

# AMENDED AGENDA

## CABINET MEETING



Date: Wednesday 13 July 2011  
Time: 6.30 pm  
Venue: Town Hall, High Street,  
Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors Garland (Chairman), Greer, Hotson,  
Mrs Ring and J.A. Wilson

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1. Apologies for Absence
2. Urgent Items
3. Notification of Visiting Members
4. Disclosures by Members and Officers
5. Disclosures of lobbying
6. To consider whether any items should be taken in private because of the possible disclosure of exempt information
7. Minutes of the Meeting held on 08 June 2011

**Continued Over/:**

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**Issued on 11 July 2011**

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in **alternative formats**. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, **please contact KAREN LUCK on 01622 602743**. To find out more about the work of the Cabinet, please visit [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk)

**Alison Broom, Chief Executive, Maidstone Borough Council,  
Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone Kent ME15 6JQ**

### **KEY DECISION REPORTS**

8. Report of the Chief Executive - Annual Governance Statement
9. Report of the Head of Business Improvement - Channel Shift Strategy
10. Report of the Head of Housing and Community Services - Housing Strategy 2011-2015

### **NON-KEY DECISION REPORTS**

11. Reference from the Housing Consultative Board - Housing Strategy 2011/12-14/15
12. Report of the Chief Executive - Local Code of Corporate Governance
13. Report of the Director of Regeneration and Communities - Revenues and Benefits Shared Service Update
14. Report of the Leader of the Council - Forward Plan

### **ADDITIONAL ITEM**

### **NON-KEY DECISION REPORT**

15. **Report of the Head of Democratic Services - Rural Economy Review SCRAIP** **127 - 133**

## **MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**13 JULY 2011**

## **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**Report prepared by Neil Harris**

### **1. RURAL ECONOMY REVIEW SCRAIP**

#### 1.1 Issue for Decision

1.2 To consider the response to the Rural Economy Review Scrutiny Committee Recommendation Action and Implementation Plan (SCRAIP).

#### 1.3 Reason for Urgency

1.3.1 The report is urgent because of the need to respond to the Scrutiny Committee Recommendation Action and Implementation Plan relating to the Rural Economy Review by the deadline of 13 July 2011.

#### 1.4 Recommendation

1.4.1 That the attached response to the SCRAIP relating to the Rural Economy Review be agreed.

#### 1.5 Reasons for Recommendation

1.5.1 The response to the SCRAIP on the Rural Economy Review has been prepared and is attached to the report.

#### 1.6 Alternative Action and why not Recommended

1.6.1 No response could be made but this would mean that the Cabinet would not be complying with the requirement under the Constitution.

#### 1.7 Impact on Corporate Objectives

1.7.1 The recommendations in the SCRAIP impact on all the Corporate Objectives.

1.8 Risk Management

1.8.1 There are no direct risk management issues from completing the SCRAIP.

1.9 Other Implications

1.9.1

1. Financial
2. Staffing
3. Legal
4. Equality Impact Needs Assessment
5. Environmental/Sustainable Development
6. Community Safety
7. Human Rights Act
8. Procurement
9. Asset Management


1.10 Relevant Documents

1.11 None

1.11.1 Appendices

1.12 The Scrutiny Committee Recommendation Action and Implementation Plan – Rural Economy Review form

1.12.1 Background Documents

1.12.2 None

**IS THIS A KEY DECISION REPORT?**

Yes

No ✓

If yes, when did it first appear in the Forward Plan?

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This is a Key Decision because: .....

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Wards/Parishes affected: .....

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## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SCRAIP)

**Report Title: Leisure & Prosperity – Rural Economy Review**

**Report of Leisure & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Date of Publication: 9 June 2011**

**Dates to report back to Committee:**

Update	Date	Completed?	Note
1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Dec 2011</b>		6 months after publication
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>June 2012</b>		12 months after publication

Recommendation <sup>i</sup>	Chief Officer / Cabinet Member <sup>ii</sup>	Response <sup>iii</sup>	Timetable <sup>iv</sup>	Lead Officer <sup>v</sup>
The Economic Development Strategy July 2008 needs to be revised to show an equal focus on the rural and urban aspects of the Borough and reflect the recent changes concerning the Localism Bill.	Chief Officers of Economic Development	A refresh of the Economic Development Strategy will be commissioned this year, which will consider the rural economy in equal measure to the urban economy.	October 2011 to March 2012	John Foster
To lobby for station improvements within the rural areas to allow better disabled access to all platforms.	Full Cabinet	The Council will pursue this in conjunction with Network Rail and other Partners.	6 months	David Edwards
That the Cabinet Members for Environment and Economic Development & Transport support the future work programme for 2011/12 and that the rural economy transport issues are suitably addressed as part of the Local Development Framework.	Cabinet Members	These issues will be examined through the Integrated Transport Strategy and Core Strategy.	3 months	Flo Churchill/ Sue Whiteside
The Cabinet Members for Economic Development & Transport and Environment should	Cabinet Members	The council has been pursuing significant rail issues with KCC and the Government directly; this work is on-	On-going	David Edwards

lobby support to the Growth Without Gridlock team on the major priorities concerning Maidstone in the Rail Action Plan for Kent Strategy.		going.		
As the new plan is being devised, the Committee would like to see a stronger recognition of the rural transport issues and provide detail on how the Council intend to overcome the current obstacles.	Full Cabinet	These issues will be examined through the Integrated Transport Strategy and Core Strategy.	3 months	Flo Churchill/ Sue Whiteside
Following the announcements of the first successful round of applications for the Superfast Broadband Pilot Fund in mid May 2011, the Committee see which applicants have been successful within the borough, and what the next procedure is before this can be implemented.	IT/Economic Development Officers	Kent County Council's BDUK bid has failed. KCC has its own funding for broadband development to support economic development and work is in process to engage with KCC to identify a project for Maidstone.	July 2011 – April 2012	Keith Grimley/Dave Lindsey
The Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Transport seeks methods to educate Maidstone residents in renewable energy benefits, perhaps with the help of Distributed Generation Ltd at possible community and town events.	Cabinet Member	The Council's climate change web pages currently direct interested people to the Energy Trust, rather than to a specific Company. Events can be organised through the Energy Trust or Creative Environmental Network. This enables people to choose which company they use rather than direct people to a Company.	April 2012	Jennifer Hunt
In line with the Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy, the Council support businesses within the borough when possible and permissible.	Full Cabinet	This can be pursued through the Council's procurement process.	On-going	Steve Goulette/ Stephen Trigg
The Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure Services investigates any licence issues regarding obtaining a business recycling point in Marden.	Cabinet Member	This issue will be pursued, as well as any licensing issues; such a facility may also need planning permission.	6 months	Steve Goulette
The Cabinet Member seeks the possibility of creating a 'bank roll'	Cabinet	This will be examined.	4 months	Paul Riley

service, using Cornwall Council as an example, in order to support applicants in the Leader Programme.	Member			
The Cabinet Member liaises with the Director of Change, Planning and the Environment and the Head of Development Management to reduce the time taken for planning to write confirmation that no planning permission was required on the site concerned. This may include highlighting to the Leader Programme team the process to apply for Certificate for Lawful Developments on sites concerning the Leader Programme.	Cabinet Member	The processes of issuing Certificate of Lawful Development will be examined to determine whether it is possible to reduce the time taken for issuing them.	3 months	Rob Jarman
That the Cabinet Member and Leader of the Council should ensure planning policies reflect the contemporary needs of Maidstone's agricultural businesses. Spatial planning policies should be pro-active in encouraging planning applications for renewables and polytunnels (where appropriate and done in a sensitive manner) to help our agricultural community compete.	Full Cabinet	This issue can be examined through the Core Strategy and other Land Development Plan Documents.	3 months	Flo Churchill/ Sue Whiteside
The Committee would like the Council to give encouragement for local affordable housing schemes in the rural communities. Ways of incentivising such schemes should be given consideration.	Full Cabinet	The Council's policies already enable affordable housing in rural areas, either as part of larger developments or where there is an identified local need. Whether such schemes can be further encouraged is an issue related to both Planning and Housing Policy. This issue can be examined through reviewing both Planning and Housing Policy.	3 months	Flo Churchill/ John Littlemore
Cabinet Member to pursue lobbying KCC Members to review	Cabinet	This issue is complex as brown signs are owned by the properties or venues they	6 months	Brian Morgan



the procedure for renewing and mending brown tourism signs.	Member	relate to; they are commissioned by Visit Kent and erected by Kent County Council. The removal of a sign, or its repair, is therefore an issue for both the sign owner and KCC. Realistically, the whole system requires review in liaison with other parties.		
That the neighbourhood forum meets with the business forums from time to time to help lobby the council with issues as a community.	Janet Barnes/Cabinet Member	Incorporated in the report on the Review of Neighbourhood Forums to go to the Cabinet Meeting on 10 August 2011	August 2011	Neil Harris/ Janet Barnes
The Cabinet Member should review the possibility of adapting the boroughs neighborhood forums using Merton Council as an example.	Cabinet Member	Incorporated in the report on the Review of Neighbourhood Forums to go to the Cabinet Meeting on 10 August 2011	August 2011	Neil Harris/ Janet Barnes

### **Notes on the completion of SCRAIP**

<sup>i</sup> Report recommendations are listed as found in the report.

<sup>ii</sup> Insert in this box the Cabinet Member whose portfolio the recommendation falls within.

<sup>iii</sup> The Officer/Cabinet Member responsible for responding to the recommendation should indicate in this box either the acceptance or rejection of the recommendation.

**If the recommendation is rejected** an explanation for its rejection should be provided. The 'timetable' and 'lead officer' boxes can be left blank

**If the recommendation is accepted** an explanation of the action to be taken to implement the recommendation should be recorded in this box. Please also complete the 'timetable' and 'lead officer' boxes.

<sup>iv</sup> The Officer/Cabinet Member responsible for responding to the recommendation should indicate in this box when the action in indicated in the previous box will be implemented.

<sup>v</sup> The Officer/Cabinet Member responsible for responding to the recommendation should indicate in this box the Officer responsible for the implementation of the action highlighted in the 'response' box.