

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
Quarter 3 update: Environment and Transportation
Date: February 2011
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1.0 Overview

Maidstone Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) is a non-statutory body, bringing together a group of people who work together to improve the quality of life for everyone living and working in Maidstone. Maidstone's LSP brings together people from the council, the NHS, the police, local businesses, voluntary and community organisations and government to work together as a team to tackle issues such as crime, education, health, housing, unemployment and the environment.

The Maidstone LSP sets out the long term plan for Maidstone in its key strategy, the Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 – 2020 and oversees the delivery of its priorities which are;

- a vibrant economy, create prosperity and opportunities for all
- an efficient, sustainable, integrated transport system
- stronger and safer communities
- healthier communities and support older people to lead more active and independent lives
- make Maidstone Borough a place where people of all ages - children, young people and families - can achieve their aspirations
- develop Maidstone Borough's urban and rural communities as models for 21st Century quality and sustainable living
- a thriving sporting, creative and cultural life for all
- retain and enhance Maidstone Borough's distinctive history, landscape and character

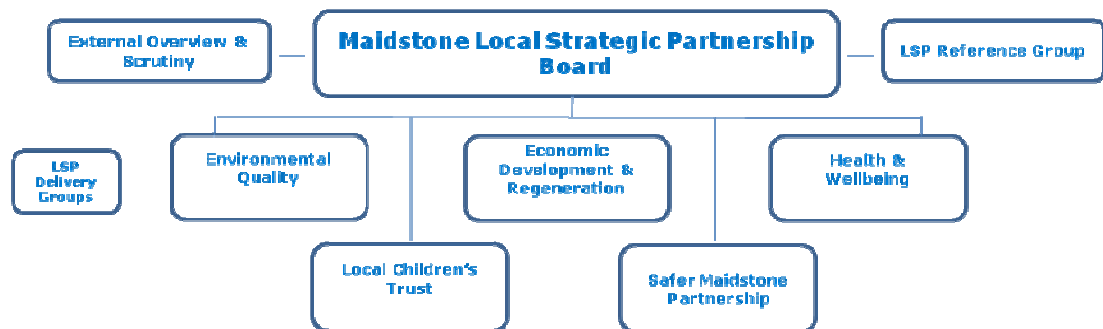
2.0 Structure

The partnership has a Board to consider issues and make decisions which is supported by five delivery groups that look at specific themes;

- Economic Development and Regeneration
- Environmental Quality
- Health and Wellbeing
- Local Children's Trust
- Safer Maidstone Partnership

In 2011, the LSP will set up a Reference Group to involve a wide range of groups and interests on issues affecting people in Maidstone and to feed views and recommendations into the Board and its delivery groups. The Reference Group links the partnership to wider networks to build two way engagement and communication between Maidstone's LSP and a wider constituency.

Maidstone's LSP is accountable to Maidstone Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.



3.0 The Sustainable Community Strategy

The Strategy has been prepared jointly by Maidstone's Local Strategic Partnership and Maidstone Borough Council and sets out the things which are most important to people in the borough and which need to be addressed in the coming years.

4.0 General Activity

4.1 Looking back – last 12 months

- Dec 2009: The Maidstone Sustainable Community Strategy was formally adopted by the Maidstone LSP.
- Feb 2010: The LSP Constitution was revised to provide formal governance of the LSP and its delivery groups.
- Mar 2010: The Maidstone LSP held its first Away Day agreeing 5 priorities to be addressed collectively through the LSP; Domestic Abuse, Family Poverty, Teenage Conception, Road Safety and Communications.
- April 2010: Maidstone LSP awarded £270,000 Performance Reward Grant for the countywide achievement of the First Kent Agreement (Local Area Agreement 1) targets. Funding awarded to 19 local projects and activities supporting the LSP priorities.
- Aug 2010: Community Partnerships service created to support and develops the Maidstone LSP
- Sept 2010: Risk workshop held to tackle key risks to the Local Strategic Partnership achieving its strategic objectives.
- Sept 2010: Safer Maidstone Partnership confirmed as an LSP delivery group.
- Oct 2010: SQW Consultants commissioned by the LSP Board to undertake a review of the public sector money being spent in the Borough by agency and by service area.
- Nov 2010: LSP priority 'Domestic Abuse' stakeholder conference held, attracting 100 attendees.
- Dec 2010: Local Children's Trust confirmed as an LSP delivery group.
- Dec 2010: LSP e-newsletter launched.

4.2 Look forward – next 12 months

- Feb 2011: LSP website and leaflet launched.
- Mar 2011: LSP priority stakeholder conferences to be held between March to September 2011, covering the issues of Road Safety, Teenage Conception, Family Poverty and Communications.
- Mar 2011: Maidstone Sustainable Community Strategy refresh.
- Apr 2011: LSP Away Day.
- Apr 2011: Resource Mapping (Phase 2).
- May 2011: Multi-agency groups review to streamline the multi-agency meetings and working groups existing within the borough.
- Sept 2011: Performance Reward Grant evaluation against original targets and outcomes.

5.0 Quarter 3 delivery group update

5.1 Environmental Quality Delivery Group

5.1.1 Membership

Carolyn McKenzie (Chair), Sustainability and Climate Change Manager, Kent County Council

Cllr Ben Sherreard, Cabinet Member for Environment, Maidstone Borough Council

David Edwards, Director of Change and Environmental Services, Maidstone Borough Council

Rob Wise, Team Leader for Environmental Planning for Kent & East Sussex, Environment Agency

Rob Patterson, Business Development Manager, Arriva

Ben Frier, Strategic Support Coordinator, Energy Saving Trust

Graham Tanner, Travel Planning Team Leader, KCC Highways

John Bennett, Chief Executive, Kent Wildlife Trust

Lee Dance, Head of Water Resources, South East Water

Bernice Brewster, Proprietor, Aquatic Consultancy

Lee Bennett, Town Centre Management

John Newington (Lead Officer), Senior Pollution Officer, Maidstone Borough Council

5.1.2 Priorities

Priority setting meeting held with partners to refine and propose an achievable and measurable set of priorities. Partners voted for and agreed the proposed priorities, appointing a lead officer against each priority to work with partners to set an achievable and realistic set of actions, outcomes and performance measures. The following 3 priorities have been adopted by the delivery group;

- **Waste reduction**

- Business and commercial waste
- Waste market development
- Waste minimisation and prevention

- **Climate change and carbon reduction**

- Domestic housing
- Transport (smarter ways of working/travel planning)

- Renewable energy
- **Adaption**
- Resource planning
- Flood risk
- Quality
- Assets

5.1.3 Performance

All targets show improvements and progress has been shown. However, it was clear that the group has the potential to enhance delivery by focusing attention to areas where partnership working will provide add-on benefits or areas that have been overlooked to date and may not be being addressed in other environmental groups that the partners attend.

Waste (Household): The new food waste scheme looks to increase NI191 from 33% to above 34%. This area also provides the potential for market expansion into commercial markets. NI 192 had only reached 30% last year, but is currently at 33% and by Quarter 4 this year will be showing a positive result. Long term goals are set at around 50% reductions by 2015. The total waste reduction of 10% is nearly on target.

Climate Change: Domestic take up of improvement grants (CERTS) needs to be maximised. An increase of multi-agency referrals is being sought from the domestic sector through Central Government's new 'Green Deal', which will allocate funding to local government to improve housing stock and the most vulnerable residents/neighbourhoods.

Carbon Emissions: Reducing carbon emissions is currently set at a level of 6%. Domestic emissions for gas went down, while electricity consumption levels increased against NI 186. The group agreed the growth of technology and equipment in schools, businesses and homes has impacted the increase in electricity consumption levels.

Travel planning: The base line for travel planning is improving, particularly against single car occupancy. New ways of working are being discussed, including a business community club with organisations including Arriva, Cycle UK and Halfords promoting alternative forms of transport.

Adaption: SouthEast Water's 'Water Resource Strategy' has predicted consumer needs will peak in summer 2012. Water resource planning will seek to assess behaviour and demand. Partners will assess flooding risk level, quality and assets through the Borough Council's Water Resource Plan.

5.1.4 Other Activities

The Kent Environment Strategy will be proposed for adoption by the Borough Council in 2011.

The Borough Council's Climate Change Framework is currently under development and seeks to ensure consistency across Council Policies and Action Plans with regard to all aspects of Climate Change.

5.2 Economic Development and Regeneration Delivery Group

5.2.1 Membership

John Taylor (Chair), Chair of Chamber of Commerce Economic Working Group for Maidstone, Page & Wells
Cllr Malcolm Greer, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Maidstone Borough Council
David Edwards, Director of Change, Planning and Environment, Maidstone Borough Council
Chris Blundell, Director of Asset Management & Regeneration, Maidstone Housing Trust
John Hughes, Parish Councillor, KALC
Daphne Rowlands, Assistant Principal Maidstone, Mid Kent College
Nigel Whitburn, Community Development Manager, Action with Communities in Rural Kent
Andrew Simms, Area Manager, Boots, West Kent
Andy Corcoran, Transport Manager, Kent Highways
Paul Andrews, Managing Director, Jobs in Kent
Representing the Federation of Small Business
Keith Grimley, Economic Development Officer, Maidstone Borough Council

5.2.2 Priorities

Priority setting meeting held with partners to refine and propose an achievable and measurable set of priorities. Partners voted for and agreed the proposed priorities, appointing a lead officer against each priority to work with partners to set an achievable and realistic set of actions, outcomes and performance measures. The following 4 priorities have been adopted by the delivery group;

- **Develop a vibrant economy; create prosperity and opportunities for all**
 - Skills development
 - Creation of businesses and jobs
 - Attractive location, environment, facilities and infrastructure
- **Support an efficient, sustainable and integrated transport system**
 - Travel plans and impact
 - Park and Ride
- **Flexible housing to accommodate changing needs**
 - Affordability
 - Environment and sustainability
 - Reduce homelessness
- **Develop Maidstone Borough's urban and rural communities as models for 21st Century quality and sustainable living**
 - Improve natural and built environment
 - Lifestyle (cultural and sports offer)

5.2.3 General Activity

KCC Local Transport Plan (LTP3): The NTP (National Transport Plan) consultation is scheduled for release at the end of December 2010 and will recommend the development of a new framework, the Annual Authority National Framework Strategy. The LTP3 will set a framework for transport improvements across the county over the next five years. It addresses both short-term growth implications and long-term through the Local Development Framework. The final plan is due to be published in March 2011. The plan will be subject to a capital funding review set by the Department of Transport, which may result in the capital funding programme not being available going forward.

The delivery group agreed that its priorities within the LTP3 should be;

- Reinstatement and improvement of rail services in the borough
- Funding of park and ride

Group members have contributed to the brief for and execution of a Kent County Council led survey of home-based businesses in Maidstone and Kent, including business support needs. The purpose being to better understand the needs of young, small businesses and their relative prevalence locally.