

Maidstone Borough Council

Regeneration and Economic Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 24 April 2012

Locality Board Written Update

Report of: Overview & Scrutiny Officer

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Committee had included in its future work programme for April an update from the Locality Board.
- 1.2 At its last meeting Members received a progress update following the recent Stakeholder Event held on Monday 12 March 2012 at Senacre Skills Centre.
- 1.3 The event was delivered in Partnership with the Economic Development and Regeneration Delivery Group.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to consider the information that has been provided at **Appendix A and Appendix B**. The Committee may wish to make recommendations to Officers, request further information or make the Locality Boards the focus of a future meeting.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The Local Strategic Partnership was dissolved in September 2011 and was replaced with the Locality Board.
- 3.2 The Local Strategic Partnership consisted of 5 delivery groups which included the Economic Development and Regeneration Delivery Group.
- 3.3 At its first meeting on 20 January 2012 the existing priorities of the five delivery groups were discussed (**Appendix A**). On 2 March 2011 The Locality Board Priorities Task and Finish Panel met and the following priorities were recommended to the Board:
 - Community Budgets;
 - Tackling Worklessness;
 - Tackling Poverty;
 - Local Environmental Improvements; and
 - Communication and Engagement with the business sector.

3.4 At its meeting on the 28 March 2012 the Locality Board were asked to consider the recommendations of the task and finish panel and it was concluded that:

“Adoption of the four recommended priorities will ensure that the key corporate aims of both Councils can be driven through the Locality Board for the benefit of all Maidstone residents”.

3.5 The Worklessness action plan was taken to the Locality Board’s last meeting and the report prepared (Appendix B) recommended that it be adopted by the Locality Board to Champion.

4. Impact on Corporate Objectives

4.1 The Committee will consider reports that deliver against the following Council priority:

- Maidstone to have a growing economy.

4.2 The Strategic Plan sets the Council’s key objectives for the medium term and has a range of objectives which support the delivery of the Council’s priorities. The Committee’s work will contribute to the delivery of these key objectives over the next year.