key organisations.

The Kent Dementia Action Alliance was set up to transform the quality of life of people with dementia and their carers within Kent through promoting the National Dementia Declaration and delivering on the Action Plans submitted by Alliance members thereby informing commissioning decisions and development of services for people with dementia and their carers.

Officers researched joining Dementia Action Alliance to enable Thanet DC to work towards creating dementia friendly communities. They were currently working in partnership with Kent Housing Group, Joint Policy and Planning Board (JPPB) to implement a Dementia Housing Action Plan for Housing across Kent.

Councillor S. Tomlinson spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor Nicholson proposed, Councillor Harrison seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. That Thanet District Council joins the Dementia Action Alliance;
2. To approve the proposed action plan in Annex 1 to the Cabinet report.

251. SPORTS AND ACTIVE RECREATIONAL STRATEGY 2015-2019

Cabinet observed that the new Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2015-2019 set out the council's visions, priorities, actions and outcomes for the services it will provide over the next four years. The strategy would build on from the successful outcomes achieved

in the last 4 years, and identify new areas of action following recent consultation with residents and local and national partners.

The new strategy provided clear direction for delivering corporate priority that supported a broad range of sports and leisure and coastal facilities and activities but also link into other corporate plan priorities, thus meeting many of the wider social agendas outlined in the document including.

- Supporting economic growth
- Tackling disadvantage
- Supporting voluntary sector
- Safer communities
- Promoting open spaces

Thanet is currently one of the most deprived areas in the country and the local health inequalities are mirrored by a lack of basic physical activity participation amongst our residents. The strategy will work with local and national partners to change social attitude and implement effective strategies to enhance positive change in participation which in turn will support the health outcomes within our district.

Councillor Marson and Councillor King spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor Johnston proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Members agreed the revised Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2015-2019 and endorsed the actions and priority outcomes to further enhance the provision of Sport and Active Recreation in Thanet.

252. REDRESS SCHEMES FOR LETTINGS AGENCY WORK AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT WORK

The statutes that came into force on 1 October 2014 stated that all lettings agents and property managers in England were under a legal obligation to become a member of a Government approved redress scheme.

This meant that tenants and landlords could from now onwards complain to an independent person about the service they received when dealing with lettings agents and property managers in the private residential sector. Thanet District Council now had a duty to enforce the provisions of The Redress Schemes for Lettings Agency Work and Property Management Work (Requirement to Belong to a Scheme etc) (England) Order 2014.

Councillor D. Saunders spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor Nicholson proposed, Councillor Harrison seconded and Cabinet agreed the following:

1. To delegate the implementation and enforcement arrangements for The Redress Schemes for Lettings Agency Work and Property Management Work (Requirement to Belong to a Scheme etc) (England) Order 2014 (SI 2014/2359) to the Director of Community Services;
2. That the penalty for non-compliance with the Order be £5,000, unless extenuating circumstances apply;
3. To authorise the Director of Community Services, or an officer authorised by the Director of Community Services, to determine what are extenuating circumstances and to determine what alternative penalty is appropriate in each case.

253. PIERREMONT HALL AND PROPERTIES, BROADSTAIRS

Cabinet agreed the need to dispose of the Pierremont Hall and related properties through the current Council's asset disposal process in order to continue discussions with Broadstairs Town Council in relation to the latter's interest in acquiring these assets and its community right to bid.

Councillor Binks spoke under Council Procedure 24.1.

Councillor Everitt proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Cabinet agreed the following:

1. To take Pierremont Hall and properties, shown on Annex 1 (to the Cabinet report), through the asset disposal process;
2. That following agreement from Cabinet, to continue to progress through the asset disposal process; negotiations with the Town Council as part of their Community Right to Bid, following the timeframe and process documented in the Localism Act 2011;
3. That should the town council decide not to proceed within the timescales imposed under the Act then cabinet will be asked to consider progressing to a freehold sale on the open market.

254. RAMSGATE BEACH CLUB

Through the Destination Management Plan, Beach Management and Development was identified as a priority and an opportunity to make better use of Thanet as a destination for residents and visitors.

An understanding the feasibility of having a beach club in Ramsgate would help Council adopt a more effective marketing approach for this site in order to gain interest in a long lease with associated concession, to deliver something more relevant to Ramsgate's regeneration. This would allow the site to contribute positively towards a healthy lifestyle and leisure activities, by offering new facilities to attract people to visit and enjoy this part of the coast.

The ambition would be to have a facility that would provide new activities on the beach to be enjoyed by residents and visitors and will increase the use of the beach in shoulder months. The club would act as an attraction to the town and would need to have a sustainable business model that allowed long-term opportunities for people to enjoy the beach and the surrounding area.

It was also important that alongside providing a mix of activities and sports provision the proposals highlighted the need for commercial activity in order to make the scheme financially viable. This would include providing for a café, restaurant, meeting/club rooms, a treatment room and self-catering accommodation. The site provided a perfect space for café and restaurant facilities in relation to passing footfall and the sea views.

In taking this proposal forward Council expected to see the establishment of a facility that would enhance the beach and the Club's services and activities taking advantage of the location.

Councillor D. Saunders spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor D. Green proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Cabinet Members agreed the following:

1. To approve Option 4 to progress this site through the council's process of Asset Disposal and Procurement Policy to put the site out to the market, on a long leasehold, supplemented by a service concession to procure a viable beach club leisure facility supported by tourism holiday accommodation;
2. That following completion of a thorough procurement process, an assessment of the opportunities is made in consultation with the Cabinet Member of the Strategic Economic Development Services with the preferred option being brought back to Cabinet for decision;
3. That the preferred option will be supported by a comparative valuation to support due process under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972. If there is an undervalue Cabinet will be asked to make a decision on whether to proceed with the preferred option.

255. PROJECT MOTORHOUSE

Members noted the progress as reported in the Cabinet report and requested a further update in April 2015. Cabinet noted that additional professional advice was required before a final decision could be made by Members.

Councillor Marson spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor Everitt proposed, Councillor Nicholson seconded and Cabinet confirmed its support to Project Motorhouse and authorised the Head of Economic Development and Asset Management to procure independent advice, including a structural report and valuation advice, and provide an update on this matter at Cabinet in April 2015.

Meeting concluded: 7.53 pm

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CREDIT METHODOLOGY CHANGES

To: **Cabinet – 2 April 2015**

Main Portfolio Area: **Financial Services**

By: **Councillor Everitt, Cabinet Member for Financial Services and Estates**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Thanet Wide**

Summary: This report concerns credit methodology changes and consequent changes to the Council's investment criteria

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 In the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy (TMSS), minimum credit ratings criteria are set for investment counterparties.
- 1.2 On 6 February 2015 Capita Asset Services (Capita), the Council's external treasury management advisor, updated the Council on the possible future impact on financial institutions' credit ratings from the main ratings agencies (Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poors) due to the implied removal of sovereign support.
- 1.3 Capita advised that some financial institutions may see their credit ratings fall as a result of implied sovereign support removal; as this removal may not be fully offset straight away by factors including (i) any underlying improvement in the health of the financial institution in question, and (ii) a more specific focus on increased capital levels aimed at absorbing losses in stressed financial situations.
- 1.4 Capita highlighted that any such fall in financial institutions' credit ratings due to the implied removal of sovereign support is not indicative of deteriorating credit quality in the institution concerned. Instead it is reflective of underlying methodology changes by the credit ratings agencies in light of regulatory changes.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 The Council's TMSS uses a Lowest Common Denominator (LCD) assessment in its minimum credit ratings criteria.
- 2.2 Capita has suggested that the LCD assessment be removed from the TMSS so that the Council continues to have a practical, workable counterparty list despite the implied removal of sovereign support.

3.0 Options

- 3.1 Following approval by the Governance & Audit Committee on 17 March 2015, that Cabinet recommends that (i) the LCD assessment no longer be included in the Council's TMSS, and accordingly that (ii) the Council's TMSS for 2015/16 be amended as per the relevant extracts (sections 4.2 and 5.2) shown in Annex 1.
- 3.2 That Council resolves that the TMSS for 2015/16 remains unchanged.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial and VAT

- 4.1.1 If option 3.2 is chosen the Council's counterparty list may reduce in due course.

4.2 Legal

- 4.2.1 This report evidences that the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management continue to be met.

4.3 Corporate

- 4.3.1 This report evidences that the Council continues to carefully manage its treasury function.

4.4 Equity and Equalities

- 4.4.1 There are no equality or equity issues arising directly from this report.

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Cabinet approves and recommends Option 3.1 to Council.

6.0 Decision Making Process

- 6.1 Following approval by Cabinet, this report is to be considered by Council for approval.

7.0 Disclaimer

- 7.1 This report is a technical document focussing on public sector investments and borrowings and, as such, readers should not use the information contained within the report to inform personal investment or borrowing decisions. Neither Thanet District Council nor any of its officers or employees makes any representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein (such information being subject to change without notice) and shall not be in any way responsible or liable for the contents hereof and no reliance should be placed on the accuracy, fairness or completeness of the information contained in this document. Any opinions, forecasts or estimates herein constitute a judgement and there can be no assurance that they will be consistent with future results or events. No person accepts any liability whatsoever for any loss howsoever arising from any use of this document or its contents or otherwise in connection therewith.

Contact Officer:	Paul Cook, Section 151 Officer, extn 7617
Reporting to:	Madeline Homer, Acting Chief Executive

Annex List

Annex 1	Sections 4.2 and 5.2 of the Council's TMSS for 2015/16
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Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	N/A
Legal	N/A

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Annex 1

SECTIONS 4.2 AND 5.2 FROM THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR 2015/16

4.2 Creditworthiness policy

The primary principle governing the Council's investment criteria is the security of its investments, although the yield or return on the investment is also a key consideration. After this main principle, the Council will ensure that:

- It maintains a policy covering both the categories of investment types it will invest in, criteria for choosing investment counterparties with adequate security, and monitoring their security. This is set out in the specified and non-specified investment sections below; and
- It has sufficient liquidity in its investments. For this purpose it will set out procedures for determining the maximum periods for which funds may prudently be committed. These procedures also apply to the Council's prudential indicators covering the maximum principal sums invested.

The Section 151 Officer will maintain a counterparty list in compliance with the following criteria and will revise the criteria and submit them to Council for approval as necessary. These criteria are separate to that which determines which types of investment instrument are either specified or non-specified as it provides an overall pool of counterparties considered high quality which the Council may use, rather than defining what types of investment instruments are to be used.

Credit rating information is supplied by Capita Asset Services our treasury consultants, on all active counterparties that comply with the criteria below. Any counterparty failing to meet the criteria would be omitted from the counterparty (dealing) list. Any rating changes, rating watches (notification of a likely change), rating outlooks (notification of a possible longer term change) are provided to officers almost immediately after they occur and this information is considered before dealing. For instance, a negative rating watch applying to a counterparty at the minimum Council criteria may be suspended from use, with all others being reviewed in light of market conditions.

The criteria for providing a pool of high quality investment counterparties (both specified and non-specified investments) is:

- Banks 1 - good credit quality – the Council will only use banks which:
 - i. are UK banks; and/or
 - ii. are non-UK and domiciled in a country which has a minimum sovereign long term rating of AAA

and have, as a minimum, the following *credit rating from at least one of Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poors* (where rated):

- i. Short term – F1 (or equivalent)
- ii. Long term – A (or equivalent)

Deleted: The minimum rating criteria uses the lowest common denominator method of selecting counterparties and applying limits. This means that the application of the Council's minimum criteria will apply to the lowest available rating for any institution. For instance, if an institution is rated by two agencies, one meets the Council's criteria, the other does not, the institution will fall outside the lending criteria.

Deleted: credit ratings

- Banks 2 – Part nationalised UK banks – Lloyds Banking Group and Royal Bank of Scotland Group. These banks can be included if they continue to be part nationalised or they meet the above criteria.
- Banks 3 – The Council's own banker for transactional purposes if the bank falls below the above criteria, although in this case balances will be minimised in both monetary size and time.
- Bank subsidiary and treasury operations - The Council will use these where the parent bank has the necessary ratings outlined above.
- Building societies: The Council will use all societies which meet the ratings/criteria for banks outlined above.
- Money market funds (including enhanced money market funds) – AAA
- UK Government (including gilts and the DMADF)
- Local authorities, parish councils, community councils, companies controlled by the Council (either alone or with other Local Authorities) etc
- Supranational institutions

A limit of £5m will be applied to the use of investments with a maturity of over 364 days but not more than 370 days.

Country and sector considerations - Due care will be taken to consider the country, group and sector exposure of the Council's investments. In part, the country selection will be chosen by the credit rating of the sovereign state in Banks 1 above. In addition:

- no more than £5m will be placed with any non-UK country at any time;
- limits in place above will apply to a group of companies;
- sector limits will be monitored regularly for appropriateness.

Use of additional information other than credit ratings. Additional requirements under the Code require the Council to supplement credit rating information. Whilst the above criteria relies primarily on the application of credit ratings to provide a pool of appropriate counterparties for officers to use, additional operational market information will be applied before making any specific investment decision from the agreed pool of counterparties. This additional market information (for example Credit Default Swaps, negative rating watches/outlooks) will be applied to compare the relative security of differing investment counterparties.

Time and monetary limits applying to investments. The time and monetary limits for institutions on the Council's counterparty list are as follows (these will cover both specified and non-specified investments):

	Fitch Long Term Rating (or equivalent) *	Money Limit	Time Limit
Higher quality	AA-	£6m per institution	370 days
Medium quality	A	£5m per institution	370 days
Part nationalised	N/A	£7m per institution	370 days
Debt Management Account Deposit Facility	AAA	unlimited	6 months
Money market Funds (including enhanced money market funds)	AAA	£6m per fund	370 days
Local authorities, parish councils, community councils, companies controlled by the Council (either alone or with other Local Authorities), Supranational institutions etc	N/A	£4m per institution	370 days

**The institution must have this minimum credit rating from at least one of Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poors (where rated).*

The proposed criteria for specified and non-specified investments are shown in section 5 for approval.

5.2 Specified investments

These investments are sterling investments of not more than one-year maturity, or those which could be for a longer period but where the Council has the right to be repaid within 12 months if it wishes. These are considered low risk assets where the possibility of loss of principal or investment income is small. These would include sterling investments which would not be defined as capital expenditure with:

1. The UK Government (such as the Debt Management Account deposit facility, UK treasury bills or a gilt with less than one year to maturity).
2. Supranational bonds of less than one year's duration.
3. Local authorities, parish councils, community councils, companies controlled by the Council (either alone or with other Local Authorities).
4. Pooled investment vehicles (such as money market funds including enhanced money market funds) that have been awarded a high credit rating by a credit rating agency. For category 4 this covers pooled investment vehicles, such as money market funds including enhanced money market funds, rated AAA by Standard and Poor's, Moody's and/or Fitch rating agencies.
5. A body that is considered of a high credit quality (such as a bank or building society). For category 5 this covers bodies with a minimum short term rating of F1 (or the equivalent) and minimum long term rating of A (or the equivalent) as

rated by *at least one of* Standard and Poor's, Moody's and/or Fitch rating agencies.

6. Any part nationalised UK bank or building society.
7. Any subsidiary and treasury operations where the parent bank or building society has the necessary ratings outlined above.
8. The Council's own banker for transactional purposes if the bank falls below the above criteria, although in this case balances will be minimised in both monetary size and time.

Within these bodies, and in accordance with the Code, the Council has set additional criteria to set the time and amount of monies which will be invested in these bodies, as set out in this report.

East Kent Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2014-19

To: **Cabinet – 02 April 2015**

Main Portfolio Area: **Housing and Planning Services**

By: **Cllr Richard Nicholson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder
Housing and Planning Services**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **All wards**

Summary: The council has a statutory duty to publish a Homeless Strategy. The existing strategy ran from 2008 to 2013 and now requires revision. Housing Services has been working jointly with East Kent councils to draft a homelessness prevention strategy. This report requests Cabinet to approve the draft.

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 The Council has a statutory duty to publish a Homeless Strategy. The previous strategy covered the period 2008/9 – 2013/14.

1.1.1 The East Kent Homelessness Prevention Strategy is a joint response to homelessness across the districts of Thanet, Canterbury, Dover and Shepway.

1.1.2 As part of the overarching strategy, a profile for Thanet has been developed with an accompanying action plan. The draft strategy, district profile and action plan have been subject to public consultation and the results have helped to inform the final draft strategy.

2.0 The Current Situation

2.1 Under Sections 1 to 3 Homelessness Act 2002, local housing authorities have a duty to publish a homelessness strategy and to take the strategy into account in the discharge of its functions. The duty requires a review of the housing strategy at least every five years.

2.2 The previous strategy was developed as a joint East Kent strategy in partnership with Shepway, Dover and Canterbury councils and covered the period 2008/09 to 2013/14. While the Council has been relatively successful in its approach to homelessness prevention (see tables in appendix 1), we are now seeing an increased demand in this service area. As well as the wider social costs related to homelessness there are also direct costs to the Council and it is therefore important that the Council continues to work with local and strategic partners in developing a strong preventative approach to homelessness.

2.3 The strategy sets out overarching strategic objectives and priorities for the four councils but incorporates individual local authority action plans which aim to deliver outcomes linked to the priorities. This allows flexibility for local initiatives to be developed which address specific local issues. Profiles for each of the districts also provide the context within which the action plan has been developed.

2.4 This approach provides collective strength with regard to the development and sharing of best practice and facilitates joined up working arrangements with strategic partners such as Supporting People while allowing local flexibility.

3.0 **Consultation**

3.1 The draft strategy, district profile and action plan were published on our website for consultation for an eight week period, 22nd July – 19th September 2014. No comments to the content were received and the only other authority to receive comments was Canterbury, however this specifically related to their action plan.

4.0 **Options**

4.1 **To recommend the strategy, district profile and action plan** (as it is) to be adopted for the period 2014-19 – this will ensure that Thanet District Council's homeless approach is in line with that of the other authorities and allow the East Kent Homelessness Strategy to be approved in April 2015. It will allow the council to fulfil its statutory duty under s1 of the Homelessness Act 2002.

4.2 **To amend the strategy** – any amendments should be in line with legal requirements and help the council to fulfil its statutory duty. This may cause delay to the timetable (depending on the complexity of the change) as a new consultation may need to be carried out.

4.3 **Not to recommend approval or amend the strategy, action plan or district profile** - the Council would not be fulfilling its statutory duty under S1 of the Homelessness Act. Thanet would be out of step with the other participating authorities and this would impact on the overarching East Kent strategy being approved and adopted.

5.0 **Corporate Implications**

5.1 **Finance**

5.1.1 The EK Homeless Strategy itself has no financial implications. The consultation was carried out using the TDC web pages and links to the web page were emailed out to stakeholders.

5.1.2 The delivery of the action plane may have financial implications if projects are developed outside of the existing housing services programme of activity.

5.2 **Legal**

5.2.1 There are no additional legal implications which are not set out within this report.

5.3 **Corporate**

5.3.1 The Draft EK Homeless Strategy has strong links with the ethos and priorities of the Corporate Plan. In particular Priority 2 Tackling Disadvantage – "We will tackle

disadvantage across our district” and Priority 7 “We will plan for the right type and number of homes in the right place to create sustainable communities in the future.”

5.4 Equity and Equalities

5.4.1 Equity and equality are addressed within the strategy. The strategy does not negatively impact on any residents of the district and aims to improve and prevent homelessness situations.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 That cabinet recommend the approval of the East Kent Homelessness Prevention Strategy to full council.

7.0 Decision Making Process

7.1 This is a key decision to go to Full Council. It is a key decision because the strategy is for the whole district and therefore affects all the wards.

Contact Officer:	Ashley Stacey, Strategic Housing Manager,
Reporting to:	Tanya Wenham, Head of Housing Services

Annex List

Annex 1	Draft EK Homeless Strategy 2014-2019
Annex 2	Thanet EK Homeless Strategy Action Plan 2014-19
Annex 3	Thanet DC District Profile

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Sarah Hill
Legal	Steven Boyle
Communications	Consultation –Hannah Thorpe

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East Kent Homelessness Prevention Strategy

2014-2019

1. Foreword

Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet Councils have a track record of working together to deliver improved services for the residents of East Kent.

The first joint homelessness strategy was adopted in 2008 and enabled a more collaborative approach between the councils and key stakeholders to tackling the problem of homelessness. Significant progress was subsequently made in a number of areas but we recognise that homelessness in East Kent remains a live issue and that we need to maintain our collective effort with regard to homelessness prevention.

The emphasis of the strategic approach has been on reducing homelessness and the Council's use of temporary accommodation, improving the quality of temporary accommodation and ensuring that people received the advice and support they need to achieve independence.

The title of this second joint strategy makes it clear that our focus isn't just on dealing with homelessness after the event, although we recognise the importance of this, but rather the need to further develop proactive intervention measures which prevent people from becoming homeless. We want this strategy to encourage a joint approach which shifts the emphasis away from a crisis response towards early intervention.

There is a vast amount of evidence to show the impact that homelessness has on both physical and mental health and wellbeing and therefore the significance of this strategy for the council's and their partners is heightened by recent national changes to the health and care systems and the council's role in the new health and wellbeing structures.

2. Introduction

Section 1 of the Homelessness Act 2002 requires local authorities to publish a Strategy based upon a review of homelessness in their area.

Households experiencing, or threatened with homelessness are often trapped in cycles of deprivation that impact on their health, emotional well-being and life chances. The effects on children within households experiencing or threatened with homelessness can be life-long. Sometimes being homeless is epitomised by the rough sleeper who is living on the streets, but this group of people form a relatively small proportion of all homeless households. Many homeless households are 'hidden' as they may have access to some sort of shelter, but lack a stable, long term, settled home often moving from one form of temporary accommodation to another with consequent impact on health and wellbeing of households and children's education.

Homelessness can also have significant cost implications for local housing authorities and their partners at a time when overall public resources are reducing. This strategy is therefore focused on how the local authority partners working with key partners can help prevent homelessness occurring.

The scope of this strategy was informed by early stage consultation with key stakeholders, which helped us to develop the following strategic objectives:

- ***Early intervention to prevent homelessness before a crisis point is reached.***
- ***Provision of appropriate advice, accommodation and support if crisis occurs.***
- ***Prevention of repeated homelessness to ensure people have settled homes.***

While the strategy is for a five year period up to 2019 we recognise that there will be a need to keep the strategy under regular review (especially the action plan) and that there is a need for flexibility so that it can respond to national policy changes and emerging local strategies.

Review of the strategy will be undertaken by a strategy steering group comprising the council's and key stakeholder partners and there will be opportunities for local forums to assist in this process.

3. The Changing Context

Since the adoption of the previous strategy the national economic context has changed significantly and the government's deficit reduction programme has had an impact in a number of ways.

Government funding to local authorities has reduced significantly and consequently, there is a need to ensure that services are delivered in the most cost effective way possible and to look at alternative models of service provision which are more financially sustainable.

Government has started to introduce its welfare reform programme aimed at incentivising work and individual responsibility. It is recognised that these reforms may have an impact on homelessness and therefore mitigation measures need to be considered within this strategy.

Changes have been made to the way that new affordable housing is funded with a greater share of the development cost being funded by registered providers from the increased revenue streams generated from higher, affordable rent levels. There is a generally recognised need for more affordable housing within East Kent however new provision is still constrained by economic factors.

Local authorities have also been given new responsibilities and flexibilities.

A new health and care system has been introduced with local authorities assuming new strategic responsibilities for the health and wellbeing of residents in their local communities. There are recognised benefits from developing more integrated and preventative services which reduce expenditure on acute health care. Given the health impact of homelessness it is important that the strategy is aligned with these health and social care aims.

The Localism Act 2011 introduced tenancy reform measures designed to help housing authorities make best use of the housing stock in their districts and to meet its housing duty to homeless households through use private of the private rented sector.

4. Where we are now?

Responding to change

The council's have already started to respond to the changes set out above.

All have developed Tenancy Strategies and Policies which recognise the new funding arrangement for affordable housing and seek to use the new tenure flexibilities to make best use of the social housing stock and ensure that it is occupied by those who need it most.

The importance of housing in relation to health & wellbeing has been recognised in the new structures that have been put in place and is included in the joint working on integrated service commissioning.

In 2013 the Joint Planning & Policy Board for Kent published its **Think Housing First** action plan which builds on the housing strand of the overarching Kent health inequalities action plan **Mind the Gap** (2012-15). The document recognises the strong links between housing and health and identified a number of housing issues that have a significant impact on health and well-being. These included rough sleeping and homeless households living in temporary accommodation.

We are responding directly to the need for additional affordable housing by using the new freedoms relating to the use of Housing Revenue Account monies and Right to Buy receipts to enable the building of new homes.

The majority of services providing housing related support to homeless households in East Kent receive funding through the Supporting People programme. In 2013 Kent County Council as the Supporting People Administering Authority initiated a review of its strategic approach to commissioning services and research was undertaken by the Chartered Institute of Housing to assist with the development of a new Commissioning Strategy. The collaborative approach being taken by the four east Kent Councils in relation to homelessness prevention will provide collective strength in influencing future commissioning decisions.

We have been working with our ALMO partner, East Kent Housing to mitigate the impact of welfare reforms on Council tenants such as removal of the spare room subsidy and thereby help avoid the potential for homelessness as a result of rent arrears. Additional staff resources have been employed by EKH to assist with this and EKH will be developing a strategy for mitigating the impact of further reforms.

The economic recession has affected the ability of people to find their own housing solutions. Prospective homebuyers are unable to secure mortgages and there is a lack of confidence among financiers and developers. In response, the Government has established a series of schemes to help buyers into the market.

5. Issues with potential impact on homelessness

Recent and current developments which may lead to increasing demand for homelessness services are:

- a) **Housing benefit reform** in April 2012 resulted in changes being made to Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates which has reduced the ability of low income households to access private rented accommodation which is affordable. Only three in ten properties are affordable for people on LHA.
- b) **An increase in the age threshold that applies to the single room rate** as a consequence of which most single people under the age of 35 who are claiming Housing Benefit will only receive enough money for a room in a shared house. Prior to January 2012 the age threshold was 25. Consequently, an increased number of single people living in one-bedroom self-contained accommodation have found their ability to pay for their home significantly reduced, as can be seen by the example in the table below. There is a possibility that over time this will lead to an increase in the number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and there is also concern about the potential risks of vulnerable single people having to live in shared houses. We therefore need to find ways that risks can be minimised and develop options that help people find safe, secure, quality accommodation.

Weekly LHA rates for April 2014¹:

Type of accommodation	1 bedroom, shared facilities (SAR)	1 bedroom, self-contained	Difference between the two:
Canterbury	£73.88	£119.10	£45.22
Dover/Shepway	£58.50	£86.54	£28.04
Thanet	£60.84	£80.77	£19.93

In addition householders with non-dependent adult children have to pay more. Some may evict their non-dependant. Most of those affected are unlikely to be in Priority Need under homelessness legislation, but will need advice and assistance, stretching limited resources. East Kent councils are working with Registered Providers (RPs) and reputable landlords to increase the stock of well managed, good quality HMOs and studio flats within LHA rates.

- c) **Insufficient accommodation for large families.** There is an identified need to increase the number of affordable, large family homes. However, the new Affordable Rent model, means that the provision of four bedroom houses is less financially viable. We are also in discussions with private landlords and Registered Providers to expand the Housing Association Leasing Scheme but LHA changes will create difficulties in securing larger homes because the highest rate available for any family will be for four bedrooms, irrespective of household size.
- d) **Changes to the benefit system** have been described as the most radical for 60 years. Under Universal Credit, due to be phased in between October 2013 and October 2017, working-age tenants will receive a single monthly payment directly from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). This will include their support for housing costs. This represents a significant departure from the current arrangements, under which many social tenants have their Housing Benefit paid directly to their landlord and receive other benefits weekly or fortnightly.

¹ LHA rates taken from Registered Landlord Association website: RLA.org

Consequently, there is concern about the impact this may have on rent arrears and resulting homelessness.

- e) **An Overall Benefit Cap** of £500 per week for couples and families, and £350 per week for single people. This will affect larger families mainly living in the private rented sector, particularly in expensive areas like London. There is concern that over time, this will result in migration to areas with much cheaper rents, such as some of East Kent's coastal towns, which already suffer high levels of deprivation.
- f) **Reduction in Housing Benefit for Spare Bedrooms in Social Housing** which applies to Social housing tenants living in homes where it has been determined that they have more bedrooms than they need. Households under-occupying by 1 bedroom will have their Housing Benefit reduced by 14%, for 2 or more bedrooms the reduction is 25%. Tenants of pensionable age are exempt as are some households with medical circumstances which necessitate additional bedrooms. Social landlords have seen an increase in demand from tenants wanting to move to smaller homes, which can be in short supply and not immediately available. There is also concern about the potential on-going impact on rent arrears especially where tenants are trying to meet the benefit shortfall from their own financial resources.

6. Causes of homelessness

Local authorities are required to submit a comprehensive set of data returns to government on a regular basis. An analysis of this data across the four council's indicates that the main causes of homelessness are:

- Relationship breakdown
- Loss of secure accommodation
- Insecurity of tenure
- Loss of work or reduction in income

Some households fall into more than one category and certain factors such as financial pressures feature regularly.

We also know that a significant proportion of single person homeless households are vulnerable and often have other support needs.

Key homelessness related data is set out in Appendix 1.

7. Resourcing the Strategy

The level of resources available to enable the delivery of this Strategy is likely to be considerably reduced over the next few years. The key financial constraints that may affect the delivery of this Strategy are as follows:

- Reductions in the levels of overall funding from Central Government Local Authorities will place more pressure on local services, including Housing Options Services.
- The future of the Government's Homelessness Grant for Local Authorities is uncertain beyond 2015.
- The levels of funding available to provide support services are likely to come under increasing pressure during the course of this Strategy

- Ongoing Government changes to the levels of Local Housing Allowance available will restrict the types of property that are accessible to people on low income and in receipt of housing benefit.

To fully implement this strategy we will need to harness resources from a variety of different sources, public and private, and from both new and existing sources.

Details of the resources required to deliver this strategy and their sources are set out below. At this time it is important to recognise that the total level of resources that will be available to deliver this strategy are unclear.

The priorities set out in this strategy will be funded through a combination of the following resources.

- Revenue funding provided by each of the council's to deliver its Housing Options Service and provide homelessness prevention solutions, such as rental deposit bonds.
- Funding streams from Central Government including, the Homelessness Grant and specific funding such as resources to cover transitional housing benefit payment.
- Capital resources provided by the Homes and Communities Agency to fund the development of new affordable homes, including new projects to specifically assist homeless people and other vulnerable households.
- Resources provided by Kent County Council through Supporting People to provide housing related support for vulnerable people.
- Capital resources invested by the councils and our registered provider development partners to deliver new affordable homes across East Kent.
- Investment by private owners to deliver homes for rent across East Kent.
- Resources provided by voluntary partners including staff time and funding for service provision.

Future Resources

Any increase or decrease in the level of resources set out in this Strategy, will clearly impact on our ability to deliver against our strategic objectives and targets. During the course of this Strategy, we will provide further updates on changes to the available resource streams and the impact this will have on our Strategy programme.

8. Priorities

Based on our understanding of the issues and causes of homelessness, we believe that our strategic priorities for tackling homelessness in East Kent over the next five years should be:

Priority 1: Preventing and responding to homelessness before a crisis point is reached

Priority 2: Preventing and responding to rough sleeping

Priority 3: Providing high quality housing options advice before a crisis point is reached and appropriate advice, accommodation and support if crisis occurs

Priority 4: Providing good quality housing that local people can afford and making best use of the housing stock

Priority 5: Promoting partnership working and shared good practice

Priority 6: Deliver excellent homelessness services

We recognise that individual council's may wish to give greater emphasis to some of these priorities in order to address local concerns and that the specific actions each local authority may implement may vary. However, we agree that the areas for action in meeting priorities should include:

Preventing homelessness

Our approach to preventing homelessness will include:

- Developing options to prevent parental exclusions causing homelessness including mediation schemes, working with families to develop a re-housing plan for younger generations
- Ensuring Housing Options services are designed to maximise the prevention of homelessness and ensure the best use is made of resources
- Developing integrated financial management, budgeting skills and benefit advice services
- Working with East Kent Housing on the development of a welfare reform strategy
- Ensuring that rent deposit schemes remain financially sustainable
- Developing 'Tenant Ready' schemes
- Addressing the problem of rough sleeping and ensure effective reconnections to home area for rough sleepers
- Supporting organisations who help in getting homeless people away from sleeping on the street
- Ensuring effective Move On Plan Protocol mechanisms

Providing high quality housing options advice

We will aim to improve our housing options service by:

- Developing arrangements for collecting customer feedback on service provision and for related service improvement.
- Ensuring provision of web based information is of a consistently high standard and increases ability for service users to self serve

Providing good quality affordable housing and making best use of the housing stock

We will seek to make best use of resources by:

- Taking a direct role in the provision of new affordable housing where this is financially viable
- Taking a pro-active approach to bringing empty homes back into use

Promoting partnership working and shared good practice

We will encourage and facilitate partnership working by:

- Developing early warning systems with partners – identifying homelessness at key intervention points (statutory and non-statutory) – including improved hospital and prison discharge protocols, planning for care leavers
- Developing improved service information and data sharing arrangements between partners
- Ensuring that homelessness is recognised as a priority for consideration by the Health and Well Being Board
- Encouraging more Employment Education and Training work and supporting and growing social enterprises locally

The councils are aware of the homelessness prevention framework provided by government in its Housing Options Tool kit and believes that this strategy demonstrates their commitment to working towards meeting the ten key challenges:

1. To adopt a corporate commitment to prevent homelessness this has buy-in across all local authority services.
2. Actively work in partnership with the voluntary sector and other local partners to address support, education, employment and training needs.
3. Offer a Housing options and Homelessness prevention service, including written advice to all clients.
4. Adopt a 'No Second Night Out' model or an effective local alternative.
5. Have housing pathways agreed on development with each key partner and client groups that include appropriate accommodation and support.
6. Develop a suitable private rented sector offer for clients, including advice and support to both clients and landlords.
7. Actively engage in preventing mortgage repossessions including through the Mortgage Rescue Scheme.
8. Have a Homelessness Strategy which sets out a proactive approach to preventing homelessness and is reviewed annually so that it is responsive to emerging needs.
9. Not place any young person aged 16 or 17 in Bed and Breakfast accommodation.
10. Not place any family in B&B unless in an emergency and then for no longer than 6 weeks.

9. Recognising the Local Context

While the impact of changes at a national level has a similar impact on our four council's we recognise that the context at a local level can vary and consequently while we agree on an overarching strategic approach we accept the need for local flexibility to address specific issues. Profiles for each of the districts are therefore attached at Appendix 2 and provide the local context and identify some of the local issues.

In order to ensure these local issues are addressed we also recognise the need for local flexibility in approach. Therefore while all four council's are committed to addressing the shared strategic priorities, individual action plans have been developed and these are attached at Appendix 3. Many of the actions are consistent in terms of approach and outcome but a number are intended to address local concerns.

10. Partnership Working

The council's work with a wide range of statutory and voluntary sector partners to try and prevent homelessness. It is therefore extremely important that we have their support in meeting the priorities and delivering the actions.

One of the priorities of this strategy is to establish a partner engagement structure at the both the East Kent and district council levels. This will comprise a Homelessness Strategy Steering Group for East Kent which will be responsible for delivery of the strategy and undertake annual strategic reviews and a local homelessness forum within each district responsible for regular action plan monitoring and disseminating good practice.

The Steering Group will comprise representatives of the four councils together with one partner representative from each of the local groups and will meet twice a year.

The individual councils will have responsibility for determining membership of their local forum.

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Priority 1: Preventing and responding to homelessness before a crisis point is reached

Aim	Key actions	Timescale	Resources	Responsibility
Maximise homelessness prevention.	Enable homeless households to access appropriate accommodation within the private rented sector. TDC to discharge its homelessness duty by offering long-term accommodation within the private rented sector where possible.	September 2015 and throughout the course of this Strategy	To be funded through existing TDC budget resources.	TDC Housing Options Team
Early identification of potential homelessness.	Close work with the TDC Landlord Liaison Officers and local partner services to prevent homelessness amongst vulnerable households.	Ongoing throughout the course of this strategy.	To be funded through existing TDC budget resources.	TDC Housing Options Team/TDC Landlord Liaison Officers
Support and develop services to promote financial inclusion	Identify solution for Thanet which maximises financial inclusions.	Ongoing throughout the course of this strategy.	To be funded through existing TDC budget resources and wider local partnership resources	TDC
Deliver/purchase sufficient, appropriate temporary accommodation or accommodation suitable for homelessness prevention at crisis point	Purchase properties to remain within the HRA to be used as temporary accommodation .	Throughout the course of this strategy	Existing TDC Resources	TDC Housing Strategy/Housing Options Team

Aim	Key actions	Timescale	Resources	Responsibility
Improve access to the private rented sector	Develop a Social Lettings Agency in Thanet. Review the effectiveness of the service	September 2015	Existing TDC Resources	TDC Strategic Housing Team/Housing Options Team

Priority 2: Preventing and responding to rough sleeping

Aim	Key actions	Timescale	Resources	Responsibility
Develop services to tackle the issue of entrenched rough sleepers. Develop a new homelessness forum within Thanet.	Assess the needs of rough sleepers in the district . Implement plans to tackle entrenched rough sleeping to cover. Work in partnership with KCC Supporting People to ensure that resources are properly targeted	Ongoing throughout the course of this strategy.	Existing budgetary and potential new funding opportunities. .	TDC and wider Homelessness Forum.
Continue existing services which prevent people from rough sleeping.	Continue to support the Gap project. The project to be reviewed annually.	Ongoing annually throughout the course of this strategy.	Existing budgetary and potential new funding opportunities.	TDC/Housing Options Gap Project
Consider the procurement of a night shelter to tackle the issue of rough sleeper for 12 weeks during the winter.	Implement the procurement of a night shelter with support from the Gap Project to open for 12 weeks across the winter.	Shelter to open December 2015 to March 2016.	Existing budgetary and potential new funding opportunities.	TDC Housing Options/Strategic Housing Team.

Priority 3: Providing high quality housing options advice before a crisis point is reached and appropriate advice, accommodation and support if crisis occurs

Aim	Key actions	Timescale	Resources	Responsibility
Improve arrangements for collecting customer feedback on service experiences .	Ensure that all Housing Options Clients have an opportunity to provide feedback on their experience of accessing the service.	June 2015	Existing TDC resources	TDC Housing Options Team
Improve the council's Web based Housing Options Services	Improve online access to the council's Housing advice.	October 2015	Existing TDC resources	TDC Strategic Housing Team/Housing Options Teams
Identify, share and take on board good practice to	Share good practice through the East Kent Homelessness Forum Process. Shared and take on board good practice through the Kent Housing Group and JPPB.	Ongoing throughout the course of this strategy	Existing TDC resources	TDC Strategic Housing Team/Housing Options Team

Priority 4: Providing good quality housing that local people can afford and making best use of the housing stock

Aim	Key actions	Timescale	Resources	Responsibility
Increase the number of affordable homes in the district.	Deliver up to 55 council owned affordable homes over the course of the strategy.	In the timescale of this Strategy	Existing TDC resources	TDC Strategic Housing Team

Aim	Key actions	Timescale	Resources	Responsibility
Maximise the number of long-term empty homes brought back into use each year.	At least 150 empty homes brought back into use each year.	In the timescale of this strategy.	Existing TDC, KCC and private sector resources	TDC
Make the best use of the council's and other affordable housing provider's stock.	Review the council's under-occupation scheme to assist more households to move to accommodation that better suits their housing needs.	December 2015	Existing TDC resources	TDC and East Kent Housing. TDC Strategic Housing Team.
Work with partners to increase the supply of affordable housing.	At least 50 additional affordable homes provided in the district each year.	In each year of this strategy.	Existing resources and through new potential funding sources including institutional investment.	TDC and Registered Provider Partners.

Priority 5: Promoting partnership working and shared good practice

Aim	Key actions	Timescale	Resources	Responsibility
Develop a Homelessness Forum to work together to identify homelessness issues and where possible to implement potential solutions.	Thanet Homelessness Forum to meet quarterly	Throughout the course of this strategy.	Existing TDC and wider partnership resources.	TDC Strategic Housing Team /TDC Housing Options Team.

Aim	Key actions	Timescale	Resources	Responsibility
Develop early warning systems with partners – identifying homelessness at key intervention points (statutory and non-statutory) – including improved hospital and prison discharge protocols, planning for care leavers	Work with partners and Housing Options team to prevent homelessness.	Throughout the course of this strategy.	Existing TDC Housing Options Team	TDC Housing Options Team
Ensure that homelessness is recognised as a priority for consideration by the Health and Well Being Board	Continue to ensure that housing and related services are properly represented at the main HWBB and on relevant sub-groups.	Ongoing through the course of this strategy.	Existing TDC Resources	TDC Strategic Housing team.
Support partnerships which develop effective pathways to enable people to turn their lives around and attain settled homes including adequate housing support when needed	Ensure engagement and involvement in County wide housing and support programmes including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People • Homelessness • Supported to Independent Living (SIL) • Victims of Domestic Violence • Floating support 	Ongoing through the course of this Strategy	Existing TDC resources	TDC Strategic Housing Team through the Kent Joint Policy and Planning Board.

Aim	Key actions	Timescale	Resources	Responsibility
Develop and deliver Communications Plan with more targeted information about homelessness and housing options	Annual review of housing communications plan to identify gaps and actions arising from trends and changes and wider public awareness of homelessness, supply and demand for social housing, awareness campaigns including in schools and education, reviewing new ways of engagement)	Annual review of communications plan completed.	Existing TDC resources	TDC Housing Options Team
Increase awareness of realistic housing options for those people working with potentially homeless clients	Disseminate regular information Continue joint training and awareness across agencies Deliver messages to partnership groups and through Induction schemes	Ongoing through the course of this Strategy	Existing TDC and other partnership resources	TDC and the wider Shepway Homelessness Forum.
Review of existing and introduce new pre-crisis protocols in partnership with JPPB and Kent Housing Group	1. Enter into preventative pre-possession agreements with RPs and OCC Landlord Services – including for Flexible Tenancies and supported housing	Ongoing through the course of this strategy	Existing TDC resources	TDC through the JPPB and Kent Housing Group.

Aim	Key actions	Timescale	Resources	Responsibility
	<p>2. Develop sustainment and prevention roles with Private Landlords especially Home Choice Landlords</p> <p>3. Work with prison homelessness officers to build on existing pre-release services to ensure ex-offenders are able to make homelessness applications and access advice services prior to release</p> <p>4. Review and improve effectiveness of hospital discharge protocols</p>			

Priority 6: Deliver excellent homelessness services

Aim	Key actions	Timescale	Resources	Responsibility
Review best practice and seek continual improvement	<p>Evaluate local services against Government 'Developing Homelessness Strategies: Local Authority Toolkit' issued in December 2012.</p> <p>Ensure homelessness services strive to meet the national Gold Standard (10 local challenges)</p>	June 2015	Existing TDC resources	TDC
Review performance and cost effectiveness of homelessness services	<p>Participate in national benchmarking schemes.</p> <p>Provide data.</p> <p>Review results.</p> <p>Bring forward recommendations to improve via service planning and review of Homelessness Strategy targets.</p>	Ongoing throughout the course of this Strategy.	Existing TDC resources	TDC and developed Wider Homelessness Forum.

District Profile – Thanet

Local Context

Thanet District has an estimated population of 135,700. It suffers from long-term economic and social problems and contains the two most deprived wards in Kent. The unemployment level is the highest of all the districts in the South East region. There are high levels of economic inactivity.

Unemployment Level (JSA claimant level)

	Thanet		Comparators		
	Number	% 16-64 population	Kent %	South East %	GB %
Feb-13	5,052	6.3	3.3	2.6	3.9
May-13	4,700	5.9	2.9	2.3	3.6
Aug-13	4,462	5.6	2.7	2.1	3.3
Nov-13	4,181	5.2	2.4	1.8	2.9
Feb-14	4,275	5.3	2.5	1.9	3

The typical full time weekly wage before stoppages for people in Thanet is £415.10. This equates to an annual salary of £21,585. This is lowest in Kent.

Housing within the private sector in Thanet has acute problems in common with a number of coastal towns. It has a large private rented sector, 28.5%, which are closely linked to levels of deprivation. 30% of the private sector housing is accommodated by vulnerable people. Thanet has a large number of converted blocks of flats at 11% of the stock, whilst the South East has an average of 6% and England overall only 4.3%. Old guest houses and hotels have been converted to poor quality Houses in Multiple Occupation. House prices, and rents are low causing an inward migration of vulnerable people.

Local Issues

Homelessness presentations and acceptances consistently remain higher than the South East average. Homelessness approaches have increased from 131 in 2010/11 to 349 in 12/13. This being an increase of 166%. When homelessness cannot be prevented, households make a formal homeless application, which is assessed by the council to determine if a main duty to provide the household with housing assistance is owed. In 12/13, 128 households were accepted as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need.

The majority of homelessness acceptances are households with children/and or pregnant women. This has increased from 8 cases in 2010/11 to 17 in 2012/13.

There are a high number of households under 25 years of age approaching us for assistance with homelessness. Demand for support services and specialist young persons accommodation is high and far outstrips the supply.

Increasing numbers of households are approaching us for assistance with specialist support needs around mental health and households fleeing domestic violence.

There is still a reliance on emergency accommodation such as B&B and the length of stay and associated costs have fluctuated over the years, however the last few years have shown a reduction in costs. The Housing Options team are actively looking at

options to reduce the use of this type of accommodation due to costs and suitability. We do have a number of families with children placed in all types of emergency accommodation but when they are in B&B the statutory guidance of no longer than six weeks is adhered to.

With a growing number of approaches for housing advice it is evident that homelessness prevention is one of our main targets. Keeping people in their home or finding alternative accommodation before becoming homelessness as a result of interventions to support them to remain in their own homes for example reconciliation support, debt advice and support to deal with rent arrears, has been increasingly successful. Last year (2012-2013) 318 cases were assisted, and this has increased this year (2013-2014) by 6%.

Following a review of our housing register, we now have 978 households on the register with approximately 500 waiting to be assessed.

Incidences of rough sleeping have increased, year on year and this is reflective of a regional trend.

2010	2011	2012	2013
1	9	8	14

TRANSFER OF THE FORT ROAD HOTEL FROM GENERAL FUND TO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

To: **Cabinet – 2nd April 2015**

Main Portfolio Area: **Housing and Planning Services**

By: **Cllr Richard Nicholson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder
Housing and Planning Services**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Margate Central**

Summary: **To transfer the Fort Road Hotel from general fund to housing revenue account and to agree the budgets for the development of the property into housing.**

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Fort Road Hotel, Margate has been empty and derelict for a number of years. As a result the property was subject to a compulsory purchase order that was made on 28th May 2010. A general vesting declaration was made on 15th October 2010 and the property has been held within the general fund since.
- 1.2 The council has considered a number of options for the property and has undertaken requests for development proposals through an expression of interest process on a couple of occasions, the latest being in 2014.
- 1.3 The expressions of interest have been unable to identify a suitable development proposal and in order to progress bringing this property back into use it is proposed it is now used for housing purposes.

2.0 Options

- 2.1 The property is transferred from the general fund to the HRA and cabinet agree the funding arrangements to undertake the development.

3.0 Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not necessary.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial and VAT

- 4.1.1 Due to the accounting arrangements there is a decrease in the headroom for HRA borrowing by the amount equivalent to the market value of the property. As the market value has been determined as nil this will not impact on the capped HRA borrowing headroom. The estimate of the financial impact of the transfer is detailed in the table below:-

Detail	HRA	General Fund
Estimated Opening Capital Financing Requirement	£20,874,692	£26,459,705
Market Value of Hotel	£0	£0
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	£20,874,692	£26,459,705

- 4.1.2 Capital expenditure will be required for the development of the property into housing and it is proposed to utilise £950K of balances held within the Housing Revenue Account to facilitate this, through a revenue contribution to capital spend and 1-4-1 receipts where appropriate. Up to 30% of development costs can be funded from 1-4-1 receipts for new affordable housing units.
- 4.1.3 The financial impact of transferring the Hotel from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account will mean that any future costs and income relating to the property will subsequently fall on the Housing Revenue Account.
- 4.1.4 To date costs of approx. £30,000 have been incurred on scaffolding etc. to support the structure and these will be funded from the General Fund repairs reserve prior to transfer.
- 4.1.5 As options for development were initially considered, in order to protect the council's VAT partial exemption status the Council applied for an option to tax on the property. Specialist advice has been sought on the tax impact of changing the development for housing as opposed to commercial. Advice received has been that provided the consideration for the property is less than £250,000 then the capital goods scheme will not apply.
- 4.1.6 On the assumption that the property will be used for residential housing purposes and not for commercial rent, the option to tax will be dissapplied and so will not have any impact provided the property is used to house council tenants. In the event the Council were to consider a shared ownership scheme then the initial capital receipt from the owner would qualify as the first grant of a major interest in the dwelling and would therefore be zero rated allowing the Council to recover all the VAT incurred on construction. The rental payment for the remaining share that remains in TDC's ownership will be an exempt supply and so any VAT incurred on expenditure after the first grant will need to be considered in relation to the Council's partial exemption status.
- 4.1.7 Stamp duty and land tax (SDLT) is charged by a seller on the acquisition of a chargeable interest in land by the purchaser. As the property remains within the ownership of the council there should be no further SDLT payments to transfer the property from the General Fund to the HRA.

4.2 Legal

- 4.2.1 There are no legal implications as the transfer of the property between budgets and the use of the property for housing purposes do not conflict with the original compulsory purchase order.
- 4.2.2 The transfer will be carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation.

4.3 Corporate

4.3.1 Housing is a key area of focus for the council and the development of this property for housing purposes meets the following corporate priority.

Priority 7: We will plan for the right number and type of homes in the right place to create sustainable communities in the future.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 For cabinet to agree to transfer the Fort Road Hotel from the general fund to the housing revenue account;

5.2 For cabinet to agree to allocate the property for housing purposes;

5.3 For cabinet to agree the use of HRA balances and 141 receipts where appropriate to undertake the development works up to £950K;

5.4 For cabinet to agree the use of repairs reserve to fund the General Fund costs already incurred prior to transfer.

Contact Officer:	Tanya Wenham, Head of Housing Services
Reporting to:	Larissa Reed, Interim Director for Community Services

Annex List

None	N/A
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Nicola Walker – Interim Head of Finance
Legal	Steven Boyle – Head of Legal & Democratic Services

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THANET COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN FOR 2015 – 2016

To: **Cabinet – 2 April 2015**

By: **Cllr Iris Johnston – Portfolio Holder for Community Services**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **All wards**

Summary: **This report details the process undertaken by Thanet Community Safety Partnership to develop the Thanet Community Safety Plan for 2015-16.**

The report asks for the principles of the Community Safety Plan including its priorities and emerging issues to be agreed.

For Decision

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (updated in various other legislation since) placed a number of obligations on the Council and other 'responsible authorities' (County Council, Police, Fire, Probation, Health via Clinical Commissioning Groups) to form a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) that would enable agencies to work together to help impact upon crime and disorder, substance misuse and reduce re-offending in the local area. Thanet District Council facilitates the CSP on behalf of these agencies.
- 1.2 Each CSP is required to do a strategic needs assessment of all of the relevant data that partners collate and then pull this together into a strategy (the Community Safety Plan) that identifies priority issues and actions to try and resolve/reduce them.
- 1.3 The last year has seen further big changes proposed to the police and community safety landscape with the new 'Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill' being passed, wholesale changes to the Probation Service and the commissioning of victim support services to be undertaken by Police and Crime Commissioners. The Community Safety Plan makes due reference to these changes in the industry.
- 1.4 This report identifies the process undertaken to develop the Community Safety Plan and asks members to agree the priorities and emerging issues for 2015-16.
- 1.5 The Community Safety Plan priorities and draft action plan were considered by the CSP Working Party on 3rd March 2015 and received support from cross party members and will also be going to Overview and Scrutiny on 26 March 2015.

2.0 Thanet Community Safety Plan 2015/16 – development and detail

- 2.1 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a model of partnership working that is vital to ensure that multiple agencies tackle the issues of crime and disorder, understanding that no one organisation can achieve this in isolation. The CSP sets strategic direction and then enables operational teams to deliver interventions. It works closely alongside the Margate Taskforce (MTF) delivering innovative

approaches to tackle Thanet's unique issues. MTF have adopted a co-located agency approach to achieving its aims with 14 departments from a range of agencies sharing the same office space. 2015 will see the further progress using this approach with the TDC Community Safety Unit and Kent Police Community Safety Unit combining with MTF to create a large co-located team of agencies located in the Council building.

- 2.2 Each year the partnership undertakes a number of processes to get to the final Community Safety Plan. This year they were;
- Produce a strategic assessment
 - Consult with other partners and the public
 - Produce an action plan to detail what we will do over the next year
- 2.3 The purpose of a strategic assessment is to provide knowledge and understanding of community safety issues to the members of the Thanet Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- 2.4 Kent County Council community safety unit collated a range of data sets from county organisations. District Council Community Safety Officers then co-ordinated an assessment of this data. This was done considering patterns, trends and shifts in order to identify the priorities. Data was also compared to other districts in Kent and areas similar to Thanet. All key agencies supplied a representative to input into this process and this provides the basis for developing what we will do in the year to come to try and stop/reduce the impact.
- 2.5 A summary of the strategic assessment is provided within the draft Community Safety Plan found at annex 1. The partners took a slightly different approach than previous years. The traditional crime types Anti-social Behaviour, Domestic Abuse, Violent Crime, Substance Misuse, Acquisitive Crime and Road Safety continued to be identified as needing focus but agencies felt tackling them individually often led to a short term fix and wanted to attempt looking at the links/causes/risks involved in each. This led us to 4 priorities which cut across each of the crime types above and were therefore explored further at the annual Community Safety Conference;
- 1) Safeguarding People vulnerable to committing or being victim of crime;
 - 2) Reducing Re-offending;
 - 3) Tackling the drivers of crime and anti-social behaviour;
 - 4) Engaging with Partners and the Community.
- 2.6 Over 70 staff from agencies in the CSP attended the Community Safety Conference to discuss the priorities and identify 'emerging issues' that would fall under one or more of the priorities. Similar to last year it was decided that actions would be created under each emerging issue but that the action plan needs to be a fluid document that is able to change direction throughout the course of the year to ensure resource is directed to the most pressing issues and also because many actions could contribute to more than priority. The draft Community Safety Plan including the list of emerging issues is found at Annex 1.
- 2.7 Responsibility for delivery of the Community Safety Plan is shared amongst the senior managers of statutory members of the CSP Executive Group. The Executive group agreed the draft Community Safety Plan principles at their meeting of 26th February 2015, with understanding that the 'proposed actions' column may change either prior to the final publication of the plan or throughout the year as new trends/issues arise that outweigh the previously considered ones. The measure of success column is drafted but the individual leads for each action will determine the ultimate measures

of success and feed this back into both the CSP Executive group and then via the Community Safety Partnership Members Working Party process.

- 2.8 Alongside the partner consultation, resident feedback is an essential part of the process. The CSP hold 16 Neighbourhood Engagement Meetings a year to give the opportunity for the community to report local issues. These issues are dealt with accordingly by the relevant agency at the time but trends from the NEMs are also used to inform the strategic plan you see in Annex 1.

An online survey for residents to comment on whether they support the priorities ran the whole month of February. Response was lower than in previous years however more advertising was done than ever before. The feedback has however been used to amend the plan in-line.

Furthermore the Community Safety Forum held on 10th February 2015 was well attended with 38 attendees. Over 70% agreed or strongly agreed with the priorities and only 6% disagreed with no-one strongly disagreeing.

- 2.9 The CSP Working Party received a presentation of the draft plan at the meeting held on 3rd March 2015 and agreed to make a recommendation to Overview and Scrutiny to agree the principles of the plan and the suggested priorities/emerging issues.
- 2.10 Any comments received by OSP will be communicated as a supplementary agenda pack for cabinet.

3.0 Options

- 3.1 To approve the Draft Thanet Community Safety Plan 2015/16 principles, priorities and emerging issues as set out in Annex 1.
- 3.2 To make suggestions for improvement and then approve the Draft Thanet Community Safety Plan 2015/16 principles, priorities and emerging issues as set out in Annex 1.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial

- 4.1.1 District Council Community Safety staff facilitate the Community Safety Partnership alongside their TDC function of anti-social behaviour case management. Salaries for these staff are covered within the budget for 2014-15.
- 4.1.2 The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has confirmed that Thanet Community Safety Partnership will be awarded a grant of £33116 to assist in the delivery of the CSP functions. This will be used for commissioning organisations, distributing to local groups for specific crime prevention projects and the development of publicity material to better inform residents of the help available to them.

4.2 Legal

- 4.2.1 In relation to any decision or project implemented by any department in the local authority, under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the local authority has a duty to do all that it reasonable to prevent crime and disorder.
- 4.2.2 This Community Safety Plan provides evidence of compliance by the District Council and other responsible authorities of the statutory functions contained within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent updates in other legislation.

4.3 Corporate

- 4.3.1 The draft Community Safety Plan priorities in 2015-16 coincide with the corporate plan objectives set in the 2012-2016 plan (mainly priority 4 'To make our district a safer place to live' and priority 10 'To influence the work of other agencies to ensure the best outcomes for Thanet').

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 That, taking into consideration the recommendations from the CSP Working Party and Overview and Scrutiny Panel Cabinet recommends to Council the priorities and emerging issues in the Thanet Community Safety Plan 2015/16 as set out in Annex 1 are approved.

Decision Making Process

- 6.1 As the Community Safety Plan is a policy framework document, this report will go to Council.

Contact Officer:	Martyn Cassell, Community Safety and Leisure Manager x7367
Reporting to:	Larissa Reed, Director of Community Services x7123 Penny Button, Head of Safer Neighbourhoods x7425

Annex List

Annex 1	Draft Community Safety Plan 2015-2016
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Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Clive Bowen, External Funding Officer
PR	Hannah Thorpe, PR and Publicity Manager
Legal Services	Steven Boyle, Interim Legal Services Manager



Community Safety Plan 2015/2016

Draft

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1. Foreword

Welcome to our partnership plan for 2015-16, which outlines how we are going to collectively tackle Community Safety issues in Thanet. This plan sets out our performance over the last 12 months, identifies priority areas for the next year and outlines what we are going to do to improve them.

For 2014-15 the partnership agreed to focus on; Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Domestic Abuse, Violent Crime, Substance Misuse, Acquisitive Crime, Road Safety and Public and Agency Engagement. To tackle these priorities, 37 multi-agency actions under 15 identified emerging issues, were agreed by partners.

To date, 29 actions have been completed, 6 remain ongoing and due for completion by the end of the financial year and 2 actions are to be carried over.

We would like to thank all of the agencies within the partnership, who have jointly worked to achieve a number of positive outcomes including, implementing three Dispersal Orders to be more equipped in tackling ASB, delivering training inputs to multi skill officers and improve efficiency, facilitated purchase of new equipment and recruitment of volunteers to tackle speeding rural areas, targeted specific operations to support victims of Domestic Abuse. We would also like to thank residents and community groups who have attended and supported the local Neighbourhood Engagement Meetings which are a vital way for us to consult with the public and ensure views are heard. We have introduced the 'Community Safety Fund' and seen a number of successful bids from local groups trying to help tackle issues in their ward or street.

Further legislative changes by the government were finalised towards the end of 2014 to give practitioners a new toolkit to robustly tackle Anti-Social Behaviour, and training on this has been delivered to partners. The Transforming Rehabilitation agenda is underway which has changed the way the offenders are managed, and the partnership is working jointly with the Probation services to ensure a smooth transition to ensure that we are robustly targeting prolific offenders.

The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), on top of last year's grant funding, awarded £11,000 for restorative justice work and this has been allocated to fund mediation provision for partners, as well as training on methods and delivery of restorative justice. The PCC has pledged to continue to support Community Safety Partnerships and has agreed a grant of £33,116 for 2015-16 to support activity. This will be partly spent by the agencies to help deliver the actions in the plan but will also used to continue with the 'Community Safety Fund' that local groups can bid for.

The Community Safety landscape continues to evolve and the partnership continues to face challenges in having to adapt the way services and initiatives are delivered. For 2015-16 we are looking at new themes, following a review of the year's data and consultation with Community Safety Partners. These focus areas or themes will be **Safeguarding, Reducing Re-offending, Drivers of crime, and Engagement**. Under these 4 themes we have identified 12 emerging issues which will be tackled through a number of actions, which you will see in more detail later in this document.

Chief Inspector Simon Thompson

**Thanet District Commander
Kent Police**

Cllr Iris Johnston

**Cabinet member for Community Safety
Thanet District Council**

2. Background and context

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, changed the way crime and anti-social behaviour was to be tackled, as it is recognised that in order to be effective, agencies needed to work together to address the issues collectively. Each local area formed a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) which are now called Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's).

Who are the partnership?

Thanet's Community Safety Partnership is made up of key statutory partners that have to ensure specific obligations such as public engagement and delivery of an action plan are met.

Our statutory partners are: Thanet District Council, Kent County Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Kent Probation and Thanet Clinical Commissioning Groups (which have the responsibility for health services locally). We also work with a large number of public and private sector partners as well as voluntary and community groups to collectively implement and deliver initiatives that will help all areas of Thanet become a safe place to live, work and visit.

Why do we have a plan?

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places obligations on the Community Safety Partnership to produce an annual Community Safety Plan, to outline how all partners intend to work together to impact upon crime and disorder, substance misuse and reduce reoffending in the local area.

How does this link with the national, county and local context?

In developing this plan a number of relevant strategies and plans were considered. This ensures that we comply with relevant national and local strategic direction. These plans include but are not limited to:

- *Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012*
- *Protection of Freedoms Act 2012*
- *Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011*
- *Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014*
- *Offender Rehabilitation Act 2013-14*
- *Children and Families Act 2013-14*
- *Helping Troubled Families turn their lives around (Home Office 2013)*
- *Prevent Strategy 2011*
- *Counter Terrorism and Security Bill 2014-15*
- *Police Crime Commissioner Plan 2013-17*
- *Kent Community Safety Agreement 2014-17*
- *Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2013- 16*
- *Kent Policing Plan 2011-15*
- *Kent and Medway Strategic Plan for Reducing Reoffending (2012-15)*
- *Kent Fire and Rescue Service Safety Plan (2013-15)*
- *Thanet District Council Corporate Plan 2012-16*

3. Key achievements for 2014/15

Last year's community safety plan focused on Anti-Social Behaviour, Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse, Violent Crime, Acquisitive Crime, Road Safety and Public and Agency Engagement . 37 actions were set and to date 28 have been completed. 4 actions have been delayed due to various changes with agencies, but will be reviewed as part of this year's actions. Here is a brief summary of some of the successes this year.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- The Partnership alongside the RNLI delivered a project to train one of the districts police community support officers as a beach lifeguard to tackle ASB in hotspot areas. The PCSO trained as a lifeguard with the RNLI and has patrolled the main beaches and made a number of rescues over the summer season on Thanet main tourist beaches, whilst dealing with seasonal ASB and being a visible presence for the public. 9 ASB incidents, 3 drugs incidents and 11 safety issues, with 11 missing children and several first aid incidents as well as a water rescue (on day 1!). During those incidents, he advised around 70 individuals as well as engaging with many other people via community announcements about leaving rubbish, water safety, ASB and personal safety and security.
- A Number of actions have been completed to implement the new tools and powers. Training day for front line practitioners has been held. Briefings held for staff and members took place during November, public briefings were carried out as part of the Neighbourhood Engagement meeting structure and at the annual Community Safety Open Forum.
- Targeted outreach sessions delivered by KCC EARLY HELP workers and Thanet District Council's Sport 4NRG programme to hot spot locations, experiencing ASB or nuisance.
- Enforcement action has been taken successfully on a number of cases, this has included formal warning letters issued by officers, acceptable behaviour agreements issued to those causing nuisance behaviour within our communities and referrals to mediation for long standing neighbour disputes.
- Four dispersal orders have been implemented, one around Leopold St car park, Ramsgate, another around Mill lane car park, Margate, one at a location in Manston, and one in Westgate around the train station. This has given police additional powers to tackle nuisance groups, and ensured that residents gained respite from the issues.

Domestic Abuse

- Partners have continued to run regular seasonal awareness campaigns aligned with national campaigns including in the run up to Valentines day with advertisements going out in local press to inform about domestic abuse, giving advice on support services and information on the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor Service (IDVA).
- Police centrally co-ordinated support during the world cup during July, and IDVA's were based at Police Force Control Centre giving specialist advice to victims. This provision is being co-ordinated on a county basis with IDVA support embedded into Police responses.
- Partners have carried out a review of services to identify gaps in provision for victims and perpetrators, to inform future projects. E-learning training is scheduled to be produced for partners to train and improve awareness of services and issues facing victims.

- Thanet has also seen an 84% increase in attendance at the One Stop Shop, with people accessing help and advice from the key agencies.

Violent Crime

- TCSP supported the work of the Margate Task Force in building a better intelligence picture of gang activity. Thanet is currently a Home Office Ending Gangs and Youth Violence pilot area, and partners are working on improving data sharing between agencies to help tackle issues related to this.
- Targeted support for young people committing high impact crime has been delivered through the Youth Empowerment Services (YES+) scheme and supported by partners. 275 young people have accessed YES+ Services.
- Police have increased patrolling of identified hotspots and have instigated early intervention with known offenders. Enforcement of strict licensing regulations has been stepped up.

Substance Misuse

- The Community Pastors project has been funded for 2014-15 by the partnership. Community Pastors have been out patrolling hotspot night time economy areas on key evenings to offer support to the public. 930+ hours of volunteer work have been completed by the 30 community pastors, engaging with over 1500 people.
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service have delivered two Youth Engagement Around Road Safety (YEARS) courses in Thanet in liaison with the Youth Offending Service. Young people convicted of a road traffic offence attended.
- Public Health have commissioned Turning Point in the Accident and Emergency department in QEQM to undertake alcohol screening and brief interventions to tackle alcohol misuse.
- Seasonal awareness campaigns targeting substance misuse and other priorities have been advertised in local press, for example 'Safer Christmas' campaign.
- The Intoxicate programme has engaged with 1134 year 9 contacts with 57 separate sessions to date. A further 37 sessions have been booked to be delivered in Local Secondary Schools. The main themes this year have been Misuse of drugs, Alcohol, Smoking, STIs and citizenship. Bespoke sessions are being arranged for targeted young people identified by other organisations.

Acquisitive Crime

- Awareness raising has been done through the 'Safer Christmas' campaign that was advertised in local press included information about acquisitive crime and inform people about increased risk of house burglary at that time of year.
- PCSOs have been checking second hand outlets every week to ensure compliance with the Kent Act, to tackle those that may be selling stolen items. CSOs have been running a UMIC car for 2nd hand dealer checks every Thursday. Every 2nd hand outlet has been checked for compliance with the Kent Act

- A Security Marking event was run by KCC wardens at St Nicholas at Wade Primary School. Over 32 Bike locks were handed out on bike and scooter marking. Advice was also given out and posters handed to school.
- Police have been working with Challenger Troop and Dame Kelly Holmes Trust – both targeting young people at risk of offending or being a victim (about 30 completed across the 2 projects).
- Young people who are repeat offenders have also been targeted through the YES+ programme and diversionary work.
- The local Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme has continued to be supported by the partnership, with different agencies working together, to ensure problem solving and decisions around the offender are coordinated.

Road safety

- The “Licence to Kill” event was held at Margate Winter gardens. 2 performances were delivered at Margate Winter Gardens with approximately 500 students attending from Thanet schools.
- ‘Speedwatch’ volunteers have been supported by KCC Wardens and KFRS in a rural operation to tackle those driving at excessive speeds and persistent offenders, with two teams going around 7 area’s that were identified as having speeding issues, and over 100 vehicles registered as speeding. Warning letters were sent to those who were identified. Funding has also been granted to maintain their equipment so future operations may go ahead.
- ‘Brake Week’ campaigns were run during November targeting secondary schools to raise awareness of road safety, including parking and driving issues at school drop off and pick up times. This was supported by PCSOs and KCC Wardens. A poster campaign was also issued and followed up by public engagement inputs.
- Road safety advertising campaign went out in local press in November to raise awareness of Speedwatch operations, restorative justice pilot, dispersal zones, and cycling on pavements/shared spaces.

Public and Agency Engagement

- A community safety engagement day was held at the Kent Fire and Rescue facility at Westwood with over 1000 people attending.
- Neighbourhood Engagement meetings have been scheduled for the year and have been promoted online on the TCSP website, in poster format and on social media with an average of around 30 people attending. A training input has been delivered for the public volunteers who chair and secretary the meetings. 16 meetings take place throughout the year at different locations within the four areas of Thanet North, South, East and West.
- Operation Cleansweep and Operation Streetweek have been running throughout the year and partners continue to support along with other safety campaigns such as ‘Safer Autumn’ and ‘Safer Winter’.
- Shared spaces campaign poster and leaflet produced and distributed across key shared space locations. Advice given through CSP promotion campaign and advertorial produced and displayed in the KM Extra, November 2014 for Road Safety week.

4. How does it all work?

Strategic Assessment

The Community Safety Partnership has to identify emerging crime and disorder trends and this is done through the production of a Strategic Assessment of the district. Data is analysed from all of the partners to produce recommended priorities.

The priorities are then compared with other districts and ranked against a number of factors, including volume, trend over time, resident's perception and how much it is felt the partnership can influence. The top ranked priorities are analysed in depth, to help guide practitioners in formulating actions that they feel will have an impact on each priority.

Stakeholder Consultation

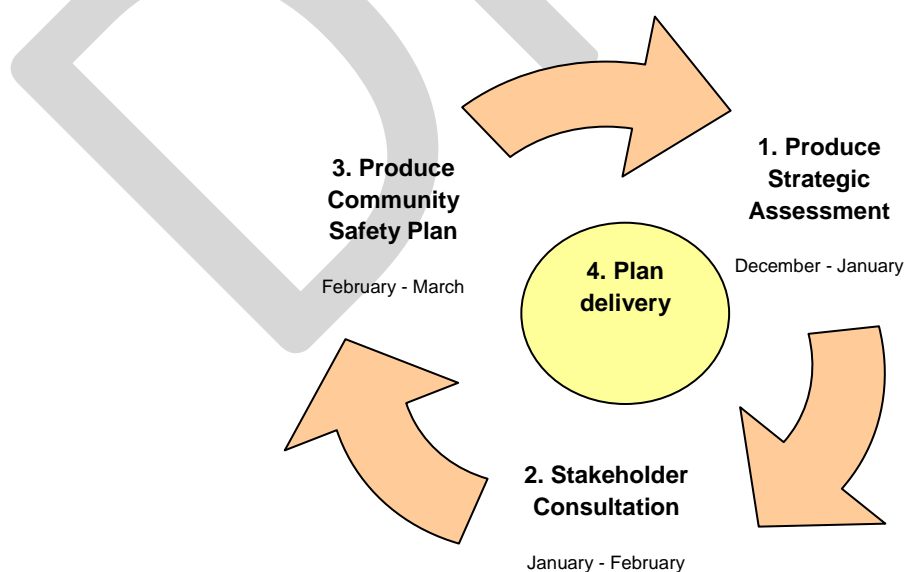
Each year we ensure that we consult on Community Safety priorities with residents and partners and also ensure we are accountable by feeding back on our progress. We do this by meeting with residents at the community safety forum and neighbourhood engagement meetings as well as holding practitioner meetings throughout the year.

In December we held a Community Safety conference for practitioners to review provisional priorities and in February ran a consultation event asking for residents views on the list of the top priorities to ensure we understand the issues that impact them the most.

Producing the Plan

Following on from the data assessment and partner/public consultation, specific actions are developed by partners that aim to make an impact on the priority issues that we have established. These actions are finally reviewed and agreed by the senior managers in the relevant agencies and scrutinised by the Council's political groups.

The plan is then delivered throughout the financial year of April – March, with regular performance monitoring to make sure we are achieving what we set out to.



5. Priorities for 2015/16

The following areas were identified through the Strategic Assessment, partners conference day and resident consultation, and are recommended as priorities for the 2015-16 partnership plan. They also broadly align with the County Community Safety Agreement for 2014-17.

We continue to see issues with anti-social behavior, domestic abuse, violent crime, substance misuse, road safety and acquisitive crime. However we have recognised that these all fit into the priorities below. Here is some guidance on what the new priorities will include:

Safeguarding

We recognise the need to protect those most vulnerable from harm. This priority will focus work around mental health, domestic abuse, e-safety, gang activity, preventing radicalisation and exploitation of vulnerable people. The following statistics give an overview of why these issues have been highlighted to be addressed.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thanet continues to have the highest levels of domestic abuse in the county. 856 of the 3350 incidents recorded were repeat incidents, also the highest in the county. We have seen an increase in incidents compared to the same period in 2012-13. The district has the highest level of MARAC cases in the county (Excluding Medway) (KMDASG Annual Report 2014). However Thanet has also seen an 84% increase in attendance at the One Stop Shop, with people accessing help and advice from the key agencies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A total of 235 looked after children (LAC) were recorded by Kent County Council as being placed in Thanet Apr 13 – Mar 14. Out of a total of 1842 (13%). For 2013-14 Thanet recorded 167 missing Looked After Children incidents. There were 2063 referrals to specialist childrens services for Thanet (out of a total of 14298 for Kent). More than 154 Thanet families have been identified in the first cohort of the national Troubled Families initiative.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are seeing an increase in gang related activity and a migration from London boroughs, associated with organised criminal networks as well as the supply of drugs and use of drugs to exploit and recruit vulnerable people.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thanet had the highest levels of hospital admissions for suicide and self-harm (Kent and Medway Public Health Observatory 2013).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Across Kent, Thanet has the highest number of adults with a learning disability living in the community who are known due to accessing social care services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9 out of 10 children aged 5-10years have access to the internet at home, with 1 in 5 of 12-15 year olds saying they know how to disable parental controls. On average 12-15 year olds have never met 3 in 10 of their "friends" listed on their main social media profile (Ofcom Media Literacy Reports 2013-14). In 2012, there were 1,145 public reports of online grooming (CEOP 2012)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current issues we face in preventing terrorism include the international conflicts, the changing face of terrorism as a result and an increased National threat. Nationally there is also a projected rise in right wing extremism.

Through this plan we aim to:

- Improve support to vulnerable people of all ages
- Improve partnership with the Courts Service
- Work in partnership to increase our capacity to deal with mental health cases
- Raise awareness of E-safety and support people who are victims of online scams

Reducing re-offending

A lot of offences are committed repeatedly by a small minority of individuals. The partnership is looking to keep a continued focus on those individuals at the greatest risk of offending or who already repeatedly offend and commit high volume crimes. This will include actively targeting those that commit repeated acquisitive crimes, such as theft and burglary offences, as well as first time offenders to try and divert them into more positive activities. The following statistics give an overview of why these issues have been highlighted to be addressed.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC) and the National Probation Service (NPS) work to reduce re-offending and protect the public. Thanet has the second highest number of service users open to probation in the County, who are subject to Community orders, Suspended sentence orders, post release licences and on the integrated offender management programme which is a multi-agency approach to reducing re-offending. Re-offending rates remain around 10% for Thanet, slightly higher than the County average.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of young people convicted of a crime in Thanet (2013/14) was 234, with the three most common offences being: Violence against the person (145) Theft and handling stolen goods (108) Criminal damage (91) (Then motoring offences (45), public order (33) and domestic burglary (25))
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deter Young Offenders programme targets children and young people identified as the most likely to re-offend, and reduce their re-offending through a joint approach with the Youth Offending service and other partners. 95.0% of young people in the cohort are known to Children's Specialist Services.

Through this plan we aim to:

- Identify and disrupt gang activity
- Improve community support and help rehabilitation of offenders
- Make better use of positive role models
- Use restorative justice to repair some of the harm caused by crime and ASB

Drivers of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

The partnership is also proposing to focus work on tackling underlying issues that either, cause crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) to be committed, or make it worse. This will include work to tackle substance misuse and alcohol, deprivation and hardship, violence and nuisance behaviour.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thanet has seen a decrease in reported ASB to Kent Police since 2011/12, which is in line with a general reduction in recorded incidents seen across the county. Thanet has had the highest volume of ASB in the County with 6160 incidents reported to Kent Police. Based on data from April to September 2014 Margate Central ward had the highest volume of incidents in the District.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Due to significant changes to police recording practices it is not possible to compare violent crime against last year. However from the Kent Police data we can say that Thanet recorded the highest number of incidents of violent crime -at 3,750 and violence against the person (VAP) -at 3329, between October 2013 and September 2014 for the County. From April to September 2014 Margate Central ward saw the highest rate of violent crime and VAP in the District.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excessive consumption of alcohol is a growing problem in Kent and across the Country. Estimates suggest that 49,843 adults drink at 'high risk' levels in Kent, showing evidence of harm to their own physical and mental health. Thanet has the highest rate of alcohol related recorded crime for the County with 1088 in 2012/13.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recorded incidents of drug offences have seen a decrease on the previous year for the time period Oct- Dec 2013/14. Attention is also being given to New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) or 'Lethal Highs' which are substances designed to give similar effects to controlled drugs such as Cannabis, Cocaine or Ecstasy, but are not controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act. A campaign has been launched in the county led by Trading Standards with the support of Police to try and tackle this problem. In Thanet, hospital admissions for mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use has increased by 5.8% for the timescale Sep 2013- Aug 2014 compared to the previous year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thanet has the second highest percentage of young people 16-18 years old not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the County, with 9.79% being recorded in Sep 2014. This can be a predictor of involvement in crime, unemployment, low income and other risk factors.

Through this plan we aim to:

- Raise awareness amongst key groups at risk through advertising campaigns and engagement
- Target substance and alcohol misuse in problematic locations
- Work with local communities to ensure support for those living in deprivation

Engagement

The partnership recognises the need to be dynamic and respond to the views of local people as well as raise awareness of the work that is going on behind the scenes. The final focus area is proposed to be around engagement. This will include holding regular Neighbourhood Engagement Meetings, supporting and promoting national and regional campaigns as well as and delivering training and awareness raising sessions to key groups.

- Public perceptions relate to what our communities believe to be the truth about crime and community safety and how confident and safe they feel in their local area. Each agency will hold a huge amount of information that can be shared with others to help inform actions and make interventions. Frontline staff also need to be aware of the priorities and actions and how they contribute to the delivery of this plan. We need to be able to get our messages out to groups we currently lack representation from such as young people, older people and those of working age.

Through this plan we aim to:

- Raise the profile of the partnership and projects
- Target specific groups at risk with community safety messages that will benefit them
- Identify issues that matter most to residents and work in partnership to find solutions
- Improve information sharing amongst the partners

Monitoring the plan

There is a need for the plan to be a flexible and dynamic document. We will use real-time data to re-assess the proposed actions and complete the measures of success column as this will enable us to be focused on the most pressing issues at the time and ensure we can set targets that are achievable and will make the required impact. These will be set by partners forming specific working groups to agree the way forward.

The CSP executive board will be responsible for monitoring the emerging issues and the delivery of actions and this will be independently scrutinised by the district's CSP working party.

SAFEGUARDING

Emerging issue	Which of the other current priorities does this impact upon?			Proposed Actions	Lead agency Support agencies	Measures of Success / Outcomes
	Drivers of crime and ASB	Reducing re-offending	Engagement			
1. Vulnerable young people at risk, including those at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and Gang involvement.	✓	✓	✓	1. Strengthen links with local services supporting 'Looked After Children', including education and care homes. Facilitate dedicated accredited youth worker or positive role model to conduct additional visits to care facilities, strengthening links to agencies and building trust with young people.	KCC Early Help Children's Social Services Kent Police – Missing Persons Officer Virtual school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement in support plans for young people placed in Thanet • Stronger links established with local care providers • Increase in intelligence and information received from young people • Produce a mapping document of local care homes.
				2. Review support services for local vulnerable young people including third and voluntary sector.	Children's Social Services KCC Early Help TDC MTF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping document for opportunities created • Link to existing referral scheme or set up new.

				3. Consider findings of the Ending Gangs and Youth Violence peer review programme with the Home Office and embed recommendations.	TDC MTF Kent Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working group to consider findings Amended structures, New direction documents created Thanet Children at Risk of Exploitation Group established
				4. Challenge placements from out of area and participate in any assessments of appropriateness	Kent Police TDC Children's social services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 placements challenged
2. Limited Mental Health – resources/ High volume of MH cases.	✓	✓	✓	5. Training for practitioners to have additional mental health awareness skills – ‘Mental Health First Aid’ to create ‘Mental Health Champions’ with increased understanding of conditions and agency processes	The Beacon Kent Police NHS / CCG KCC Early Help CAMHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of people trained No of sessions delivered Increased awareness in staff -to help people manage low self-esteem, anxiety and self-harm. Advice given as a result / referrals made to MH services by trained staff
				6. Pursue options for Street Triage project. MH worker – or trained practitioner with Police Officer responding to MH / crime calls.	KCC Public Health The Beacon Kent Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 people triaged Take up rate for those referred
3. Sharing good practice amongst partners on Domestic Abuse	✓	✓		7. Produce e-learning package for courts service on Domestic Abuse changes, Mental Health and ASB.	Oasis / TDAF Courts Kent Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Package produced and distributed Court officers and magistrates trained
				8. Ensure that CSP disseminate the lessons learned from Domestic Homicide reviews	Oasis / TDAF TDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning disseminated to key partners

4. E-safety - Vulnerability of people to scams	✓	✓	9. Additional training to partner staff (briefing morning) on scams and e-safety	KCC E-safety KCC Wardens KCC Trading Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing morning delivered No of professionals attending Examples of how training boosts awareness across agencies and residents
			10. Deliver key information sessions at Neighbourhood Engagement Meetings and in schools. Utilise former scam victims to contribute.	KCC Wardens Kent Police KCC Trading Standards TDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in awareness and increase in online reported scams to Trading Standards / Kent Police as a result Advice given by KCC wardens to 50 victims of scams Inputs given at all NEMS
5. Guiding vulnerable people away from radicalisation through the Prevent strategy	✓	✓	11. Ensure that schools and youth groups are promoting “ZAC” and “WRAP” programmes to young people.	Kent Police Prevent staff and Special Branch KCC Early Help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of which schools have delivered sessions using the ZAC and wrap tools.
			12. Ensure frontline partners are aware of the ‘Channel’ support process and how to make referrals to this.	TDC Kent Police Prevent coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training inputs delivered to CSP partners. Panels co-ordinated when cases raised with full partner cooperation.

DRIVERS OF CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Emerging issue	Which of the other current priorities does this impact upon?			Proposed Actions	Lead agency Support agencies	Measures of Success / Outcomes
	Safeguarding	Reducing re-offending	Engagement			
6. Alcohol and substance misuse contributing to crime and ASB	✓	✓	✓	13. Co-ordinate the community safety elements of the Thanet Alcohol Strategy; - Drink Drive campaigns - Community Pastors - Sobriety Tags - Tackling youth alcohol issues - Research breathalysing and drug testing on the doors of Night time economy hot spots and support with Turning Point outreach	KCC Public Health Kent Police TDC KCA Turning Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established through Alcohol Task and Finish group Key campaigns promoted through different media
				14. Pilot the use of 'Body Worn Video' devices by Police Officers and pursue possible agreements with night time economy security staff	Kent Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakdown of cases where video technology has led to prosecution/arrest. Public perception figures for safety in NTE hotspots.

				15. Support Community Pastors to continue with their work in the NTE, in particular targeting events such as Folk Week.	TDC Community Pastors Turning Point KCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide key dates, times and locations for pastors to target. • 42 weeks of outreach delivered. • Report on outcomes and costs savings on emergency service resources •
7. Support those who may be vulnerable to committing crime.	✓	✓	✓	16. Map support services and create leaflet/posters for raising awareness of where people can go for help.	MTF Thanet Community Networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in dependency on emergency relief <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in attendances/referrals to support services
				17. Continue to support the Integrated Offender Management process and integrate any other service providers who can support the process.	KSS CRC Kent Police TDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IOM supported- agencies attending monthly meetings
				18. Focus on reducing first time entrants to the criminal justice system through a range of education and enforcement programmes.	KCC Early Help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC

REDUCING RE-OFFENDING

Emerging issue	Which of the other current priorities does this impact upon?			Proposed Actions	Lead agency Support agencies	Measures of Success / Outcomes
	Safeguarding	Drivers of crime and ASB	Engagement			
8. Widen agency support for offenders	✓	✓		19. Agencies to link into Integrated Offender Management and Deter Young Offenders programmes. Look at opportunities available to support re-integration through community based programmes to raise aspirations and employment prospects working with voluntary and community sector. .	KSS CRC National Probation Service KCC Early Help KCC Wardens Yes + Voluntary sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing provision reviewed and mapped, gaps identified. 20 ex-offenders referred into suitable programmes Reduction in re-offending in those individuals Qualitative feedback / case studies
				20. Extend 'Neighbourhood Responsibility Panel' provision as a 'one stop shop' placing individual at centre of support plan. Work with offenders and victims.	KSS CRC National Probation Service MTF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offenders completed course and supported through NRP process Victim support and satisfaction levels increase

<p>9. Need to make better use of positive role models</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>		<p>21. Continue provision for 1:1 mentoring, utilising ex-offenders where appropriate</p>	<p>KCC Early Help YES+</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 individuals receive 1:1 mentoring • Perceptions/attitudes measured at start/finish showing changes.
				<p>22. Utilise public services and/ or armed forces to deliver diversionary programmes.</p>	<p>KFRS KCC Early Help YES+ Veteran links / armed forces Other service providers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Courses delivered • Reduction in re-offending of those that have completed courses

ENGAGEMENT

Emerging issue	Which of the other current priorities does this impact upon?			Proposed Actions	Lead agency Support agencies	Measures of Success / Outcomes
	Safeguarding	Drivers of crime and ASB	Reducing re-offending			
10. Need to improve engagement with young people	✓	✓	✓	23. Review existing provision in schools and co-ordinate programmes to avoid duplication. Themes to mirror TCSP priorities	TDC CSU Partnership communications KCC Early Help KFRS Kent Police VCS sector Oasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a directory of services for partners KCC Early Help targets No. of schools sessions delivered by partners Total no. of pupils reached
				24. Capture the views of young people on community safety matters - Youth Strategy review consultation - Run council “chamber days” where officers can engage with school pupils about their communities and safety issues.	TDC CSU Partnership communications KCC Early Help KFRS Kent Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with young people carried out on community safety issues, providing partners with a better understanding of emerging issues for young people.

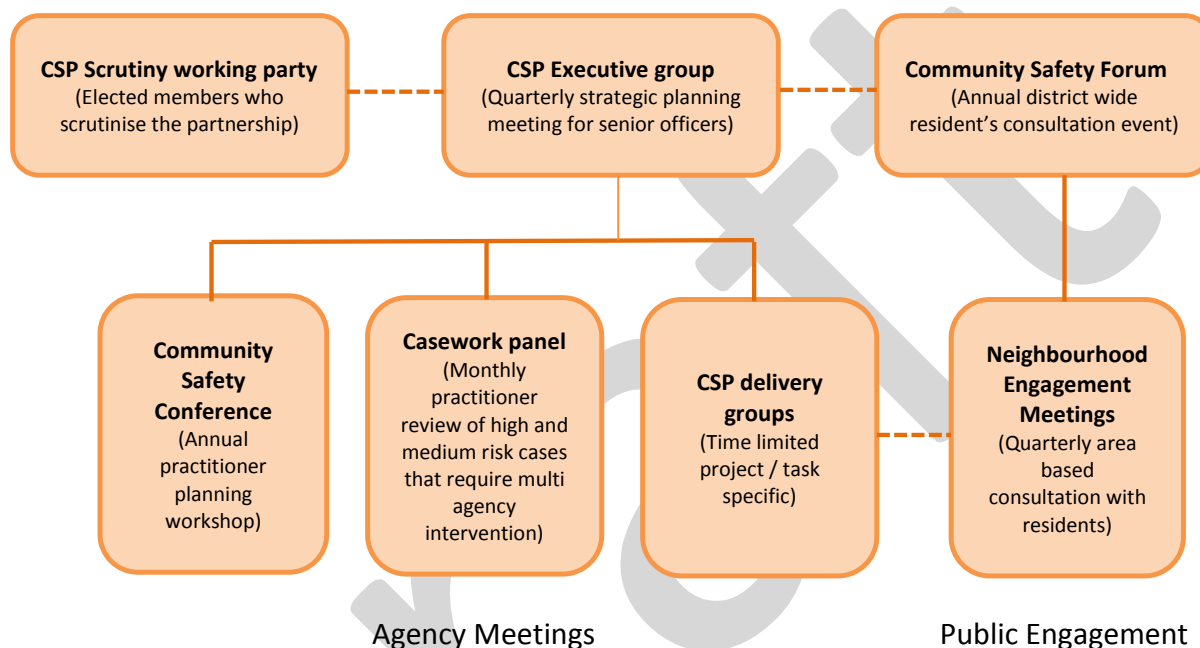
<p>11. Need for partnership messages to be reaching intended audiences and celebrate agency success stories</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>25. TCSP Communications Strategy refreshed to co-ordinate and promote CSP activity including social media activity and website, use of existing newsletters/parish magazines, purchase of partnership merchandise, event attendance and build on the existing successful advertorials including key messages of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Road Safety - Substance misuse - Anti-Social Behaviour - Acquisitive crime - Violent Crime - Domestic Abuse 	<p>TDC Communications</p> <p>TDC CSU</p> <p>ALL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better use of social media-increased followers and website hits • One contacts list for the partnership produced for promotional messages to be sent out. • Increased attendances at resident meetings • Increased surveys completed • Scan of positive messages in press • Merchandise given out at x number of key events • SOS trailer deployed at least 5 times
				<p>26. Pilot new structure for Neighbourhood Engagement Meeting process expanding officer attendance to wider agencies /departments.</p>	<p>TDC CSU</p> <p>TDC Communications</p> <p>Voluntary sector organisations</p> <p>NEM community representatives. All CSP partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of new customers previously unknown to services • One drop in style NEM piloted • Increased attendance at NEMs
				<p>27. Create Road Safety Task and Finish Group to look at key projects for the year</p>	<p>KFRS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC

12. Better data / information exchange amongst partners and increased training	✓	✓	28. Refresher information sharing / data protection training for all CSP staff to ensure legal and efficient exchange of information on all community safety issues	TDC CSU Kent Police ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of officers attended training All agencies signed up to Kent and Medway Information Sharing Agreement.
			29. Review existing meeting structures and membership to improve timely exchange and professional relationships. Co-locate TDC, Police Community Safety Units and Margate Taskforce.	ALL partners senior management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings streamlined, guidance for partners on casework panel referrals produced. Clear remits for each group, meeting Staff time saved
			30. Compile a list of training programmes on offer for community safety professionals to ensure continued professional development of staff.	TDC CSU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency leads for all topics list produced and circulated

Appendices

i. Partnership structure

Agencies of the partnership meet throughout the year via a number of different forums aimed at coordinating activity, monitoring trends and ensuring clear information sharing. The partnership also oversees a comprehensive system of consultation with residents through its public engagement structure.



Agency Meetings

Community Safety Partnership Executive Group

Is made up of senior managers from the statutory agencies and other partners who act as a board overseeing the decisions and direction of the partnership. They are responsible for agreeing and ensuring their organisations help to implement the Community Safety Plan.

Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny working group

This group is coordinated by the District Council political members and provides a scrutiny function, ensuring all processes have been complied with and that partners are working together. The group also oversees strategic planning and makes recommendations on the decisions of the partnership.

Community Safety Conference

This is an annual practitioner meeting where the strategic assessment data is reviewed and verified by wider partners, best practice is shared and ideas generated to inform and draft the annual community safety plan.

Community Safety Partnership Delivery groups

Delivery groups are set up to for the delivery of a specific partnership initiative, or as a response to a sudden emerging trend. They meet as frequently as is required and feed back to the Community Safety Partnership Executive Group.

Multi-Agency Casework Panel

Is an operational panel that meets monthly and is attended by front line practitioners to review and discuss high and medium risk cases that require multi-agency enforcement. This is to ensure joined up working, prevent duplication and ensure information is shared reducing the chance of cases being ignored.

Public Meetings

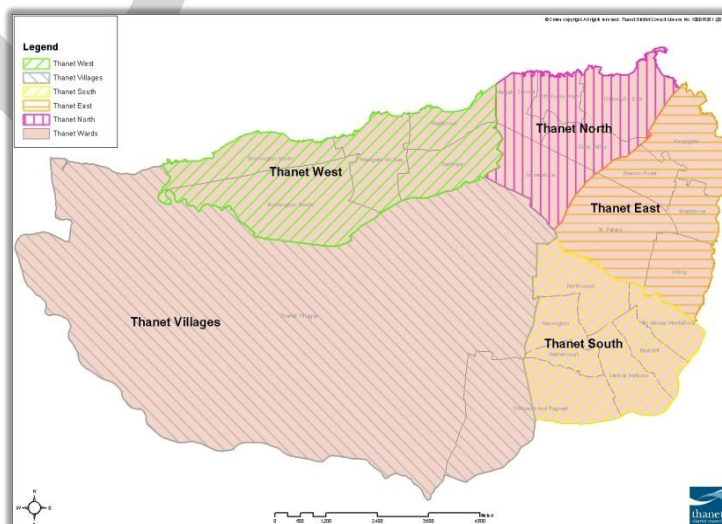
Community Safety Forum

This is a focus group that includes local Councillors, neighbourhood watch co-ordinators, chairs of resident associations and other public groups to meet with senior managers from each of the CSP agencies and look at the strategic planning, discuss priority issues and find out about the progress of the partnership against its action plan. It is not an opportunity to make area specific observations. It is also an opportunity for residents to get involved in partnership projects and find out more about Community Safety.

Neighbourhood Engagement Meetings (NEM)

The partnership also delivers Neighbourhood Engagement Meetings to identify the issues that matter most to residents in our local communities. The district is divided into North, East, South and West geographical areas – with those living in more rural areas attending whichever location is closest and most relevant to them. A quarterly meeting takes place for each area.

The NEM meeting is attended by a range of partners including police officers and PCSOs for that area, district council representatives and KCC Wardens. Members of the community are free to pose questions or make observations about their area, even down to street level. Meeting dates are advertised on the Kent Police and Thanet District Council Websites in advance and are an opportunity to collectively problem-solve community safety issues.



ii. Useful Phone Numbers

Thanet District Council	01843 577000
Thanet Gateway services	08458 247 202
Kent Police	101 (In an emergency: 999)
Kent Fire and Rescue Service	01622 692121
Kent County Council	03000 414141
KCA UK (formerly Kent Council for Addiction)	01795 590 635
Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS Patient advice and liaison service:	01795 590 635
Kent Probation – Thanet Office	03000 473218
Hyde Housing Association	0800 389 3576
Turning Point	0300 123 1186
Kent Drug And Alcohol Action Team (KDAAT)	01622 221676
National Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247
Orbit South Housing Association Thanet Office	0800 678 1221
Sanctuary Housing Association	0800 781 4755
Southern Housing Association	08456 120 021
Town and Country Housing Association	0845 873 1321
Porchlight	0800 5677699
Victim Support	0845 3030900
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111

To find out who your local Police Community Support Officer and Police Constables are, or to see when your next neighbourhood meeting is visit www.kent.police.uk or For more information on any of the partnership, visit www.thanetcommunitysafety.org.uk

You can subscribe to our email distribution list by emailing:
community.safety@thanet.gov.uk

iii. Glossary of terms:

ASBO	Anti Social Behaviour Order, a criminal or civil order Local Authorities and Police can apply for to the courts to place prohibitions on an individual who is causing persistent ASB. It is legally binding and carries maximum penalties of imprisonment if breached.
ABA	Acceptable Behaviour Agreement, an informal intervention used by ASB practitioners to agree with potential perpetrators of lower level ASB prohibitions. Can also be called an Acceptable Behaviour Contract or ABC.
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status.
Dispersal Order	Order providing police additional blanket powers to disperse groups of 2 or more who are causing ASB or likely to cause ASB for a period of 48 hours. The order must be agreed and signed off by the respective Senior Officers of the Local Authority and Local Police Force.
Drug Testing on Arrest (DtoA)	Pilot scheme introduced in Thanet for 2011-12 where people arrested for a number of offences which can be linked to supporting substance misuse, such as theft from a motor vehicle and acquisitive crimes, undergo compulsory drug testing. If they test positive, or refuse testing, sanctions are imposed.
Independent Domestic Violence Advisors	Specialist staff that deal with helping victims of domestic abuse. This project is a new county-wide programme co-ordinated by Kent Probation and funded by a range of district and county organizations.
Integrated Offender Management (IOM)	Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is an overarching framework that allows local and partner agencies to come together to ensure that the offenders whose crimes cause most damage and harm locally are managed in a co-ordinated way.
KCA UK (Kent Council for Addiction)	Formerly Kent Council for Addiction, now covering other parts of the UK and known just as KCA UK. Provides substance misuse services. Currently provide youth substance misuse services in East Kent.
KDAAT	Kent County Council's Drug and Alcohol Team
Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)	The fire and rescue service responsible for delivering services, including rescue and preventative initiatives for each district in Kent.
Looked After Child (LAC)	Children who are in the care of social services.
Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference	Multi agency meeting held to deal with high risk cases of domestic abuse and ensure a coordinated community response.

(MARAC)	
Missing person (MISPER)	Abbreviation used by Police and other agencies for a Missing Person
Neighbourhood Engagement Meetings (NEM)	Neighbourhood Engagement Meetings. Localised meetings for residents, geographically based, to discuss community safety issues of concern with local police and council officers.
NEET	Not in Education or Employment or Training
Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)	Members of support staff employed by Kent Police to support Police Officers in tackling crime and Anti-Social Behaviour issues in local communities
Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)	Elected representatives charged with securing efficient and effective policing and community safety.
Prevent	National Strategy to tackle radicalization and prevent terrorism.
Troubled Families	Programme tackling families with complex problems and needs, or those that are causing problems to the community around them. The initiative aims to reduce the cost of these families to the tax payer by coordinating the support they receive from different agencies.
YEARS project	A Youth Engagement Around Road Safety project that can be delivered to schools or groups at risk of offending.
Youth Inclusion Support Panels (YISP)	Multi agency panel which aims to prevent offending and anti-social behaviour by identifying and supporting young people aged 8–17 who are at high risk of offending and anti-social behaviour, before they enter the youth justice system.
Youth Offending Team	Multi-agency teams set up to manage young offenders, undertaking functions such as setting up reparation plans to ensure community sentences are completed and prevent further reoffending.

The responsible authorities of the Thanet Community Safety Partnership are;



**Kent
Police**

**National
Probation
Service**



Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group



**Kent Fire &
Rescue Service**

Thanks also go to all of the other members of the Community Safety Partnership



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM

Do I have a personal interest?

You have a **personal interest** in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- a) An interest you must **register**.
- b) An interest that is not on your register, but where the well-being or financial position or you, members of your family (spouse; partner; parents; in laws; step/children; nieces and nephews), or people with whom you have a close association (friends; colleagues; business associates and social contacts that can be friendly and unfriendly) is likely to be affected by the business of your authority more than it would affect the majority of:
 - Inhabitants of the ward or electoral division affected by the decision (in the case of the authorities with electoral divisions or wards.)
 - Inhabitants of the authority's area (in all other cases)

These two categories of personal interests are explained in this section. If you declare a personal interest you can remain in the meeting, speak and vote on the matter, unless your personal interest is also a prejudicial interest.

Effect of having a personal interest in a matter

You must declare that you have a personal interest, **and the nature of that interest**, before the matter is discussed or as soon as it becomes apparent to you except in limited circumstances. Even if your interest is on the register of interests, you must declare it in the meetings where matters relating to that interest are discussed, unless an exemption applies.

When an exemption may be applied

An exemption applies where your interest arises solely from your Membership of, or position of control or management on:

1. Any other body to which you were appointed or nominated by the authority.
2. Any other body exercising functions of a public nature (e.g. another local authority)

Is my personal interest also a prejudicial interest?

Your personal interest will also be a **prejudicial interest** in a matter if all of the following conditions are met:

- a) The matter does not fall within one of the **exempt categories** of decisions
- b) The matter affects **your financial interests** or relates to a **licensing or regulatory matter**.
- c) A member of public, who knows the relevant facts, would **reasonably think your personal interest is so significant** that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

What action do I take if I have a prejudicial interest?

- a) If you have a **prejudicial interest** in a matter being discussed at a meeting, you must declare that you have a prejudicial interest as the nature of that interest becomes apparent to you.
- b) You should then leave the room, **unless members of the public are allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter**, by statutory right or otherwise. If that is case, you can also attend the meeting for that purpose.
- c) However, you must immediately leave the room once you have finished or when the meeting decides that you have finished (if that is earlier). You cannot remain in the public gallery to observe the vote on the matter.

d) In addition you must not seek to **improperly influence** a decision in which you have a prejudicial interest.

This rule is similar to your general obligation not to use your position as a Member improperly to your or someone else's advantage or disadvantage.

What if I am unsure?

If you are in any doubt, Members are strongly advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or the Democratic Services Manager well in advance of the meeting.

DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND, PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

MEETING

DATE..... **AGENDA ITEM**

IS YOUR INTEREST:

PERSONAL

PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL

NATURE OF INTEREST:

.....
.....
.....

NAME (PRINT):

SIGNATURE:

Please detach and hand this form to the Committee Clerk when you are asked to declare any interests.