

BRIEFING EDITION 2 JUNE 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 CONFERENCE

The first annual Kent Forum Conference will be held on 17 November 2011 at Oakwood House, Maidstone.

Kent Forum members are asked to keep the date available. Further details will be circulated nearer to the event.

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

KENT FORUM UPDATE

The Kent Forum met on 24 May to discuss a busy agenda including the signing of the Kent Re-commitment, the confirmation of the Kent Forum as the lead body for partnership working in Kent, community budgets, Vision for Kent consultation and collaboration on property assets.

A number of the items discussed at the last meeting feature in this briefing. Agenda, papers and minutes from the meeting are available on the Kent Forum website www.kentforum.org.uk.

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

VISION FOR KENT REFRESH - CONSULTATION

Kent Forum have approved the launch of the Vision for Kent for a 10 week formal consultation period from 22 June 2011. The Vision for Kent, Kent's Sustainable Community Strategy, is written around the three Countywide Ambitions which are the absolute priorities to 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, who we will again be consulted with during the formal period. The Kent Forum are pleased there has been excellent commitment to the Countywide Ambitions from partners as evidenced in the endorsements within the draft strategy.

A summary of the Vision for Kent has also been produced to help members of the public to take part in the consultation. The leaflet aims to give a brief and easy to understand explanation of what the Vision for Kent is and what the three countywide ambitions are. Importantly, the leaflet gives a clear call to action by asking people to respond to the consultation questions. They can either do this by visiting the Kent Forum website and completing the survey online, or using the paper version of the survey which will be attached to the leaflet and can be torn-off and returned via freepost.

To take part in the consultation visit: www.kentforum.org.uk or for
further information contact: jenny.dixon@kent.gov.uk

SIGNING OF THE KENT RECOMMITMENT

In the Autumn of 2010 the Kent Leaders' Group agreed the Kent Re-Commitment in principle and agreed to a trial period of operating as the Kent Forum.

The Kent Re-Commitment is the foundation for our work together to plan and deliver public services in Kent more effectively, more accountably, at less cost and as close to service users as possible.

Following this trial period the Kent Forum has been confirmed as the lead body for partnership working in Kent and the Kent Re-Commitment was signed by the Leader of KCC, 10 District Council Leaders and the Chairman of the Kent Fire Authority.

The Kent Re-Commitment is delivered through the Kent Forum and includes the supporting of Kent-wide strategies such as 'Vision for Kent', the development of Locality Boards, and a collective willingness to work together to support Kent's interests.

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

IMPORTANT DATES

2011

6 Jul	Joint Kent Chiefs
22 Jul	Kent Forum
7 Sep	Joint Kent Chiefs
22 Sep	Kent Forum
9 Nov	Joint Kent Chiefs
17 Nov	Kent Forum Conference
24 Nov	Kent Forum

BEST VALUE CONSULTATION

The Kent Forum have approved a response to the Best Value consultation drafted by the newly refreshed Kent Policy Officers Group.

The response welcomes the retention of the Best Value duty and encouraged that the revised draft best value guidance will be pared down and minimal.

The Kent Forum also welcomes the abolition of the duty to prepare a sustainable community strategy, free from prescriptive guidance, including the freedom this will give Kent to develop its own approach to how local partnerships will develop and deliver strategies at the spatial level of both county and district, which makes sense locally.

For further information contact:
mark.burnsnell@canterbury.gov.uk

AMBITION BOARDS

As part of the revised partnership architecture the Kent Forum has agreed the formation of three Ambition Boards, one for each of the three countywide ambitions. Their key role is to operate strategically as a 'change agent' to stimulate new ways of working and challenging barriers to improvement.

The first meetings of Ambition Boards have now been arranged. They are:

Ambition Board 1 – To Be Confirmed
Ambition Board 2 - 22 June
Ambition Board 3 - 13 June

Briefing packs are being developed for each Ambition Board to aid the first meetings. The majority of each pack will be specific to the business of the Ambition Board but will also include core content setting out the role and purpose of Ambition Boards.

Feedback from the first round of Ambition Board meetings will be brought to Kent Forum on 22 July.

For further information contact:
david.firth@kent.gov.uk

LOCALITY BOARDS

Since the last Forum Briefing Swale and Gravesham Locality Boards have held their first meetings, numerous District Councils have taken reports to their Cabinets preparing the ground for Locality Boards and other localities are having discussions to develop their models which will soon be taken forward.

This period has also been used to develop some of the support arrangements around Locality Boards, including Member briefings and, within KCC, identifying strategic level support for each Locality Board.

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

HEALTH UPDATE

A Kent Forum Health Session was held on Monday 6 June to discuss the development of public health and of GP consortia and commissioning. The event included discussions on the role of local authorities and how best to support the emerging consortia.

A Kent Forum response to the NHS Future Forum consultation, as part of the Government's listening exercise, has been developed covering both Health and Wellbeing and commissioning and delivery.

For further information contact:
jenny.dixon@kent.gov.uk

ECONOMY UPDATE

Kent Forum received an economic update at their 24 May meeting. The update included:

The Kent, Greater Essex and East Sussex Local Enterprise Partnership Executive Group held its first meeting on 12 May and agreed to hold a further workshop shortly to discuss the strategic, cross-border issues on which the LEP should concentrate. In addition, a meeting of business representatives from across the LEP area took place on 27 April with positive feedback.

Within Kent, work is progressing on the development of the Kent and Medway Investment Fund, also known as the 'evergreen fund'. This proposal seeks to create a recyclable investment fund that can bring key regeneration sites under local control and attract private sector investment to bring them forward. A special Joint Kent Chiefs meeting was being held on 21st June to discuss the Kent Investment Fund.

Further info: barbara.cooper@kent.gov.uk