

**FIRST BRIEFING
EDITION 1
APRIL 2011**

Welcome to the Kent Forum Briefing.
A chance to find out about the key initiatives, developments
and meetings across the Kent Forum.
www.kentforum.org.uk



KENT FORUM

The Kent Forum is the high-level strategic group bringing together the family of local government in Kent. It was formed in 2010 following the development of the Kent Recommitment between Kent's 13 District and County councils. It comprises the democratic leaders of Kent's local authorities and has overall responsibility for co-ordinating and agreeing shared priorities and progress, encouraging community leadership and supporting new initiatives. These responsibilities include overseeing Kent's Sustainable Community Strategy (Vision for Kent) and supporting the development of Locality Boards across the county. Kent Forum replaces the Kent Partnership.

Kent Forum has met several times since starting in November 2010. It last met on 25 March to discuss a wide ranging agenda including items on the Vision for Kent refresh, Health and Wellbeing Boards, the Kent Environment Strategy, recent changes to the planning system, improving broadband connectivity, and the development of Ambition Boards and Locality Boards.

The Kent Forum endorsed the Kent Environment Strategy and received a presentation on the new Community Infrastructure Levy. It was agreed to hold a half-day workshop for Forum members on Public Health and GP Commissioning. It was also agreed to proceed with the roll out of Ambition Boards and Locality Boards and review progress after one year.

For further information visit: www.kentforum.org.uk or contact: jenny.dixon@kent.gov.uk

VISION FOR KENT REFRESH

The Vision for Kent, Kent's Sustainable Community Strategy, is being updated. Partners have been working together to produce the new draft document—Vision for Kent 2011-2021. The new draft is written around the three Countywide Ambitions which are the absolute priorities for all partners to work towards making Kent a better place over the next 10 years.

The Countywide Ambitions and the draft strategy are the product of extensive informal consultation with a wide range of partners, including at the Kent Partnership conference 2010. There is excellent commitment to the Countywide Ambitions from partners as evidenced in the endorsements within the draft strategy.

As we move into our new partnership arrangements, the Vision for Kent will support partnership working by providing a shared starting point for the work of the Ambition and Locality Boards whilst also acting as the 'glue' for the countywide strategies and delivery plans on specific issues.

In order to formally consult with stakeholders and the public we will be going out for consultation later this year following the forthcoming elections. More information on the consultation will be available in the next Forum Briefing.

For further information visit: www.kentforum.org.uk or contact: jenny.dixon@kent.gov.uk

SUPPORTING THE KENT FORUM

The Joint Kent Chiefs supports the Kent Forum and ensures it has the right information at the right time to enable good judgment and decision making.

It comprises Chief Executives from the public sector organisations represented on the Kent Forum and additionally the Chief Constable, Chief Executive of the Kent and Medway PCT Cluster, and the Chief Executive of Medway Council.

Supporting the Kent Forum and Joint Kent Chiefs is the 'Kent Forum Team' paid for by Kent Forum members and hosted by KCC.

Further info visit: www.kentforum.org.uk or
contact: david.firth@kent.gov.uk

IMPORTANT DATES

2011

9 May	Joint Chief Execs
24 May	Kent Forum
4 Jul	Joint Chief Execs
22 Jul	Kent Forum
7 Sep	Joint Chief Execs
22 Sep	Kent Forum
7 Nov	Joint Chief Execs
17 Nov	Kent Forum Conference
24 Nov	Kent Forum

KENT FORUM WEBSITE

Following the changes in partnership architecture the Kent Partnership website has now been replaced by a Kent Forum website which can be found at www.kentforum.org.uk.

The website provides meeting dates, agendas and papers along with background information on the Kent Forum, Ambition Boards, Locality Boards and the Vision for Kent.

For further information visit:
www.kentforum.org.uk
or contact
david.firth@kent.gov.uk

AMBITION BOARDS

Following discussions at the January and March Kent Forum meetings significant progress has been made with Ambition Boards.

The role of Ambition Boards has been agreed with a focus on:

- Operating strategically as a 'change agent'
- Supporting and challenging Locality Boards with a focus on the three Countywide Ambitions
- Supporting the rationalisation of countywide partnerships

The nominations for Ambition Boards have also been agreed. Membership of each Ambition Board comprises six elected members from across the Kent Forum membership and four senior officers.

Further discussions are now underway over how best to streamline the myriad of county level partnerships under the three Ambition Boards.

For further information contact: graeme.brown@kent.gov.uk

LOCALITY BOARDS

The creation of Locality Boards emphasises a new way for County and District Councils to work together as set out within the Kent Recommitment and Kent Forum Terms of Reference.

Locality Boards aim to inject much more democratic accountability into locality partnerships and stimulate effective joint working by local partners to deliver locality and county priorities.

Locality Boards will evolve in different ways and to different timetables according to locality priorities and circumstances. There is not a one-size-fits-all approach.

It was agreed at the March Kent Forum for development of Locality Boards to continue and for the Boards to drive the rationalisation of locality level partnerships.

For further information visit: www.kentforum.org.uk
or contact graeme.brown@kent.gov.uk

HEALTH UPDATE

The first Health and Wellbeing Board Workshop was held on 16 March with representatives from the GP Commissioning Consortia and District Councils amongst those attending.

The event was widely held to have been extremely positive and to have produced some very productive thoughts and actions on how to move forward together to set up the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.

Terms of reference for the Shadow Board are now being drafted.

For further information contact:
mark.lemon@kent.gov.uk

ECONOMY UPDATE

KCC, in partnership with the members of KEB, is implementing a series of major business consultation events. Two events have been held to date on agriculture & horticulture and construction & development with three more on Low Carbon Energy Production, Health & Social Care, and Digital & Creation Media taking place before the summer. The presentations, event reports and analysis of the feedback can be viewed on www.keb.org.uk

The KCC Regeneration Board agreed on 5th April a framework programme for "business growth" which identifies priorities and gives form to the Regeneration Framework objectives for growing the economy.

The Bank of England presented at the March meeting of the Business Advisory Board with a copy of the presentation available on www.keb.org.uk

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