

Ambition Board 3 – Putting Citizens In Control

13 June 2011 – Minutes

Present:

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| Julie Beilby, Central Services Director | Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council |
| Andrew Bowles, Leader | Swale Borough Council |
| John Cunningham, Cabinet Member | Tunbridge Wells Borough Council |
| David Firth, Partnership Officer (Minutes) | Kent Forum Support Team |
| Robin Hales, Chief Executive | Sevenoaks District Council |
| Mike Hill, Cabinet Member | Kent County Council |
| Amanda Honey, Corporate Director | Kent County Council |
| Jeremy Kite, Leader | Dartford Borough Council |
| Sue McGonigal, Chief Executive | Thanet District Council |
| Ann Millington, Chief Executive | Kent Fire and Rescue |
| Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member | Kent County Council |

| Agenda Item | Notes/Action | Lead |
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| 1. | Apologies and Introductions | |
| 1.1 | In the absence of a chair Amanda Honey welcomed everyone to the first meeting of Ambition Board 3. | |
| 1.2 | The following apologies had been received: Robert Bliss (Leader: Shepway District Council); Robert Atwood (Leader: Tunbridge Wells Borough Council); Glyn Thomson (Chief Executive: Gravesham Borough Council); David Hughes (Chief Executive: Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council) | |
| 2. | Ambition Board Introduction | |
| 2.1 | David Firth gave a scene-setting presentation covering the key drivers for change, an overview of Kent's response including the new partnership architecture, and the role of Ambition Boards including their relationship to Locality Boards. | |
| 2.2 | The Board felt it was important to identify support arrangements at an early stage. | |
| 2.3 | The Board thought their role could be to listen and develop best practice. The Ambition Board could provide the opportunity to think collaboratively on key issues. | |
| 3. | Governance | |
| | (i) Chairing Arrangements | |
| 3.1 | Amanda Honey asked for nominations for the Chairmanship. | |

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| 3.2 | Mike Hill nominated Andrew Bowles for chair with Jeremy Kite seconding. Andrew Bowles was confirmed as Chair. | |
| 3.3 | Andrew Bowles nominated Mike Hill as vice-chair with Bryan Sweetland seconding. Mike Hill was confirmed as vice-chair. | |
| 3.4 | <p>(ii) Terms of Reference</p> <p>Andrew Bowles asked for the Terms of Reference to be agreed at an early stage to enable the Board to focus on adding value.</p> | |
| 3.5 | It was felt the draft Terms of Reference were sensible and with minor adjustments could be agreed. | |
| 3.6 | The Board agreed to delete section 6 from the Terms of Reference due to the likely outcomes from the board not being SMART related and for the board to meet on a quarterly basis. | |
| 3.7 | It was agreed for the membership to remain as the agreed core membership and for additional individuals or organisations to be invited as required. It was felt additional members may arise from the Vision for Kent consultation and following agreement on the focus of the Ambition Board. Representatives from the VCS, media, and Business sector were highlighted as possible representatives to invite to future meetings. | |
| 3.8 | Mike Hill commented that he was meeting the Ambition Champions along with KentCAN in the near future and may be able to add further information related to the Ambition Champion role following this meeting. | |
| 3.9 | <p>It was agreed the Ambition Board should evaluate whether it is adding value early on to ensure the meetings are useful.</p> <p>AGREED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For Andrew Bowles to act as Chair and Mike Hill Vice-Chair of Ambition Board 3. - For the Terms of Reference, following amendments, to be brought to next meeting for sign off. - For additional individuals or organisations to be invited as required - For evaluation of Ambition Board at an early stage to ensure a value-adding role | DF |

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| 4. | Briefing Pack Overview | |
| 4.1 | David Firth gave a short overview of the Ambition Board briefing pack as an introduction to the discussion on the role of the Ambition Board. | |
| 5. | Key Questions (Ambition Board Role) | |
| 5.1 | The Board held a general discussion on the future role of the Ambition Board and key areas of interest following circulation prior to the meeting of key questions the Board may like to consider. | |
| 5.2 | <p>The Board discussed engagement, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The importance of engaging with 'real' people and not just organisations - Whether we should be engaging with people who might not have an interest in a particular topic - Engagement over the 'last mile' of services (e.g. John Lewis model) - The need to listen to citizens effectively, e.g. through comments and complaints - The diversity in levels of engagement was highlighted across the county, including between areas with Parish Councils and those without. - Social media was raised as an opportunity to engage with citizens outside of usual consultation paradigms - The importance of engaging with citizens during this period of a contracting state was raised | |
| 5.3 | A possible area for the Ambition Board to focus on is to encourage individuals to take more responsibility and partake in their decisions rather than service design. The aim could be to support people to support their own interests. | |
| 5.4 | The Ambition Board could also be used to ensure collective understanding and working on issues such as the Big Society, VCS engagement, and Social Enterprise. | |
| 5.5 | The Board also discussed a number of the top priorities under Ambition 3 in the Vision for Kent and how the Ambition Board could support these. | |
| 5.6 | In terms of the Ambition Board's role the importance of the Board adding value and the need to link with and support Locality Boards were highlighted. | |
| 6. | Work Plan | |
| 6.1 | <p>The Board suggested a number of areas which they may like to look at in future, these included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Localism Bill - Vision for Kent consultation - Best Value consultation | |

