

Report to: Dartford and Gravesham Local Strategic Partnership
Date: 24 June 2010
Reporting officer: Kent Partnership and Kent Agreement Manager
Subject: Draft refresh of Vision for Kent

Purpose and summary of report:

To provide the LSP with a draft of the refreshed Vision for Kent and to offer an opportunity to understand the framework for its development.

Recommendations:

1. Members of the LSP acknowledge the requirement to refresh the Vision for Kent.
2. Members of the LSP debate the proposal of the Vision for Kent ambitions and the inclusion of the ambitions as a framework for a future Sustainable Community Strategy.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the February meeting of the Kent Partnership a report explained the need for the Kent Partnership to refresh its Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS); the Vision for Kent. As a reminder, current legislation sets the purpose of the SCS:

“Every local authority must prepare a strategy (referred to in this section as a community strategy) for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom”.

Since February 2010, work has been proceeding across all of the working groups of the Kent Partnership to ensure that the refreshed SCS sets the context for and reflects all of the work going on across the Partnership. This includes the work on developing the strategies supporting regeneration and refreshing strategies for children and young people, community safety and public health etc (see Appendix 1). All of this work must come together in time for April 2011.

2. Developing Countywide Ambitions

- 2.1 The Countywide Ambitions are designed to foster shared and collective responsibility between all Kent partners for making Kent the place where people choose to live and where enterprise thrives. They are designed to be the cornerstone of the refreshed Vision.

- 2.2 Prior to the general election, a discussion paper setting out some ideas for 'Countywide Ambitions' identified five possible countywide ambitions. However, following the fall-out from the change in central government and recent discussions held at June's Kent & Medway Chief Executive's meeting, it was agreed that any refreshed Vision for Kent must have a suite of cross cutting ambitions, specific to Kent, that work across agencies, partnerships and spatial areas. Also that the vision should have a streamlined approach that focuses on critical issues and that drives closer joining up of strategy and delivery
- 2.3 As a result, the refresh of Vision for Kent now has an agreed three priority approach;
1. *For Kent residents to be responsible citizens, taking pride in making themselves, their families and communities healthy, safe, strong and vibrant.*
 2. *To ensure no one in Kent is disadvantaged because of where they live and all have confidence in public services*
 3. *For Kent to be 'open for business' with a growing, prosperous economy and full employment*

There are supporting statements to each of the ambitions found at Appendix 2 to this report.

3. County and District Partnerships delivering the Ambitions

- 3.1 It is envisaged that the 'Countywide Ambitions' could set the county level framework, supported with agreed outcomes and targets. The atypical needs of Kent could then be identified as local priorities, fitting with the 'countywide ambitions' on an 'a la carte' basis, a similar methodology adopted to the Kent Agreement 2 (KA2) targets.
- 3.2 At this stage it is unknown if the new government wishes to continue with Local Area Agreements such as the KA2 and if so the form they will take. The approach set out could replace KA2 with a Kent Partnership Delivery Agreement, agreed locally by partners across Kent.
- 3.3 To support this approach partners, including local authorities at LSP level, will need to agree the smallest possible set of outcomes that give confidence that progress is being made towards the Countywide Ambitions. This will probably be through approximately 8 to 10 cross cutting outcomes, each with two or three performance indicator measures. The rationale is that if these suggested 8 to 10 outcomes, supported by 20 to 30 indicators, are showing improvement then there can be confidence that partners are working together to make the improvements they have all signed up to.
- 3.4 The relative priority each district area will wish to give each of the suggested 8 to 10 outcomes will be different. This forms part of the 'a la carte' approach, reflecting local challenges, performance and priorities which in turn will be reflected in partner's SCS documents.