

14 January 2016 at 7.00 pm



Conference Room, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks  
Despatched: 06.01.16


# Cabinet


## Membership:

Chairman, Cllr. Fleming; Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Lowe  
Cllrs. Dickins, Firth, Hogarth, Piper and Searles

## Agenda

	Pages	Contact
<b>Apologies for Absence</b>		
1. <b>Minutes</b> To agree the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 December 2015, as a correct record.	(Pages 1 - 6)	
2. <b>Declarations of interest</b> Any interests not already registered		
3. <b>Questions from Members (maximum 15 minutes)</b>		
4. <b>Matters referred from Council, Audit Committee, Scrutiny Committee or Cabinet Advisory Committees</b>		
5. <b>Community Plan 2016-19 Public Consultation Draft</b> 	(Pages 7 - 58)	Lesley Bowles Tel: 01732 227335
6. <b>Calculation of Council Tax Base and other tax setting issues</b> 	(Pages 59 - 66)	Roy Parsons, Adrian Rowbotham Tel: 01732 227204, Tel: 01732 227153

 Indicates a Key Decision

 indicates a matter to be referred to Council

### **EXEMPT ITEMS**

(At the time of preparing this agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public.)

If you wish to obtain further factual information on any of the agenda items listed above, please contact the named officer prior to the day of the meeting.

Should you need this agenda or any of the reports in a different format, or have any other queries concerning this agenda or the meeting please contact Democratic Services on 01732 227247 or [democratic.services@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@sevenoaks.gov.uk).

**CABINET**

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2015 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr. Fleming (Chairman)

Cllrs. Dickins, Hogarth, Lowe, Piper and Searles

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Firth

Cllrs. Abraham and Pett were also present.

45. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 5 November 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record.

46. Declarations of interest

There were no additional declarations of interest.

47. Questions from Members

There were none.

48. Matters referred from Council, Audit Committee, Scrutiny Committee or Cabinet Advisory Committees

There were none.

49. Draft Budget 2016/17

The first stage of the budget process was the 'Financial Prospects and Budget Strategy' report which had been reported to the Finance Advisory Committee and Cabinet in September 2015, and had taken the budget agreed by Full Council in February 2015 and updated it including rolling the 10-year budget on a further year. The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report before Members which set out progress made in preparing the 2016/17 budget since that time.

He advised that all seven Advisory Committees had discussed growth and savings suggestions relating to services within their terms of reference. The only changes made to the budget since the previous report had been the impact of the Sennocke/Bradbourne hotel and car park development which had been approved by Council in November 2015. By building in the changes using the proposed funding methods, income from New Homes Bonus in 2016/17 – 2018/19 was no longer required to deliver a balanced 10-year budget, instead any income that was received from Revenue Support Grant or New Homes Bonus would be used to finance the hotel.

He was therefore, pleased to report that from 2016/17, there would no longer be any Revenue Support Grant or New Homes Bonus in the 10-year budget, and the Council would be financially self-sufficient from direct government funding with effect from 1 April 2016.

This statement was welcomed by all Members present.

The Chief Finance Officer reported that as agreed in September 2015, the Council was continuing to use the 10-year budget strategy, which was now in its sixth year. This remained unusual in Local Government as many other Local Authorities were still only looking at the short term, as they saw budgeting for 3, 5 or 10 years ahead as being past their financial cliff edge.

The Governments Comprehensive Spending Review on 25 November 2015 did not include enough detail to change any assumptions in the 10-year budget. It had not been officially announced when the Government's grant settlement to Local Authorities would be, but it had been rumoured that it would be on 15 December 2015.

Individual comments from the Advisory Committee Members had been included at Appendix F to the report and Members' attention was drawn to the supplementary agenda containing the feedback from the Finance Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committees had recommended to Cabinet all growth and savings proposals listed in Appendix D to the report and explained in more detail in Appendix E to the report.

Further recommendations from the Advisory Committees, to Cabinet, were as follows:

### Planning Advisory Committee

- investigate the possibility of charging for householder pre application advice; and
- bear in mind, consideration of the future possibility of setting up a rival land registry company.

### Finance Advisory Committee

- that Sencio contribute more towards, or all of the cost of, the asset maintenance of its sites to be considered as part of a review of the contract with them.

### Policy & Performance Advisory Committee

- investigate meetings of the Council being paperless.

The 10-year budget assumed new net savings in 2016/17 of £500,000. The growth and savings proposals included in Appendices D and E of the report, totalled £448,000 resulting in a shortfall of £52,000.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance brought Members attention to SCIA 3, and the request from the Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee for a growth item in order to have a full time Tourism Officer. The Portfolio Holder for Economic & Community Development advised that the departure of the Head of Economic Development and

**Cabinet - 3 December 2015**

Property whose focus had been on both the council's assets and the delivery of new income earning assets, gave an opportunity to have a role that was more equitably balanced between Property and Economic Development with a particular focus within the Economic Development part of the role on Tourism as the second largest employer after land based industries within the district and its huge opportunities for growth. Therefore the need for a separate resource was reduced and the growth item could be withdrawn. The Portfolio Holder for Finance pointed out that this would help reduce the shortfall by £39,000.

Cabinet discussed the new participative approach taken at the Advisory Committees which appeared to have been successful in making Members feel more engaged with the budget setting process, and were keen to highlight to the Advisory Committees how their suggestions and recommendations would be fed into the process.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That

- a) all Members be advised that their comments and feedback would be considered going forward in the budget setting process;
- b) the growth item for a full time Tourism Officer requested at SCIA 3 be removed; and
- c) all other proposals put forward by the Advisory Committees would be considered in the budget setting process going forward.

50. Treasury Management Mid Year Update

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report which gave details of treasury activity in the first half of the current financial year, recent developments in the financial markets and fulfils the reporting requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management. The report was one of a number that were recommended for submission to Members in order to show sound governance on treasury management. The Finance Advisory Committee had considered the same report and had agreed to recommend it to Cabinet.

The Principal Accountant highlighted the key points of the report, which also outlined some technical changes to credit rating methodologies, which meant that that less reliance would be placed on the viability, financial strength and support ratings of banks and other institutions. The focus was now on short and long term ratings of an institution coupled with rating watches and outlook information as well as the Credit Default Swap overlay. The purpose of the recommendation in the report was to recognise the changes in the selection of counterparties.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That the Treasury Management Mid-Year Update for 2015/16 be approved, including the changes to the credit methodology whereby viability, financial strength and support ratings will not be considered as key criteria in the choice of creditworthy investment counterparties.

#### 51. Financial Results to the end of September 2015

The Portfolio Holder for Finance introduced the report which detailed the financial results as at the end of September 2015 which showed an overall favourable variance of £12,000. The end of year position was forecast to be an unfavourable variance £159,000 and so the Chief Executive had asked Officers to consider what reductions planned for future years could be brought forward. He advised that the Finance Advisory Committee had considered the same report and agreed to recommend it to Cabinet with no further comment.

The Head of Finance reported that the October figures were now available and that the end of year position forecast had reduced to an unfavourable variance £153,000.

The Portfolio Holder for Direct and Trading Services reported that more gall wasps had been discovered in a number of small isolated areas within Farningham Woods, on two year old trees. Permission and advice was being sought from the Forestry Commission and DEFRA, on alternative methods to eradicate the threat as the trees were too young to fell and produce an income which would make treatment more cost neutral.

In response to a query on the intention of the Government to introduce voting for 16/17 year olds, it was confirmed that there had been no further information. The Chairman advised that the Council had been approached by 'Bite the Ballot' in order to help engage 17-25 year olds, and would be working with them in the early part of the new year in becoming a 'change maker'. If the voting age was lowered, the Council would already be in a good position to promote engagement.

#### Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

#### 52. Swanley Regeneration

The Head of Economic Development & Property presented the report which sought approval to the demolition of redundant premises at the former Swanley Working Men's Club, 18 High Street, 27 to 37 High Street and Bevan Place Car Park, Swanley. Development of the sites would generate income and capital receipts that could be reinvested. High quality development would serve the needs and improve an important area of the town, thus supporting the Council's Economic Development strategy. It would

also result in higher performing assets in accordance with the Council's approved Property Investment Strategy.

Members' attention was brought to the supplementary agenda containing the recommendations from the Policy & Performance Advisory Committee who had considered the same report and agreed to recommend it to Cabinet.

In response to a query it was confirmed that the stained glass windows and plaques would be preserved.

#### Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: To approve the demolition of redundant premises at the Former Swanley Working Men's Club, 18 High Street, 27 to 37 High Street and Bevan Place Car Park, Swanley subject to a detailed appraisal of the VAT implications.

#### 53. Property Disposal Update

The Chairman brought Members' attention to the supplementary agenda containing the recommendations from the Policy & Performance Advisory Committee who had considered the same report and had recommended an alternative recommendation to Cabinet in light of the concerns raised by the local residents. The report sought approval to the disposal of surplus property assets at Shacklands Road, Badgers Mount.

#### Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That the Council enter into discussions with Badgers Mount Parish Council for a period of 6 months for the disposal of surplus land at Shacklands Road, Badgers Mount and authorise the Head of Economic Development and Property to agree detailed Heads of Terms.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 7.53 PM

CHAIRMAN

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS

This notice was published on 7 December 2015. The decision contained in Minutes 49,50 and 51 take effect immediately. The decisions contained in Minutes 52 and 53 take effect on 15 December 2015.



## COMMUNITY PLAN 2016-19 PUBLIC CONSULTATION DRAFT

Cabinet - 14 January 2016

Report of Chief Officer Communities & Business

Status: For decision

Key Decision: Yes

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### Executive Summary:

This report seeks approval of the public consultation draft of Community Plan for the period 2016-19. The document and its supporting Action Plan has been developed following comprehensive consultation with Members, residents, town and parish councils, a wide range of voluntary and community organisations and partner agencies. Copies of the draft public consultation document have been circulated to Members of the Economic and Community Development Advisory Committee and their comments will be available at the Cabinet meeting.

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**This report supports the Key Aim of Safe and Caring Communities, Green and Healthy Environment and a Dynamic and Sustainable Economy**

**Portfolio Holder** Cllr. Hogarth

**Contact Officer(s)** Alan Whiting Ext. 7446

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### Recommendation to Cabinet

Members are asked to approve the public consultation draft Community Plan and strategic level action plan for the period 2016-19. The public consultation period will run from 15 January to 26 February 2016.

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**Reason for recommendation:** The public consultation draft and subsequent public consultation period will be used to enable Members, partners and residents make changes or suggest additions for inclusion in the final draft before it is submitted to Full Council for approval.

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### Introduction and Background

- 1 The long-term Community Plan vision remains in place until 2028. However, the three year action plan will expire in March 2016. Whilst the District Council is responsible for co-ordinating this work, the Community Plan is a multi-agency strategy, delivered in partnership with many agencies and therefore covers a wide range of issues and services.

## Agenda Item 5

- 2 A thorough consultation programme took place during the second half of 2015 which helped to identify local priorities for action:
  - Over 350 people responded to the survey;
  - 200 people were offered the opportunity to answer Community Plan related questions in the Council's 2015 Residents Panel Survey;
  - Over 650 people were seen at 30 events, forums and partnership meetings
- 3 This included two workshops for Members on 25 August and 4 September together with further opportunities Portfolio Holders and their Deputies to comment at Portfolio Holder meetings. The consultation together with examination of local data has informed the public consultation document which sets out how we will deliver the priorities in the plan. A summary of the consultation results is set out at Appendix A.
- 4 It is intended that the public consultation period will run from 15 January to 26 February 2016 and will enable Members, partners and residents to make comments and suggestions for changes and additions.
- 5 It will also be used to agree strategic actions and ensure there are appropriate operational level partnership performance indicators to enable the Council to demonstrate realistic delivery of the aspirations.
- 6 Please note the public consultation draft does not represent the final design. Members will be presented with design concepts at the time the final plan is submitted for approval.
- 7 The timetable for the production of the Community Plan 2016-19 is as follows:
  - 14 January 2016 - Cabinet asked to approve of the Public Consultation Draft;
  - 15 January 2016 - public consultation period starts;
  - 11 February 2016 - Economic and Community Development Advisory Committee asked to comment on the public consultation draft;
  - 26 February 2016 - end of public consultation period;
  - 18 March 2016 - partners asked to approve the Community Plan 2016-19;
  - 21 April 2016 - Cabinet asked to recommend approval of the Community Plan to full Council;
  - 26 April 2016 - Approval of the final document.

### **Key Implications**

#### Financial

Delivery of the Community Plan is through each agency's own resources. In some cases, work will be dependent upon external funding sources and appropriate funding bids will be made.

### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

There are no legal implications associated with this report. The Community Plan forms part of the Leader's Vision and is closely linked with the Local Plan. The Community Plan enables the District Council to work with partners in a structured and co-ordinated way. By improving coordinated action on shared priorities, the Council is able to improve its efficiency, share resources, enhance its reputation and most importantly secure additional resources and commitments from partners that are based on the delivery of local community aspirations.

Whilst every effort has been made to identify realistic actions, outcomes rely on the continued input of a range of agencies working together, along with the goodwill of communities and voluntary organisations. Regular quarterly monitoring of the Community Plan will identify at an early stage outcomes that may not be delivered so that alternative strategies or revised actions can be agreed.

### Equality Assessment

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The decisions recommended through this paper directly impact on end users. The impact has been analysed and does not vary between groups of people. The results of this analysis are set out immediately below.

The Community Plan has been assessed as not having an adverse impact. It includes an Equalities and Inclusion statement which partners are expected to consider in all decision making and service delivery.

### Community Impact and Outcomes

The Community Plan is based upon the results of consultation with the community, including its harder to reach groups, partner agencies and other stakeholders. It also reflects community needs identified through local data.

### Sustainability Checklist

A sustainability checklist has been prepared and demonstrates a positive impact.

### **Conclusion**

Members are asked to consider the public consultation draft of the Community Plan and approve it for publication.

## Agenda Item 5

### **Appendices**

Appendix A - Summary of consultation results

Appendix B - Community Plan 2016-19 Public Consultation Draft

### **Background Papers**

Sevenoaks District Community Plan - Our Vision for the next 15 years (2013-2028)

**Lesley Bowles**

**Chief Officer for Communities and Business**

Summary and initial analysis of consultation results

Safe Communities

*Highest rated issues:*

Priority	Action	% Keep
Tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime	Use positive activities to keep children and young people away from crime	97%
	Look at repeat victims of crime and take action	95%
	Keep ASB incidents at a low level	93%
	Tackle enforcement issues on fly tipping	90%
Support vulnerable and repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour	Reduce repeat incidents of domestic abuse and improve reporting	90%
Tackle speeding vehicles and improve road safety for all road users including pedestrians and cyclists	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on local roads	89%
Increase awareness of Police and Community Safety	Increase awareness of Police and Community Safety	86%

<b>Resident's Survey 2015: Perceived problems in the local area:</b>	2015	2013
Rubbish or litter	40%	30%
Vandalism and graffiti	22%	25%
Groups hanging out	19%	22%
People using or dealing drugs	12%	16%
Noisy neighbours /loud parties	11%	11%

<b>What matters to consultees</b>	<b>Threats</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More visible policing</li> <li>• Concern about speeding vehicles especially rural areas</li> <li>• Reducing speed in build up areas/around schools</li> <li>• Dealing with perception of crime and ASB</li> <li>• Better enforcement of fly-tipping and protection for rural areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing funding for Police</li> <li>• Road &amp; pavement conditions &amp; impact on safety for road users and pedestrians</li> <li>• Dangerous parking, especially around schools</li> <li>• Global issues relating to IS, Syria and radicalisation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Health - noise issues under ASB</li> <li>• Licensing function - enforcement linked to substance misuse work linked with Health Action Team</li> <li>• Roll out Prevent training</li> <li>• Using Community Officers/campaigns/tasking groups/PACT to raise awareness</li> <li>• Links to Caring Communities and Better outcomes for Young People - identifying gaps and working with KCC Youth commissioning</li> </ul>

Summary and initial analysis of consultation results

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent agenda</li> <li>• E-Safety</li> <li>• Highlight support and prevention</li> <li>• Links with health</li> <li>• Focus on support and prevention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to increase resources for fly tipping enforcement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think about Troubled families link to Caring as wider agenda under Phase2</li> <li>• Link Children’s Partnership to work more closely with schools especially safe walking/cycling</li> <li>• Relocate fly-tipping clean environment in Green Environment</li> <li>• Links to health e.g. mental health</li> <li>• Road safety links with health and education Road safety education and Bikeability</li> <li>• Parking enforcement</li> </ul>
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Summary and initial analysis of consultation results

Caring Communities

*Highest rated issues:*

Priority	Action	% Keep
Provide the right support at the right time (including for vulnerable people, people on low incomes and those who care for others)	Adapt housing & properties to improve independent living for older people	89%
	Increase support and respite placements offered to carers	87%
	Provide social opportunities for vulnerable people	86%
Improve outcomes for young people	Support vulnerable children in their move from Primary to Secondary Schools	86%

<i>What matters to consultees</i>	<i>Threats</i>	<i>Opportunities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for housing needs survey</li> <li>• Housing for people wishing to remain independent/downsize/retirement</li> <li>• Location of housing near to service centres</li> <li>• Recognises the links with health</li> <li>• Think about how broadband and digital inclusion can improve health and social care</li> <li>• More community based solutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadband coverage in rural areas - Link to Dynamic Economy</li> <li>• Increasing number of older people in the District (Link to Sustainable Economy)</li> <li>• Projected Population changes 65 - 85 KMPHO - (based on ONS) - 1.8% pop in 2016 to 7.7% in 2020 &amp; 85+ 4.8% pop 2016 to 24.6% in 2020</li> <li>• Affordable housing &amp; economic issues affecting employability to caring sector</li> <li>• Relative lack of investment in youth services compared Adult social services and education identified in Growth and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Housing Management Assessment (SHMA) linked to review of the Sevenoaks Local Plan</li> <li>• Review of Housing Strategy and support for older people and vulnerable groups - linked to Healthy</li> <li>• CIL linked infrastructure &amp; SHMA</li> <li>• Digital inclusion - reducing isolation/helping to access services and support</li> <li>• KCC Accommodation Strategy</li> <li>• Link Health Inequalities Action Plan and providing accommodation for people with dementia</li> <li>• KCC Growth &amp; Infrastructure Framework - Adult Social Services highest areas of investment and secured funding</li> <li>• Community grants scheme</li> <li>• Older People's LSP Group - Single referral system/link to 'Nelbooker'</li> <li>• Children's partnership integrating health and social care and focusing on presentation &amp; using funding connected to partnership</li> <li>• More targeted support e.g. Swanley &amp; Edenbridge</li> </ul>

Summary and initial analysis of consultation results

	<p>Infrastructure Framework (£360,000 vs £69,400,000 identified Adult social services period 2014-2031</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI).- District quintiles 2015 (DCLG) Worst areas in north District particularly Swanley White Oak, Swanley Chirstchurch and Crockenhill and Wellhill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Link to HERO project -</li> </ul>
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Summary and initial analysis of consultation results

Green Environment

*Highest rated issues:*

Priority	Action	% Keep
Protect the Green belt and conserve and enhance the value of our countryside and green spaces, particularly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Make sure planning polices are used effectively	88%
Ensure new development is designed to a high quality and takes into account local character	New housing that meets the national building for life standard for well-designed homes and neighbourhoods	88%
Maintain a clean local environment	Keep a weekly District Council rubbish collection	88%
Reduce energy use and pollution, preserve our resources and mitigate the impact of climate change	Make sure new developments are not built in areas likely to flood and promote renewable energy	86%

<i>What matters to consultees</i>	<i>Threats</i>	<i>Opportunities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New development should not ‘put pressure’ on areas likely to flood</li> <li>• Make better use of planning enforcement</li> <li>• Cross cutting issues of major developments including those outside the District</li> <li>• Think about impact of Paramount</li> <li>• Promote renewable energy in new scheme</li> <li>• Be clear on how many new homes/mix/meeting needs particular groups e.g. older people/dementia</li> <li>• More proactive reduce surface flooding</li> <li>• Like see more recycling</li> <li>• Flooding to make sure new development is not liable to flooding - put more focus on prevention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in Planning Policy especially Permitted rights to development</li> <li>• Housing - SHMA - need to balance building more homes with green belt issue</li> <li>• Economic Development - Balancing pressure to protect green belt with need for economic growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and update planning policies and manage development in accordance with them</li> <li>• Use planning polices to ensure homes are well designed and can meet people’s changing needs as get older</li> <li>• Move fly tipping to ‘Clean Local Environment’ - take enforcement action on fly</li> <li>• Use planning enforcement tools to improve visual amenity</li> <li>• Work with Town and Parish Councils and Partners to increase resilience to flooding</li> <li>• Reduce number of people concerned about rubbish</li> <li>• Supporting national recycling campaigns (45% targets)</li> <li>• Retrofit and take measures to reduce fuel poverty and help people stay at home for longer</li> <li>• Link HERO project</li> <li>• Green Infrastructure -</li> </ul>

Summary and initial analysis of consultation results

		benefits to Healthy and Caring -
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Summary and initial analysis of consultation results

Healthy Environment

*Highest rated issues:*

Priority	Action	% Keep
Encourage access to health services for all	Support vulnerable groups with mental health conditions	93%
	Promote looking after yourself in a healthy way to people who manage long term health conditions	89%
Reduce health inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing of all	Support individuals with learning disabilities	92%
	Improve the early assessment and diagnosis of dementia and support for patients and carers	91%
	Support healthy weight programmes particularly for children	82%
Reduce risk taking behaviour	Improve awareness of sexual health	89%

<i>What matters to consultees</i>	<i>Threats</i>	<i>Opportunities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perception that people with mental health issues are let down during a crisis</li> <li>• Invisible illness</li> <li>• Support for people to remain independent</li> <li>• Continue to encourage community support</li> <li>• Promote the benefits for active travel, e.g. everyday walking and cycling in support of health and mental health</li> <li>• Join up health and transport</li> <li>• Looking at healthy food/snacks and cooking</li> <li>• Look at breastfeeding support take up as linked to child weight and development and health</li> <li>• Look at links between mental health and alcohol misuse in older people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 wards with above average mental health contact rates (Swanley St Mary's, White Oak and Sevenoaks Eastern</li> <li>• Several wards in District over 65 mental health contact rates significant over Kent average</li> <li>• Edenbridge S&amp;W has highest level mental health contact people Learning Disabilities and significantly above Kent average</li> <li>• 1/3 of deaths in Sevenoaks are caused by cancer - other main causes are circulatory and respiratory diseases. These have lifestyle risk factors includes opportunities to prevent smoking, reduce obesity and alcohol consumption</li> <li>• Proportion of those out of work who have a health condition which is restricting</li> <li>• Reception wards &amp; Year 6 in the north of the District are more likely to be affected by</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links with long-term illness and mental health</li> <li>• Links with concentrations of people who receive Direct Payments in the District</li> <li>• Continue to engage GP and CCGs</li> <li>• Links with Caring Communities and social support</li> <li>• SHMA and housing strategy - identify needs and support for vulnerable groups</li> <li>• Links to aging population /dementia and specialist housing, sheltered housing and mix as identified</li> <li>• Use of CIL linked to infrastructure and SHMA.</li> <li>• Benefits of Green Infrastructure - linking with Green Environment</li> <li>• Continue to work with Dementia Friendly communities</li> </ul>

Summary and initial analysis of consultation results

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good sex and relationship education</li> <li>• Need made services more accessible for young people, especially lack of information/access to school nurse or guidance councillors in schools</li> <li>• Think about substance misuse programmes</li> <li>• Provide dementia friendly accommodation</li> <li>• Health checks for older people</li> </ul>	<p>obesity. Year 6: Swanley St Mary's, White Oak and Crockenhill &amp; Well Hill in range 28 -46% obesity well above UK, county and District average - and Swanley Christchurch &amp; Swanley Village 12-18% range for reception obesity above UK, county and double District average.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ward with highest rate of teenage pregnancy are Swanley Whiteoak 53.5 per 1000 female population aged 15-17 (2011/13 pooled) Hextable 33.7 and Swanley St Marys 27.9 - above Sevenoaks rate of 17.6</li> <li>• Admission rates for undetermined &amp; deliberate injury 2014/15 for 0-4 considerably above county average in some parts, more notably Fawkham &amp; West Kingsdown, Eynsford, and Sevenoaks Northern. Top injury under 18 Head injury and top 15-17 poisoning by drugs, medicaments &amp; biological substances (accounting 42%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links to Dynamic and provide support into employment and training</li> <li>• Look at housing designed to help people with dementia stay at home for longer</li> <li>• Link reduce poverty and social exclusion, e. HERO, debt advice</li> <li>• Access to jobs and employment opportunities</li> <li>• Targeted work e.g. Swanley</li> <li>• Look at the role SDC Licensing and Planning have to play with health e.g. off-license restrictions, burger vans - look at Dartford example.</li> <li>• Benefits of access to open space and recreation - link to CIL in terms infrastructure provision</li> <li>• Opportunities to ensure Leisure facilities are well used and customer satisfaction is high</li> <li>• Links to community and voluntary transport in Sustainable Economy</li> <li>• Links Safe and Substance misuse/alcohol</li> </ul>
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Summary and initial analysis of consultation results

Dynamic Economy

*Highest rated issues:*

Priority	Action	% Keep
Improve skills for employment	Reduce the number of young people who are NEET	94%
	Increase the take up of apprenticeship opportunities	91%
	Increase educational attainment of young people attending schools within the District	86%
Maintain a supply of employment land and premises	Encourage vibrant town centres	87%

<i>What matters to consultees</i>	<i>Threats</i>	<i>Opportunities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport for young people, particularly affordable</li> <li>• Need to provide support for young people to access apprenticeship opportunities</li> <li>• Need to improve Swanley town centre and New Ash Green town centre</li> <li>• Parking is a key issue if you want town centres to become more vibrant</li> <li>• Think about employment opportunities when development takes place</li> <li>• Think about road design and traffic management in new development and transport links</li> <li>• Think about emergency vehicle access in new development</li> <li>• Regenerate Swanley and New Ash Green</li> <li>• Think about infrastructure needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KCC decision on Young Person's Travel scheme not finalised</li> <li>• Unemployment above regional averages in Swanley and Edenbridge</li> <li>• Businesses Demand Survey - businesses do want stay but need right size and quality of office space</li> <li>• Changes in government policy - for permitted rights to development</li> <li>• Continuing to build a strong economy despite loss of employment land and premises</li> <li>• Sevenoaks is high quality/high cost(Business Location Index) - Growth balanced against Green Belt</li> <li>• Lowest % GCSEs including E &amp; M GCSE level 40.2 in county Kent 58 and National 53.4</li> <li>• Biggest gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target growth areas and support identified in the Economic Development Strategy</li> <li>• Develop masterplan for Swanley as a catalyst for regeneration and means to increase high quality and more competitively priced rented accommodation for young people wishing to access employment especially in London</li> <li>• Link to work of Supporting Young People into Employment Group</li> <li>• Identify and support projects in NEET hotspots</li> <li>• Link Caring and focus support though Children's Partnership &amp; children living in poverty</li> <li>• Link with business support in town centres</li> <li>• Identify sufficient supply of land for employment use - through review of the local plan and call for sites</li> <li>• Participate in and inform employment land study as part review of Local Plan</li> <li>• Set up retailer forums plus retail business support</li> </ul>

Summary and initial analysis of consultation results

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market offer for towns' and value individualism</li> <li>• Supporting Weald of Kent Grammar Annex</li> <li>• Capacity of primary schools in the District</li> </ul>	<p>their peers at KS2 - 22.4% L4 in RW and M above Kent 21 and National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2014 10.8% pupils free school meals , 19.4% were SEN (above Kent average of 18.7%, 8.5% pupil first language other than English and 15.4% Minority Ethnic</li> <li>• Lack of Job Centre Plus services in the District</li> <li>• High proportion residents very low qualifications - proportion no qualifications higher than for SE as whole but lower than GB (11.1% compared to 9.1 SE and 12.3 GB</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With tourism to promote and market towns' USPs</li> <li>• Supporting &amp; developing the local economy through the Economic Development Action Plan, West Kent Partnership and Leader Programme and work with tourism providers</li> <li>• Provide more parking in Sevenoaks Town (linked settlement of hierarchy)</li> <li>• Think about use of derelict land</li> <li>• Inward investment opportunities of marketing High Quality business location</li> <li>• Working through Supporting Young People into employment group to support pupils to be work ready and increase access to apprenticeships on offer and not taken up</li> <li>• District has a higher proportion of individuals with NVQ 4 and 3 ( and above equivalent qualification compared to the SE (41.9% in Sevenoaks compared to 36.2 in SE and 32.9 GB)</li> </ul>
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Summary and initial analysis of consultation results

Sustainable Economy

*Highest rated issues:*

Priority	Action	% Keep
Work with local people to deliver strong active and sustainable communities	Make the best use of community spaces and facilities	92%
	Promote and increase the number of people volunteering or taking part in community activities	91%
Reduce the need to travel, promote and improve access to key local services and public and community transport	Consider transport infrastructure implications in commercial, retail and larger residential	89%
	Maintain a supported bus service	88%
	Support and promote community transport schemes	86%
Provide for additional housing development including the right mix of housing types, small homes for older people and meet the needs identified for Gypsies and Travellers	Provide housing development that meets the needs of smaller households, older people and housing with mixed tenure	83%

Respondents to the Council's Resident's Survey 2015 were asked about their priorities for the Community Plan.

Specifically they were asked how easy is it to get to the following locations using their usual form of transport and, if they could improve access to one these facilities, which one would it be?

	Easy to access	Would like improved access*
Local hospital	67%	28%
Public transport e.g. bus stop, train station	80%	19%
Shopping centres / supermarket	89%	9%

Respondents were also asked how they commonly access these locations:

Car (as a driver)	75%
Car (as a passenger)	5%
Motorbike / scooter	0%
Bicycle	1%
Bus	7%
Voluntary or community transport service	0%
Train	0%
Taxi	0%
Walking	11%

Summary and initial analysis of consultation results

<b><i>What matters to consultees</i></b>	<b><i>Threats</i></b>	<b><i>Opportunities</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work closely with Town and Parish Councils</li> <li>• Continue to support voluntary and community activities including arts</li> <li>• Need for more frequent and timely services</li> <li>• Need to improve transport connectivity</li> <li>• More services at evening and weekends</li> <li>• Concern about services in small villages and rural areas</li> <li>• New development plans to plan for transport/parking provision</li> <li>• Need a housing needs survey to understand current and future demand</li> <li>• Ensure there is a percentage of homes that is truly affordable</li> <li>• Recognise partnership work</li> <li>• More private small bungalows</li> <li>• More 2/3 bed houses</li> <li>• Consider links with health and education</li> <li>• Concern about high rents and ability young people’s ability to get on the property ladder</li> <li>• Young people not being about to afford to live in the area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor transport links within the District and difficulty of accessing services from rural areas</li> <li>• KCC may decide not to make Kent Karrier a Dial a ride service</li> <li>• Impact of Paramount Development</li> <li>• Rural roads and dangers to cyclists of speeding/dangerous drivers</li> <li>• Notable affordability pressures, with the ..(entry level)..housing prices 11 times earning of younger households in Sevenoaks compared to a ratio of 6:5 nationally. Impact is that 2001-11 homes ownership levels fell with increasing numbers renting - SHMA</li> <li>• Median Housing price in Sevenoaks is £302,000 above the wider housing market areas and Kent average £210,000.</li> <li>• “A growth older population and increasing longevity is expected to result in a substantial growth in people with dementia and mobility problems” - SHMA.</li> <li>• Cross reference Green and Dynamic in balancing growth and need with green belt</li> <li>• The evidence suggests that lone parent households are more likely to be disadvantaged that other groups -SHMA</li> <li>• Younger households have a higher reliance on rented accommodation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Infrastructure as part Local Plan and use of CIL to deliver infrastructure improvements</li> <li>• Housing needs identified in the SHMA -levels of housing, affordable housing, mix, specialist housing and nursing or care home.</li> <li>• Use development and regeneration to improve connectivity and accessibility of public transport</li> <li>• Continue innovative work and partnership scheme such as Help to Buy and Home of Your Own and Small is Beautiful</li> <li>• Bringing empty homes back into use and under occupation work</li> <li>• Lobby for infrastructure needs identified in KCC Growth and Infrastructure Framework</li> <li>• Link to Economic Development Strategy</li> <li>• GLA Oyster - rail devolution of Metro services and extension of Oyster to Swanley</li> <li>• Lobby for extension of Oyster to Dunton Green and Sevenoaks</li> <li>• Lobby to represent transport concerns to the Local Transport Authority as part of the Kent Route Strategy</li> <li>• Number 8 Route in Sevenoaks</li> <li>• Campaign to promote</li> </ul>



Summary and initial analysis of consultation results

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't assume all older people want 'small homes'</li> <li>• Consider HAPPI dementia standards in new build</li> <li>• Reflect the Planning Policy changes relating to Gypsies and Travellers in the Housing and Planning Bill 2015</li> </ul>	<p>important to monitor quality and focus on shared accommodation and housing within private rented sector - SHMA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 55% of newly forming households unable to afford market housing- SHMA</li> </ul>	<p>better take up of Voluntary and Community Transport schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby KCC regarding Kent Karrier</li> <li>• Identify range of threats and opportunities from Paramount development - produce cross cutting strategy</li> <li>• Explore opportunities from the proposed Quality Bus Partnership</li> <li>• Staff volunteering policies</li> <li>• Community Grant scheme to and focused support on Community Plan priorities for the next three years</li> <li>• Link to safe and demonstrate improvements to accessibility to public transport</li> <li>• Use development and regeneration to improve connectivity and accessibility of public transport</li> </ul>
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# Public consultation draft

## *Public Consultation Draft*

### Sevenoaks District Community Plan



*Making it Happen Together - Your priorities for 2016-2019*

# Public *consultation* draft

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# Public consultation draft

## Introduction

The Community Plan creates a long-term vision for the Sevenoaks District and sets out the community's priorities for action.

We are pleased to present the priorities for the three years 2016-2019. This is based on widespread consultation with local people and our partners.

The Community Plan is delivered by the Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership. This is made up of public sector organisations together with voluntary community and faith sector representatives. It is co-ordinated by Sevenoaks District Council.

The priorities set out in this document help us to deliver our 15 year vision:

### Safe Communities

A safer place to live, work and travel

### Caring Communities

Children are enabled to have the best start and people can be supported to live independent lives

### Green Environment

People can enjoy high quality urban and rural environments

### Healthy Environment

People have healthy lifestyles, access to quality healthcare and health inequalities are reduced

### Dynamic Economy

A thriving local economy where businesses flourish, where people have skills for employment and tourism is supported

### Sustainable Economy

People can live, work and travel more easily and are empowered to shaped their community

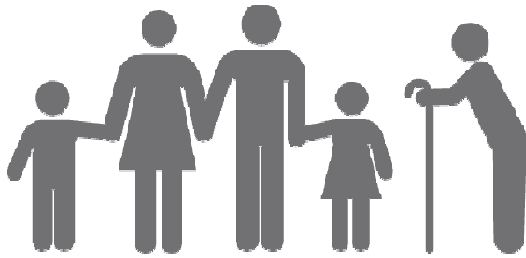
# Public consultation draft

## About the Sevenoaks District



- **93%** of the District is designated Green Belt
- **60%** of the District is in the Kent Downs or High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- **6** main settlements - Sevenoaks, Swanley and Edenbridge, Westerham, New Ash Green and Otford
- **17** nationally designated historic parks and gardens

# Public consultation draft



- According to the Office for National Statistics population projections, the population of Sevenoaks District is forecast to grow by **8.2% (9,500)** over the 10 year period from 2012 to 2022
- According to Kent County Council the number of people of people over 85 is forecast to rise by **22.1% (700)** from 3,100 in 2015 to 3,700 by 2020.
- The 2011 Census data shows that Sevenoaks District has a population of 114,893 residents, of which 95.8% are white (110,029) the next largest groups are, Asian/Asian British: 2085 or 1.8% of the population and mixed/multiple ethnic groups: 1675 or 1.5% of the population, the district has other ethnic groups all who fall below 1% of the population



- **25 minutes** by train from Sevenoaks to London
- **1 hour** by car to Dover port
- **40 minutes** by car to London airports

Sevenoaks District is perceived to be affluent but this masks local pockets of urban and rural deprivation.

The five most deprived wards in Sevenoaks District are:

- 1 - Swanley St Mary's, also within the 20% most deprived wards in Kent
- 2 - Swanley White Oak within 24% most deprived wards in Kent
- 3 - Edenbridge South and West
- 4 - Farningham, Horton Kirby and South Darent
- 5 - Edenbridge North and East

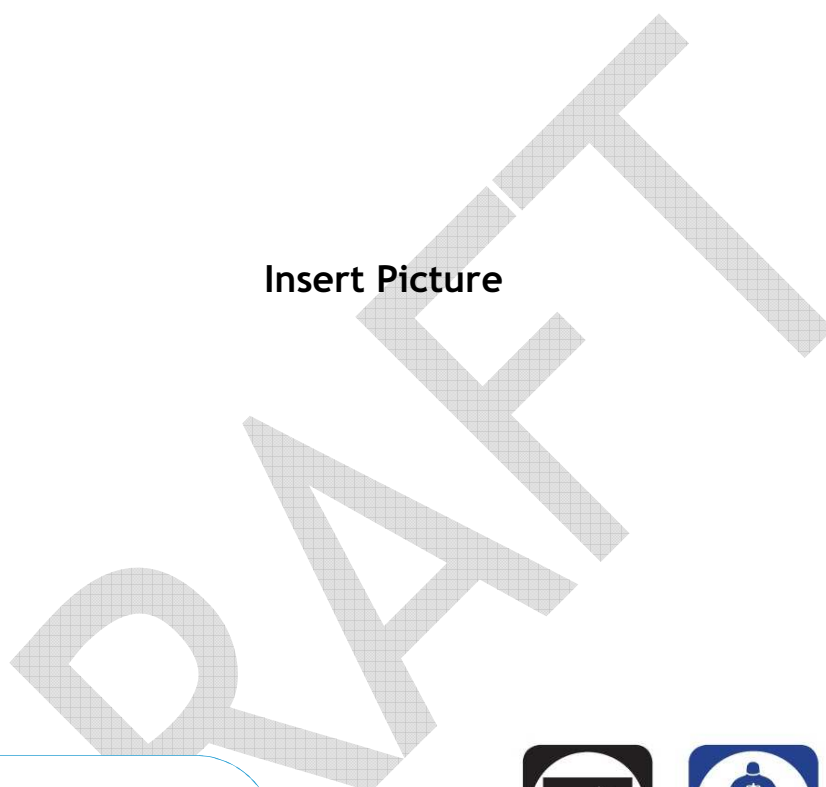
# Public consultation draft

## Who have we consulted?



To help identify our priorities for the District over the next three years, we consulted a wide range of residents, community representatives, statutory groups and voluntary and community groups at events and forums across the District.

Insert Picture



- 350 people responded to the consultation survey
- 650+ people seen at forums and events
- 200 people asked additional questions through telephone interviews



Tell us your views to help shape your local services  
 Complete the survey for a chance to win £50 shopping vouchers  
 at [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityplan](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityplan)  
(Closing date 30th Sept 2015, terms and conditions apply)





# Public *consultation* draft

## Who have we consulted?

Insert picture



- All residents through District-wide survey and InShape magazine;
- Consultation with people visiting Swanley Gateway;
- Families at Dunton Green Family Summer Days of Fun event;
- Knitter Natters, social knitting group at Sevenoaks Library;
- Families at the Family Centre Fun Event in Seal;
- Families at the Penshurst Family Summer Days of Fun event;
- Families and young people at the West Kent Extra Edenbridge Sports Day;
- Residents at the Sevenoaks Wildlife Festival;
- Families at the Swanley Family Centre consultation event;
- Families at the Edenbridge Family Summer Days of Fun event;
- Young People at Imago's (Voluntary Group) Shadow Youth Board;
- Families at the Eynsford Family Fun Day;
- Sevenoaks District Council Members' Workshop;
- Young people, young carers and young people with disabilities at 'House in the Basement' 'drop-in in Sevenoaks Town Centre;
- People attending Age UK's Hollybush Day Centre;
- Workshops for elected Members of Sevenoaks District Council;
- Residents at the 'Village on the Hill Celebration' in New Ash Green
- Partners who attend the Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership;
- Partners at the Local Strategic Partnership Supporting Young People into Employment meeting;
- Partners at the Sevenoaks Health Action Team;
- Partners at the Local Strategic Partnership Older People Group
- Talk of the Town Event - Westerham;
- Mencap Hall Listening Event with Learning Disability Service Users;
- Members of the Edenbridge Rotary Club;
- GPs in West Kent;
- Head Teachers in the Sevenoaks District;
- Members of the Westerham Town Partnership;
- Residents who attend West Kent Extra's Emerald Forum;
- Staff and Service Managers at Sevenoaks District Council

# Public consultation draft

## The Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)

### Who are we?

The Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership co-ordinates the monitoring and delivery of the Action Plan. It is made up of representatives from the following organisations:



Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley  
Clinical Commissioning Group



West Kent  
Clinical Commissioning Group



**Kent** Fire &  
Rescue Service



# Public *consultation* draft

## Equality and inclusion statement for the Local Strategic Partnership

We recognise that everyone has a contribution to make to our society and a right to access services without being discriminated against or disadvantaged because of their:

- Race
- Disability
- Gender
- Age
- Religion/ belief
- Sexual orientation
- Pregnancy or maternity
- Marital or civil partnership status
- Transgender
- Caring responsibility
- Employment status

We will work to ensure that all services provided by partners or funding offered will conform to these standards and expectations.

# Public *consultation* draft

## Safe Communities



A safer place to live, work and travel

**DRAFT**

Insert Picture

### What you said

*“Recognise the difference between actual crime/ASB and people’s perception”*

*Reducing victim-based recorded crimes should be about intervening early”*

*“More enforcement of poor parking and driving”*

# Public consultation draft



## Safe Communities

The Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership brings together all the key agencies in the District who have an impact on crime, anti-social behaviour and perception of crime. The Community Safety Unit (CSU) is based in Sevenoaks District Council Offices and responds daily to anti-social behaviour and other community safety priorities in the District. The CSU have access to a local Community Policing Team which can be deployed to tackle local issues within the District.

### What you said

***Despite consistently being one of the safest Districts in Kent, from our consultations we know residents are most concerned about:***

- More visible Policing - seeing and being more aware of Police and Community Safety activity in local communities
- Reducing anti-social behaviour and supporting young people, particularly by providing activities and focusing on support and prevention
- Continuing to provide youth work, fun activities and support and develop youth facilities in the District
- Dealing with the threat of extremism and radicalisation -“it can happen anywhere!”
- Helping young people stay safe online and safe from bullying and cyber-bullying
- Using partnership data and information to focus on the District’s crime issues and deal the fear of crime
- Making more links with health on key community safety issues, for example road safety, substance misuse and mental health
- Providing support for and take action to prevent people from becoming repeat victims of crime, including people who suffer domestic abuse
- Speeding vehicles, particularly in rural areas and dealing with poor parking and congestion in busy town/village centres and near schools
- People who responded to our 2015 Residents survey said their most perceived problems were:
  - Vandalism and graffiti: 22%
  - Groups hanging out: 19%
  - People using or dealing drugs: 12%
  - Noisy neighbours /loud parties: 11%

# Public consultation draft

## Safe Communities - Your Priorities

**Priority 1**

**Make the work of the Police and partners more visible in communities**

*We will:*

- Deliver targeted community safety campaigns and make more people aware of Police and community safety activity in their local communities
- Continue to facilitate Partners and Communities Together Panels (PACTs)
- Deliver “Prevent” training to partners, businesses and the local groups

**Priority 2**

**Work to keep crime at a low level and respond to perception of crime**

*We will:*

- Produce an annual assessment of crime and reduce all victim based crime
- Target particular concerns and take action to reduce vandalism and graffiti as issues of local concern
- Coordinate partnership work to tackle and prevent risk-taking behaviour relating to substance misuse and alcohol
- Maximise safety through “safer by design” principals in new developments

**Priority 3**

**Support vulnerable and repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour**

*We will:*

- Identify repeat criminal and anti-social behaviour and provide early intervention
- Review cases and take action through the Community Safety Unit  
Continue to fund and evaluate domestic abuse support projects
- Review domestic abuse support and partnership working arrangement

### Did you know?

There were **2,066** incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded during 2014/15. This is the lowest level of anti-social incidents in Kent

**Sevenoaks Community Safety Unit (CSU)**

The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Crime and Policing Act, 2014 introduces simpler, more effective powers to tackle ASB and better protection for victims and communities

**Sevenoaks CSU**  
Page 36

During 2014/15, there was a **91%** growth in referrals to the Domestic Abuse Victim Support Service and other services

**Sevenoaks CSU**

# Public consultation draft

## Safe Communities - Your Priorities

### Priority 4

#### Tackle anti-social behaviour

*We will:*

- Provide support through the anti-social behaviour task group
- Continue to commission and provide positive activities for children and young people, including Family Fun Days
- Promote and encourage existing youth facilities and identify improvements required in youth infrastructure
- Commission and provide youth work and youth outreach support and respond to service feedback from partners
- Influence voluntary and community provision through the Community Grant scheme
- Work with the Sevenoaks Children's Partnership to promote E-safety campaigns, target initiatives to prevent bullying and cyber-bullying and review mental health support available to victims
- Take action to deal with complaints about noise

### Priority 5

#### Tackle speeding vehicles and improve road safety for all road users, including pedestrians and cyclists

*We will:*

- Continue to support the "Speedwatch" campaign
- Deliver pedestrian and cycle safety education in schools
- Take enforcement action on dangerous and illegal parking
- Make roads/pavements safer for vulnerable people

### Did you know?

During 2014/15 there was an **8.2%** increase (1451) in reports of Business Crime to the Police compared to 2013/14

*Sevenoaks CSU*

Sevenoaks CSU has **134** trained "Speedwatch" volunteers, the highest number of volunteers in Kent. The **6** speed boards are out on constant loan to proactive "Speedwatch" groups in the District

*Sevenoaks CSU*  
Page 37

The Domestic Abuse Voluntary Support Service (DAVSS) was set up in the District in 2010 and supports any victim of domestic abuse who seeks help. During the 2014/15, DAVSS supported **143 victims of domestic abuse** (59 more than during 2013/14) in the Sevenoaks District - *Sevenoaks CSU*



# Public *consultation* draft

## Caring Communities

We want Sevenoaks to be a place where people can be supported to lead independent fulfilling lives and children and young people have the best start

**DRAFT**

Insert Picture

What you said

*“Suitable properties ... in appropriate areas to enable older people to remain independent, including those wishing to downsize”*

*“Continue to help and support people with debts and housing issues through the HERO Project” - HERO stands for Housing, Energy and Retraining Options*

Page 38

*“Use the Local Children’s Partnership to support...social, emotional and health and care needs...”*





# Public consultation draft

## Caring Communities

Over the next 10-15 years we expect an increase in the number of older people, particularly those aged over 85. This will have an impact on health, social care, housing and support services. We will plan for the housing support needs of older people and work in partnership to identify and provide for their support needs, particularly opportunities to reduce social isolation. We also need to address digital exclusion which is increasingly disadvantaging older people.

Kent and Medway's Growth and Infrastructure Framework identifies that the greatest demand for infra-structure development related to 'Caring Communities' themes over the next 15 years will come from adult social services (£69.4 million) and primary and secondary education (£34.7 million).

We know that in some areas of our District, a lack of available income available after paying rent is making it difficult for some families. We will work through the Sevenoaks Local Children's Partnership to meet the needs of children and young people and their families in the District.

### What you said

***From our consultations we know residents are most concerned about:***

- Planning for the housing and support needs for older people and sustainable options for people wishing to remain independent/downsize/retire
- Mixed usage and dementia friendly needs should be considered as part of the design of new housing
- Accessibility to services when providing new housing in the main settlements in the District
- Recognising the links to health prevention work and public health initiatives which help to support older people, children and families
- How broadband and digital inclusion offer an opportunity to improve people's health and social care
- The rural nature of the District and providing more community or locally based support and services
- Providing more targeted support to areas in the District identified through data as being in higher need
- Providing more integrated services for children and families through the Sevenoaks Local Children's Partnership
- Supporting children in their move from Primary to Secondary education, particularly for vulnerable children
- Reducing the number of children living in families affected by low income
- Providing support to people in debt and improving access to work and training

# Public consultation draft

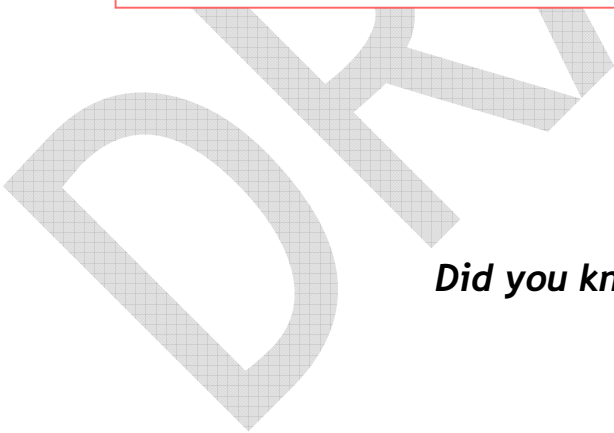
## Caring Communities - Your Priorities

Priority  
1

### Provide the right support at the right time

**We will:**

- Produce a Housing Market Needs Assessment with a detailed analysis of the needs of older people and people with physical disabilities to inform a new Housing Strategy for the District
- Continue to provide aids, adaptations and devices to enable people to live more independently
- Increase the numbers of carers assessments and respite placements offered
- Produce and implement a digital inclusion strategy focusing on the needs of vulnerable groups
- Implement a multi-agency service signposting scheme for older and vulnerable people
- Use planning policies and “building for life criteria” to ensure new homes can adapt to people’s changing needs
- Continue to support under-occupation strategies and increase downsizing opportunities for older people
- Use the Community Grant scheme to support groups who provide social opportunities and reduce social isolation of vulnerable people



### Did you know?

“...every £1 spent adapting homes where a serious fall is likely to occur could save the NHS £69.37 over 10 years”

*The District Council contribution to public health: a time of challenge and opportunity - The Kings Fund, 2015*

“Over the next five years...the largest population increase occurs in people over 85 years, where the population is set to increase by just under 17%” -

*Sevenoaks District's Health and Communities Action Plan, 2015-18*

Data about the proportion of all children aged 0-15 in income deprived families shows that Swanley and Crockenhill & Well Hill are some of the worst affected areas in the District - *Kent Public Health Observatory, Health and Social Care Maps, Children*

# Public consultation draft

## Caring Communities - Your Priorities

### Priority

2

#### Improve outcomes for children and young people

*We will:*

- Work with partners in the Sevenoaks Local Children's Partnership to prioritise action and provide joined up social, emotional and health care support for children, young people and families
- Fund projects through the Sevenoaks Local Children's Partnership that focus on barriers to outcomes and are targeted in areas of most need
- Continue to provide support for children moving from Primary to Secondary school, part of Kent County Council's Early Help offer
- Provide enhanced support to families needing extra help

### Priority

3

#### Reduce poverty and social exclusion

*We will:*

- Continue to provide free housing, energy and retraining advice
- Provide grant support to projects providing free debt advice and debt reduction
- Work with the Sevenoaks Children's Local Partnership to produce a child poverty action plan for Sevenoaks District
- Reduce fuel poverty by promoting grants and helping homeowners/tenants and businesses to reduce energy costs, making energy savings through the Sevenoaks Switch and Save programme and improving energy efficiency
- Increase the thermal efficiency of existing housing stock and undertake retrofit measures

### Did you know?

"Latest forecasts indicate the number of dementia patients in Kent and Medway will increase by 80% from 21,750 in 2011 to 39,400 in 2030"

*Improve outcomes for people with Dementia - NHS Kent and Medway*

"Older people continue to be more **digitally excluded** ...this prevents too many older people from using online services and mobile apps, putting them at significant social, financial and potentially healthcare disadvantages."

*Opportunity Knocks: Designing solutions for an ageing Page 41  
Longevity Centre UK, 2015*

606 people in the District were provided with specialist equipment and housing adaptations to support independent living during 2014/15

*Kent County Council*

# Public *consultation* draft

## Green Environment



We want Sevenoaks District to be a place where people can enjoy clean and high quality urban and rural environments

Insert picture

DRAFT

### What you said

*“Make sure new housing takes the environment into account”*

*“We must ensure we protect the Green Belt in our communities...Brown sites and empty industrial areas must be the priority.”*

*“Greater pro-active concentration on work with local communities to reducing surface flooding”*



# Public consultation draft

## Green Environment

Residents in our District want to keep open spaces and value a clean environment as well as heritage and tourist attractions. Our biggest ‘Green Environment’ challenge is to review the Local Plan which sets the spatial and planning policy for the District.

We have increased pressure from the government to build more homes and we need to think about economic growth. This means we need to provide land and infrastructure to accommodate growth while recognising pressure to restrict in the Green Belt. We also need to recognise the issues identified by the Sevenoaks Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) in providing more housing and catering for the needs of an ageing population. We need to think about making the homes we build more energy efficient and able to adapt to our changing needs as we get older.

### What you said

*From our consultations we know residents are most concerned about:*

- Addressing the need for better enforcement action for fly tipping in the District, particularly in rural areas
- Maintaining a weekly rubbish collection service
- Reviewing the Local Plan, taking into account the need to retain the Green Belt and balance the need for the economy to grow and create more homes
- Emphasising planning enforcement action and its role in keeping the District somewhere with high quality urban and rural environments
- Designing homes that can adapt to people’s changing needs as they get older
- Concentrating new development in the major settlements in the District and closer to key local services
- Continuing to identify sites for development (commercial and residential)
- Planning for the impact of major developments outside the District, particularly Ebbsfleet and Paramount which have wide ranging risks and opportunities for infrastructure, economic development, jobs creation, business migration etc.
- Promoting access to and benefits of countryside and leisure spaces (‘green infrastructure’) in terms of benefits to health and tourism
- Helping people access open space and leisure services
- Reducing the impact of flooding and its impact on homes and businesses
- Considering environmental issues when building new houses e.g. solar energy and energy efficiency measures
- Homeowners/tenants and businesses and need help to reduce energy costs and improve efficiency
- Continuing “excellent recycling schemes”

# Public consultation draft

## Green Environment - Your Priorities

**Priority  
1**

**Retain the Green Belt and conserve and enhance the value of our countryside and green spaces, particularly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

*We will:*

- Review and update planning policies and manage development in accordance with them
- Take account of AONB guidance and management plans in planning decisions
- Work with communities, landowners and local groups to protect landscape, wildlife and heritage, e.g. Darent Valley Heritage Landscape Partnership
- Promote and develop the District’s ‘green infrastructure’ , (i.e. the network of open space, woodlands, wildlife habitat, parts and other natural areas) and its benefits for health and mental health of residents

**Priority  
2**

**Maintain a clean local environment**

*We will:*

- Protect our weekly refuse collection service
- Continue to tackle litter and detritus
- Take enforcement action on fly tipping
- Encourage and promote recycling and support national recycling targets and campaigns
- Use planning enforcement tools where possible to improve areas within the District

### *Did you know?*

Sevenoaks District Council receives, decides and grants the **highest number** of planning applications in Kent

**Sevenoaks District Council**

During 2014/15, Sevenoaks District Council collected over **40,000 tonnes** of household waste, over a third of which was recycled with the bulk of the remainder turned into electricity

**Sevenoaks District Council**

There were 1,161 incidents of fly tipping reported between December 2014 and November 2015, an increase of **23.37%** on the same period in 2013/14

**Sevenoaks District Council**

# Public consultation draft

## Green Environment - Your Priorities

### Priority 3

Ensure new development is designed to a high quality and takes into account local character and the impact on the environment

*We will:*

- Use planning policies and “building for life” criteria to ensure new homes are well designed and can meet people’s changing needs as they grow older
- Consider policy better to safeguard areas at risk of flooding as part of the review of the Local Plan
- Work with partners to target initiatives to reduce surface flooding and its impact on residents and businesses
- Promote renewable energy in new and existing developments and look at compliance with sustainability assessment standards for new development
- Produce a coordinated strategy to plan for the impact of major developments outside the District, particularly London Paramount and Ebbsfleet



### *Did you know?*

“The value of green spaces equates to between £8 - £27 per person per year through improvements to healthy lifestyles”

*The District Council contribution to public health, a time of challenge and opportunity - The Kings Fund, 2015*

Spaces for leisure and sports facilities provide equivalent health and emotional wellbeing benefits of £112-£377 per person per year - *The District Council contribution to public health, The Kings Fund, 2015*

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*Kent and Growth and Infrastructure Plan (2015)*, identifies a need for £17 million of investment in ‘Green Infrastructure’ in the District between 2014-31 and £1.12 million for flood defences

# Public consultation draft Healthy Environment



We want Sevenoaks District to be a place where people have healthy lifestyles and where health inequalities are reduced

Insert Picture

DRAFT

## What you said

*“...people with mental health conditions often feel let down and inadequately helped especially during crisis situations...”*

*“...there’s a school nurse who only comes in on Mondays. If we have a problem there needs to be someone we can ask, whether that’s a school nurse or guidance counsellor”*

*“Alcohol is a problem for people over 60 years, particularly for those experiencing social or rural isolation”*





# Public consultation draft

## Healthy Environment

Our Health Inequalities Action Plan (2015-18) is delivered by partners in the Sevenoaks District Health Action Team. It identifies key health priorities for our District. Obesity can contribute to a range of health conditions and significantly affect people's long-term health. We have more work to do to reduce obesity levels. We also need to continue focusing on the links between health and social and economic factors such as poverty, access to housing, leisure, open spaces, housing conditions and social exclusion.

We are aware of the impact on health and care services of an ageing population, including the likelihood that this will increase the numbers of people suffering from dementia. The rural nature of our District means that many older people are socially isolated and find it difficult to access services by public transport. We want to help people stay healthy as they get older, to access health services facilities and provide support to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing. This also involves helping communities be more aware of the support they can provide to help vulnerable groups remain independent.

It is a particular concern that residents and partners feel that mental health is still an 'invisible illness'. Some groups, including young people, those over 65 years and people with learning disabilities find it particularly difficult to access support. We will work to support people and vulnerable groups with mental health and raise awareness of mental health issues.

### What you said

#### *From our consultations we know residents are most concerned about:*

- Finding it difficult to access services for people with mental health difficulties
- Considering the links between mental health and alcohol misuse in older people
- Supporting vulnerable people to remain independent and helping them take more responsibility for their own health
- Encouraging support solutions delivered in community settings
- Promoting the benefits of active travel, e.g. everyday walking and cycling in support of health and mental health
- Promoting the healthy weight of children, targeting projects to promote healthy food/snacks and cooking
- Looking at breastfeeding support take up as linked to child weight and development and health
- Making services more accessible for young people, and increasing access to information, advice and support
- Joining up work on substance misuse programmes with Community Safety
- Providing suitable accommodation for older people, particularly support services and accommodation for people with dementia
- Continuing to provide health checks and promote them for older people
- 28% of respondents to Sevenoaks District Council's Residents Panel Survey, 2015 wanted to improve access to their local hospital

# Public consultation draft

## Healthy Environment - Your Priorities

**Priority  
1**

**Reduce health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing for all**

*We will:*

- Work with healthy schools and partners in the Sevenoaks Health Action Team and Sevenoaks Local Children’s Partnership to support children and young people identified as being overweight or obese
- Target support and deliver activities for adults to increase physical activity and reduce obesity
- Deliver preventative programmes help people to age well by staying healthier as they get older
- Work with residents and business partners to deliver dementia friendly communities and provide support for carer’s families
- Produce a Housing Market Needs Assessment with a detailed analysis of the needs of older people and people with physical disabilities to inform a new Housing Strategy for the District
- Continue to provide aids, adaptations and devices to enable people to live more independently
- Reduce fuel poverty by promoting grants and training to help homeowners and businesses to reduce energy costs and improve efficiency
- Improve access to leisure and open spaces

**Priority  
2**

**Reduce risk taking behaviour that affects health and wellbeing**

*We will:*

- Use the Council’s Planning and Licensing policy to reduce risk taking behaviours and improve healthy eating
- Join up work between health and community safety on providing targeted alcohol and substance misuse support and promote education programmes to residents in the District

**Did you know?**

Contact rates with mental health services for people over 65 years are **significantly over Kent average** for several wards in the Sevenoaks District - *Health and Social Care Maps: Mental Health and Wellbeing. Kent and Medway Public Health Observatory (KMPHO)*

**30.46% of all deaths in Sevenoaks District are caused by cancer while 26.57% are from circulatory and respiratory diseases.**

*Sevenoaks District’s Health Inequalities action Plan, 2015-18*

Children in Reception Year and Year 6 in the north of the District are **more likely to be affected by obesity** with some areas particularly above the Kent average

*Kent Public Health Observatory, Health and Social Care Maps, Children*

# Public consultation draft

## Healthy Environment - Your Priorities

### Priority 3

#### Encourage access to health services for all

##### *We will:*

- Support people to manage long-term mental health conditions and improve signposting to services
- Work in partnership to support projects that help children and young people with mental health issues access support and education, training and work opportunities
- Encourage people with disabilities to take part in sport and volunteering
- Complete an Open Space, Sports and Leisure study and deliver a Leisure Strategy
- Support improvements to leisure and sports facilities and improve access to open spaces through the Local Plan
- Use planning policies and “building for life criteria” to ensure new homes can adapt to people’s changing needs
- Continue to provide health checks for residents in community settings
- Review and promote voluntary and community transport
- Support and extend community transport schemes

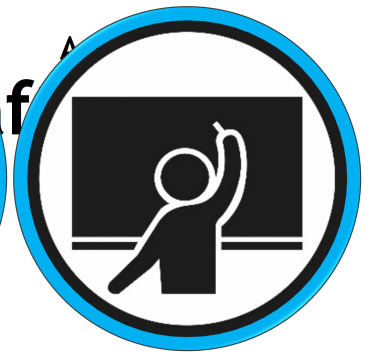
### *Did you know?*

People with Learning Disabilities in Edenbridge South and West have more contact with mental services than other wards in the District are **significantly above Kent average levels** - *Health and Social Care Maps: Mental Health and Wellbeing. Kent and Medway Public Health*

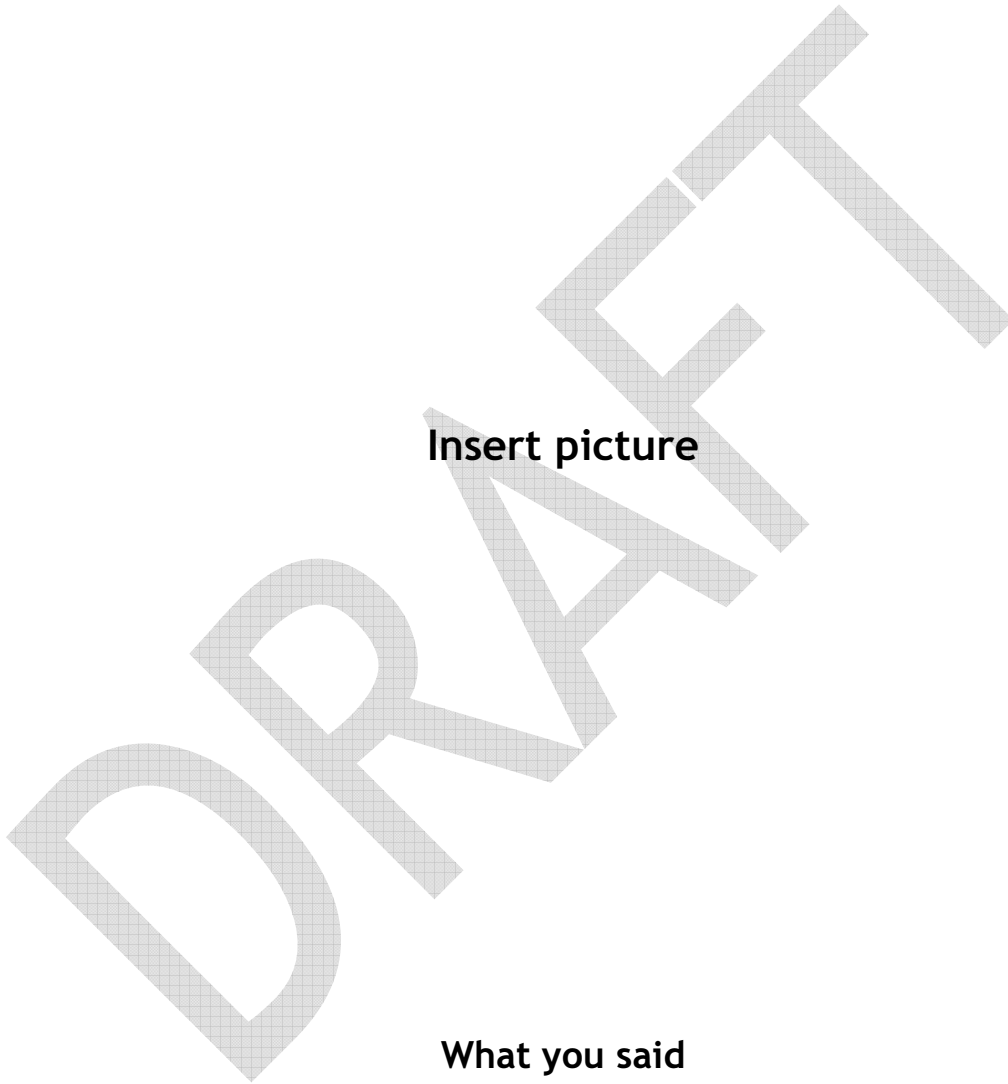
The top injury for under 18s is **head injury**. For 15-17 year olds **poisoning by drugs, medicaments & biological substances** is the top injury and accounts for **42%** of undetermined and deliberate injury - *Kent Public Health Observatory, Health and Social Care Maps, Children*

The highest rates of teenage pregnancy in the District are in Swanley White Oak, Hextable and Swanley St Mary’s wards. These all have levels considerably above the District average - *Kent Public Health Observatory, Health and Social Care Maps, Children*

# Public consultation Dynamic Economy



We want Sevenoaks District to be a place with a thriving local economy, where businesses flourish and people have skills for employment



## What you said

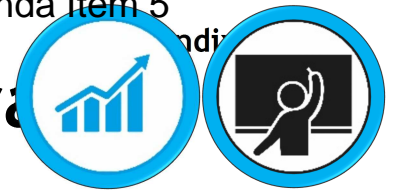
*“We need individualism to encourage visitors to our towns and villages - a unique selling point is needed!”*

*“More small business opportunities and support please”*

Page 50

*“There are too many ‘not spots’ for an area so close to London”*

“Not spots” are areas with limited or no broadband or mobile phone signal



# Public consultation draft

## Dynamic Economy

Continuing to build a strong economy despite a loss in employment land in a District with significant constraints is one of our most significant challenges. This year, the government made changes relating to permanent permitted development rights which make it easier for offices to be converted into homes. In addition, the Strategic Housing Market Assessment highlights a need to significantly increase housing and affordable housing in the District. This is critical to the economy and affects employers' ability to recruit and retain staff.

The review of the Local Plan will need to consider these issues together with those highlighted in the Sevenoaks District Economic Development Plan, particularly actions to support areas highlighted for growth and generating inward investment into the District. It is also clear that we need to address the lack of overnight visitor accommodation in the District which is having an adverse impact on our tourist economy.

### What you said

#### *From our consultations we know residents are most concerned about:*

- Affordable transport is a major issue for young people, particularly for a rural District like Sevenoaks
- Supporting young people to access apprenticeship opportunities
- Targeting areas for growth and development identified in the Economic Development Strategy, particularly the need to improve Swanley and New Ash Green town centres
- Parking is a key issue if town centres are to become more vibrant
- Marketing the unique offer of each town/village centre
- Planning for employment and training opportunities linked with new development or major development outside the District
- Infrastructure needs of land for employment
- Recognising changes in government policy, particularly “permitted rights to development” being made permanent
- Getting young people ready for work and supporting those with particular needs into employment, education or training
- Supporting the Weald of Kent Grammar Annex which can improve educational attainment and reduce migration to schools outside of the District
- Looking at how we can reduce barriers to attainment through the Local Children’s Partnerships
- Supporting small businesses with accommodation costs
- Improving the hotel offer in the District
- Supporting the rural economy through the Economic Development Action Plan, West Kent Leader and the West Kent Partnership
- Linking broader digital inclusion and health and social care issues

# Public consultation draft

## Dynamic Economy - Your Priorities

Priority  
1

Identify a supply of employment land and premises to promote economic growth

*We will:*

- Identify a sufficient supply of land for employment use through the review of the Local Plan
- Participate in and inform the employment land study as part of the review of the Local Plan
- Develop a masterplan for Swanley as a catalyst for regeneration and increase rented accommodation for young people wishing to access employment and address transport connectivity
- Target areas for growth identified in the Sevenoaks District Economic Development Strategy
- Maximise opportunities for employment at Fort Halstead

Priority  
2

Improve skills for employment

*We will:*

- Reduce young people not in employment education (NEET) through the work of the Sevenoaks District Local Children’s Partnership and identify funding support for projects in NEET hotspots in the District
- Participate in regular skills fairs
- Work in partnership to reduce barriers to attainment and reduce identified gaps in educational attainment
- Retain the Young Person’s Travel Pass and explore other schemes and support the integration of public transport
- Support efforts to develop a Weald of Kent grammar annex in Sevenoaks

### Did you know?

Tourism in the District generates £220 million for the local economy

Sevenoaks has the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest level of overnight stays in Kent at 229,000. This can be linked to the shortage of hotel accommodation in the District - *Visit Kent, 2015*

GVA (Gross Value Added) is a measure used to monitor the performance of the national economy. Sevenoaks has a GVA of 2.3 billion and is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest in Kent -

*Kent County Council, GVA Bulletin*  
Page 52

*The Business Location Index* assesses the Sevenoaks District as being a high quality and high cost area, making it a challenge to provide land and infrastructure for growth balanced with competing pressure to protect the green belt - *Grant Thornton, 2015*

# Public *consultation* draft

## Priority 3

### Retain existing businesses, encourage new businesses and promote tourism

#### *We will:*

- Encourage vibrant town centres and work with Visit Kent and Town Partnerships to promote and market our towns' unique selling points
- Increase parking capacity in Sevenoaks Town
- Provide business with support programmes and support high growth businesses to access funding opportunities
- Support rural businesses through the delivery of a West Kent Leader programme
- Support tourism and develop a Tourism Destination Management Plan that seeks to increase the number of visitor stays
- Support businesses to improve existing tourist accommodation
- Identify and support tourism infrastructure through the review of the Local Plan
- Facilitate new hotel provision

## Priority 4

### Improve broadband connectivity and promote digital inclusion

#### *We will:*

- Support the delivery of national and county broadband targets and support rural communities
- Develop a digital inclusion strategy to support social and health care agendas and increase ability of residents to access support and services

### *Did you know?*

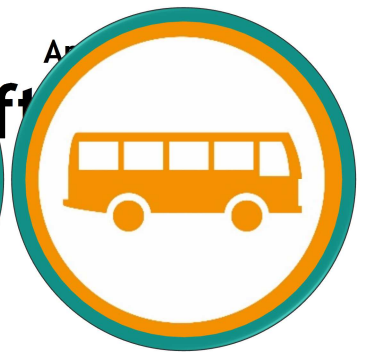
Average weekly earning for residents in Sevenoaks District is £628.10 which is above the UK and Kent averages. Higher earning reflects a skilled workforce. Average workplace based gross earnings in the District are lower at £535.80 - *Kent County Council, 2015*

There is a gap in educational attainment at Key Stage 2 between those who receive free school meals and their peers, of 22.4% in reading, writing and maths, which is above the county average of 21%

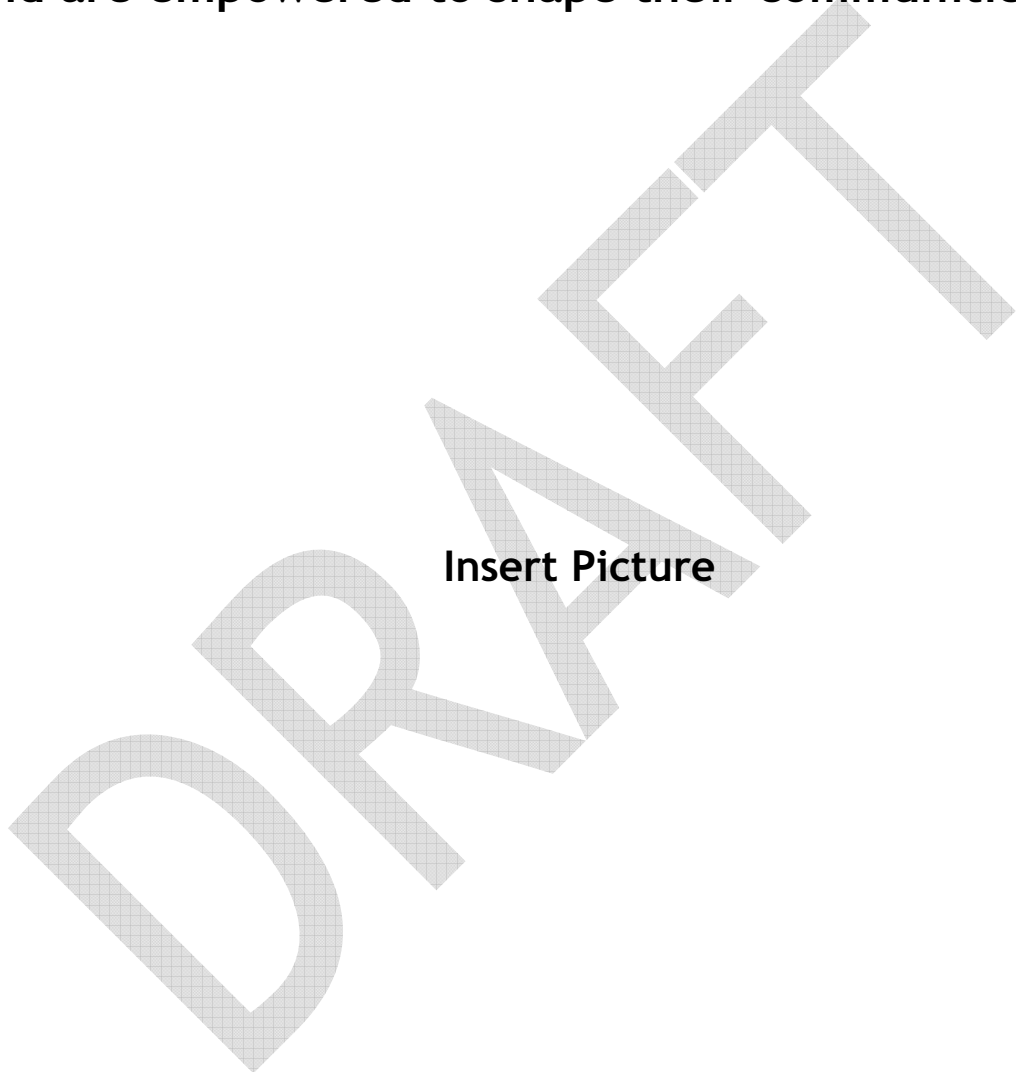
*Kent County Council*  
Page 53

The District has a high proportion of residents with very low or no qualifications which is higher than the county and South East average at 11.1% compared to 9.1% in the South East  
*Sevenoaks District Economic Development Strategy*

# Public consultation Sustainable Economy



Where people can live, work and travel more easily  
and are empowered to shape their communities



Insert Picture

## What you said

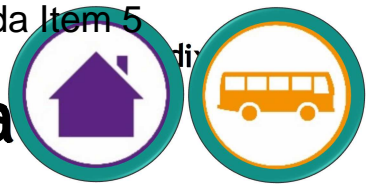
*“Reflect the Planning Policy changes in the Housing and planning Bill 2015”*

*“Work in partnership with Town and Parish Councils. We have close links with our local communities”*

Page 54

*“Really support affordable housing don't just say it!”*





# Public consultation draft

## Sustainable Economy

Sevenoaks District provides excellent transport connectivity, particularly to London and the London airports. However, residents have told us that they continue to find it challenging travelling within the District, particularly to access key local services and facilities. We must plan the transport and infrastructure needs in the District through the Local Plan and make best use of the Community Infrastructure Levy to benefit residents. We will also think about how we can take advantage of our proximity to London, particularly through the inclusion of some wards in our District in the Transport for London Oyster zone.

With some of the most expensive housing in the UK and major constraints on development, residents remain concerned about the availability of affordable housing and different housing options in the District. The Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2015) identifies a need to significantly expand our housing and affordable housing offer over the twenty year Local Plan period. This falls at a time of reducing funding from the Homes and Communities Agency and proposed government changes to reduce and cap rents and amend the right to buy. These are making business models difficult for housing associations. As part of the review of the Local Plan we need to set housing targets based on need that also take into account of our significant local constraints such as the Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

### What you said

#### *From our consultations we know residents are most concerned about:*

- Transport services across the District and the lack of access to some key local services, as well as:
  - Needing more frequent and timely services, more services at evening and weekends and improved transport connectivity
  - Concern about the lack of access to services in small villages and rural areas
  - New development taking into account transport/parking provision
- Respondents to the District Council's Residents Panel (2015) highlighted a need to improve access to hospitals, public transport and shopping centres/supermarkets
- Transport infrastructure and impact of major developments outside the District needs to be taken into account in the review of the Local Plan
- The lack of affordable housing and the types and mix of housing in the District:
  - Need a housing needs survey to really understand current and future demand and homes that are truly affordable
  - More private small bungalows and 2/3 bed houses
  - Concern about high rents and young people's ability to buy a first home
- Supporting voluntary and community activities including arts
- Making better use of community spaces and facilities and work in partnership with Town and Parish Councils

# Public consultation draft

## Sustainable Economy - Your Priorities

Priority  
1

Reduce the need to travel, promote and improve access to key local services and to public and community transport

*We will:*

- Use development and regeneration opportunities to promote improvements in transport accessibility and connectivity
- Work in partnership to address gaps in infrastructure
- Support the Greater London Authority rail devolution of metro services and the extension of Oyster to Swanley and lobby for the extension of Oyster to Dunton Green and Sevenoaks Town
- Lobby to represent District transport concerns to the Local Transport Authority as part of the Kent Route Strategy
- Promote the number 8 bus route in Sevenoaks and look at the feasibility of using the model elsewhere in the District
- Support, review and promote voluntary and community transport schemes



### Did you know?

Housing prices in the District are **11 times** the earning of younger households, compared to a ratio of 6:5 nationally. As a result home ownership levels have fallen with increasing numbers renting - **Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Strategic Housing Market Assessment. 2015**

The average house price in Sevenoaks is **£302,000** which is above wider housing market areas and the Kent average which is **£210,000**

*Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Strategic Housing Market Assessment, 2015*

**67%** of respondents to the Council's Resident's Panel Survey, 2015 said that they found it easy to access a local hospital with **28%** wanting to improve access. **80%** found it easy to access public transport with **19%** wanting to improve access

# Public consultation draft

## Priority 2

Provide additional housing development including the right mix, types and tenures and to meet the needs of older people

*We will:*

- Set housing targets based on need that also take into account of our significant local constraints such as the Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Produce Housing Market Needs Assessments to identify and deliver District housing and support priorities, including study for older people, people with a physical disability and Black and Ethnic Minority groups
- Continue to increase affordable housing options
- Continue innovative and partnership work to increase access to starter homes, shared ownership and help people to downsize
- Bring empty homes back into use and continue under-occupation work
- Deliver projects to create more social rented bungalows
- Expand rented accommodation and affordable entry level housing through regeneration opportunities

## Priority 3

Work with local people to deliver strong, active and sustainable communities

*We will:*

- Make the best use of community spaces and facilities
- Promote volunteering and participation in community activities, including staff work-based schemes
- Enable local people and Town and Parish Councils to participate in issues that affect them or their local area
- Support inclusive arts and community projects that enable social, community and cultural activities to flourish for all groups

Total gross expenditure on supported bus services in Sevenoaks District is **£1,049,470** - In many cases KCC supports particular elements of predominantly commercial services

*Kent County Council*

Sevenoaks District Council and MOAT created 'A Home of Your Own' bespoke shared-ownership scheme funded by developer contributions. So far **£1.2** million funding has helped **12** families buy a home in the District in Phase 1.

Page 57  
Sevenoaks District Council

Based on the growth of older persons, 11% of the overall housing need should be specialist housing. This includes housing that can be adapted, giving people the ability to downsize to remain in their own homes

*Strategic Housing Market Assessment*

# Public consultation draft

## Sevenoaks District Community Plan 2016-2019



*Making it Happen - together*

### **For more information or to get in contact**

**Telephone**      01732 227000

**Website**        [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityplan](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityplan)

**Email**            [community.plan@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:community.plan@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

**Minicom**        01732 227496

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**CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE AND OTHER TAX SETTING ISSUES**

**Cabinet - 14 January 2016**

Report of the: Chief Finance Officer

Status: For Decision

Also considered by: Council - 16 February 2016

Key Decision: No

**Executive Summary:**

This report sets out details of the calculation of the District’s tax base for council tax setting purposes. These figures are used to determine tax rates for each of the council tax bands once the Council’s budget requirement is known. The report also advises Members of the timetable for setting the 2016/17 council tax.

**This report supports the Key Aim of efficient management of the Council’s resources.**

**Portfolio Holder** Cllr. Searles

**Contact Officer** Roy Parsons, Principal Accountant - Ext 7204

**Recommendation to Cabinet:** That it be recommended to Council that:

- (a) the report of the Chief Finance Officer for the calculation of the Council’s tax base for the year 2016/17 be approved;
- (b) pursuant to the report of the Chief Finance Officer and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended) the amount calculated by the Sevenoaks District Council as its council tax base for the whole area for the year 2016/17 shall be 48,895.68;
- (c) pursuant to the report of the Chief Finance Officer and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended) the amount calculated by the Sevenoaks District Council as the council tax base for 2016/17 for the calculation of local precepts shall be:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>
Ash-cum-Ridley	2,407.77
Badgers Mount	330.21

## Agenda Item 6

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Brasted	783.17
Chevening	1,443.79
Chiddingstone	599.08
Cowden	416.68
Crockenhill	646.70
Dunton Green	993.01
Edenbridge	3,462.90
Eynsford	924.22
Farningham	638.94
Fawkham	283.79
Halstead	759.02
Hartley	2,510.65
Hever	599.68
Hextable	1,645.57
Horton Kirby & South Darent	1,277.09
Kemsing	1,816.83
Knockholt	619.96
Leigh	803.25
Otford	1,664.06
Penshurst	835.26
Riverhead	1,232.06
Seal	1,193.50
Sevenoaks Town	9,225.61
Sevenoaks Weald	613.40
Shoreham	677.81
Sundridge	921.84
Swanley	5,308.16
Westerham	1,957.48
West Kingsdown	2,304.19

- (d) any expenses incurred by the Council in performing in part of its area a function performed elsewhere in its area by a parish or community council or the chairman of a parish meeting shall not be treated as special expenses for the purposes of section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

**Recommendation to Council:** That the various calculations detailed above be approved.

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**Reason for recommendations:** As part of the tax setting process for 2016/17, the Council needs to formally approve the tax base at individual town and parish level as well as for the District as a whole.

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### **Introduction and Background**

- 1 The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, made under powers of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, specify formulae for calculating the council tax base which must be set between 1 December and 31 January.
- 2 The council tax base is a measure of the number of dwellings to which council tax is chargeable in an area or part of an area. It is used for the purposes of calculating a billing authority's and other precepting authorities' band D council tax.
- 3 Under the regulations, the council tax base is the aggregate of the relevant amounts calculated for each valuation band multiplied by the Council's estimated collection rate for the year.
- 4 The Council is required to calculate a tax base figure for the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG). This is based on the valuation list as at 14 September 2015 and occupancy information at 5 October 2015. The tax base for tax setting purposes is based on information available in December 2015. In addition, other factors may be taken into account to reflect likely changes to the tax base during 2016/17. These factors include:-
  - An allowance for changes in the amount of disabled relief
  - An allowance for changes in the number of exempt properties
  - An estimate of the number of new properties liable to council tax
  - An estimate of the number of properties ceasing to be liable to council tax
  - An allowance for changes in the number of single person discounts
  - An allowance for the effect of appeals by taxpayers on the banding of their properties
- 5 It has always been the practice to assume that these items will be self-balancing and hence no adjustment to the overall tax base was made other than the usual allowance for non-collection. Over the last few years the tax base has been rising due to new properties being built. However, the rate of increase is not significant enough to warrant a change from the self-balancing assumption.

## Agenda Item 6

### Detailed Tax Base Calculations

- 6 The current year's tax base calculation assumes a 99.3% collection rate, which also allows for some movement in the items mentioned in Paragraph 4. Having assessed previous years' collection rates plus the effect of changes to council tax support, it is considered prudent to change the collection rate to 99.4% for 2016/17.
- 7 The second column of the table below sets out the number of band D equivalents based on the valuation list and occupancy information at 1 December 2015 for each parish, together with a summary for the District. The figures are then subjected to the collection rate adjustment in column 3 to arrive at the tax base for council tax setting purposes appearing in column 4. The corresponding figures for 2015/16 appear in column 5.

<u>(1)</u> <u>Parish</u>	<u>(2)</u> <u>Band D</u> <u>Equivalents</u>	<u>(3)</u> <u>Collection</u> <u>Rate</u> <u>Multipliers</u>	<u>(4)</u> <u>Tax base</u> <u>2016/17</u>	<u>(5)</u> <u>Tax base</u> <u>2015/16</u>
Ash-cum-Ridley	2,422.30	0.994	2,407.77	2,381.61
Badgers Mount	332.20	0.994	330.21	329.08
Brasted	787.90	0.994	783.17	765.50
Chevening	1,452.50	0.994	1,443.79	1,433.69
Chiddingstone	602.70	0.994	599.08	586.47
Cowden	419.20	0.994	416.68	406.93
Crockenhill	650.60	0.994	646.70	632.84
Dunton Green	999.00	0.994	993.01	901.64
Edenbridge	3,483.80	0.994	3,462.90	3,446.21
Eynsford	929.80	0.994	924.22	910.78
Farningham	642.80	0.994	638.94	610.40
Fawkham	285.50	0.994	283.79	280.52
Halstead	763.60	0.994	759.02	748.62
Hartley	2,525.80	0.994	2,510.65	2,477.44
Hever	603.30	0.994	599.68	593.81
Hextable	1,655.50	0.994	1,645.57	1,634.97
Horton Kirby & South Darent	1,284.80	0.994	1,277.09	1,255.25
Kemsing	1,827.80	0.994	1,816.83	1,798.82
Knockholt	623.70	0.994	619.96	616.16
Leigh	808.10	0.994	803.25	809.10



Otford	1,674.10	0.994	1,664.06	1,664.07
Penshurst	840.30	0.994	835.26	823.30
Riverhead	1,239.50	0.994	1,232.06	1,218.41
Seal	1,200.70	0.994	1,193.50	1,165.48
Sevenoaks Town	9,281.30	0.994	9,225.61	9,055.46
Sevenoaks Weald	617.10	0.994	613.40	609.80
Shoreham	681.90	0.994	677.81	661.34
Sundridge	927.40	0.994	921.84	910.48
Swanley	5,340.20	0.994	5,308.16	5,255.55
Westerham	1,969.30	0.994	1,957.48	1,952.44
West Kingsdown	2,318.10	0.994	2,304.19	2,272.88
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>49,190.80</b>		<b>48,895.68</b>	<b>48,209.05</b>

- 8 The Council has previously resolved that its expenses are to be treated as general expenses. In addition the Council has formally to approve what are to be regarded as special expenses now that parish precepts are treated as part of the District Council's general fund and therefore its budget requirement.

#### Timetable for Setting the Tax

- 10 The County Council and Fire and Rescue Service have advised me of their budget meeting dates for 2016/17. Confirmation of the Police & Crime Commissioner's budget meeting date is awaited:

County Council	11 February 2016
Police & Crime Commissioner	Expected by 9 February 2016
Fire and Rescue Service	12 February 2016

- 11 The council tax for the Sevenoaks area cannot be set before the Fire, Police or County precepts have been ratified. There are several dates laid down in regulations on, or by which, certain tasks in relation to the budget process and tax setting have to be carried out. These key dates appear in the Appendix.
- 12 As part of the tax setting process, the Council is required to make an estimate of the collection fund surplus or deficit at 15 January 2016 or the first working day after this, for the year ending 31 March 2016.
- 13 The amount of any surplus or deficit which a billing authority estimates in its collection fund will not remain in the collection fund but will be shared and taken into account by both billing and major precepting authorities in calculating their basic amounts of council tax for 2016/17.

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- 14 In estimating any surplus or deficit, items relating to community charge will not be taken into account. These are to remain with the billing authority and will be taken into account by it in calculating its basic amount of council tax for the year.
- 15 An authority's share of any surplus or deficit relating to council tax is to be in the same proportion as its demand bears to the total demand and precepts on the collection fund for 2015/16. Payment is to be made during 2016/17 on the same dates as precept payments.

### Key Implications

#### Financial

- 16 There are no financial implications.

#### Community Impact and Outcomes

- 17 There are no community impacts arising from this report.

#### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

- 18 Calculation of the tax base for the District is a statutory requirement. The information is used by other authorities in setting their precepts. The actual tax base will vary during the year as new properties are built and exemptions and discounts are granted or withdrawn. Any difference in the revenue raised to that needed to pay precepts remains in the collection fund to be distributed to or collected from major precepting authorities in the following year.

#### Equality Assessment

- 19 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

### Conclusions

- 20 Members are asked to approve the calculation of the District's tax base for council tax setting purposes and to note the timetable for setting the 2016/17 council tax.

**Appendices:** Appendix A - Key dates in the council tax setting process

**Background Papers:** None

**Adrian Rowbotham**  
**Chief Finance Officer**

APPENDIX

KEY DATES IN THE COUNCIL TAX SETTING PROCESS

- |       |   |  |
|-------|---|--|
| i)    | By 16 October 2015                          | Notify tax base for grant settlement purposes to Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG)  |
| ii)   | During December 2015                        | DCLG notifies schedule of payment dates for Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR). DCLG notifies the NDR multiplier (rate in £) for 2016/17 |
| iii)  | By 31 December 2015                         | Issue proposed schedule of payment dates to precepting authorities   |
| iv)   | By 31 January 2016                          | Agree actual schedule of precept payment dates   |
| v)    | Between 1 December 2015 and 31 January 2016 | Notify tax base for tax setting purposes to KCC, Fire & Rescue Service and Police & Crime Commissioner   |
| vi)   | On 15 January 2016                          | Estimate collection fund surplus or deficit for year and calculate the amount to be shared between SDC, KCC, Fire and Police (where applicable)                |
| vii)  | By 22 January 2016                          | Notify KCC, Fire and Police of their shares of the surplus or deficit and when amounts are to be paid or transferred during 2016/17 (where applicable)         |
| viii) | During January and February 2016            | Notify Town/Parish Councils of tax bases for their areas within 10 days of them making such a request  |
| ix)   | During February 2016                        | DCLG notifies entitlements and payment dates of Formula Spending Share (FSS), RSG and NDR  |
| x)    | By 1 March 2016                             | KCC, Fire & Rescue Service, Police & Crime Commissioner and Town/Parish Councils issue their precepts  |
| xi)   | By 11 March 2016                            | District sets council tax for 2016/17, taking account of its own budget requirement and those of the precepting authorities                                    |

