



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



Final Draft February 2012

## Making it Happen - *together*

### Sevenoaks District Community Plan

### Our vision for the next 15 years

The Community Plan creates a long-term, sustainable vision for the Sevenoaks District and sets out the community's priorities for action. It reflects what people have told us is important to them.

We are pleased to present a new vision for the Sevenoaks District for the next 15 years, which is the result of widespread consultation with local people and our partners. The Community Plan is the result of many agencies working together and will be delivered in partnership with those agencies.

We are delighted that 95% of people who responded to our survey supported the existing Community Plan vision and felt it was still relevant. However, we have taken into account the feedback you have given us to make the vision more relevant for the next 15 years.

#### The Vision:

We want Sevenoaks District to be a place with:

- **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 lead independent and fulfilling lives
- **Green Environment:** people can enjoy clean and high quality urban and rural environments
- **Healthy Environment:** people can 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 shape their communities

This vision is supported by an action plan which responds to these priorities for the next three years.

The Community Plan is delivered by the District and County Councils, the health service, the police, the fire and rescue service and housing associations together with voluntary groups, businesses and faith representatives who are all committed to delivering the vision for Sevenoaks District for the next 15 years set out in this document. Other partners, including Town and Parish Councils, will be closely involved in delivering projects at a local level together with many businesses, community, voluntary and faith groups.

We would like to thank everybody who took the time to give us their views and who will be involved in helping to deliver the Community Plan.

Cllr Peter Fleming  
Chairman of the Sevenoaks Locality Board  
Leader of Sevenoaks District Council

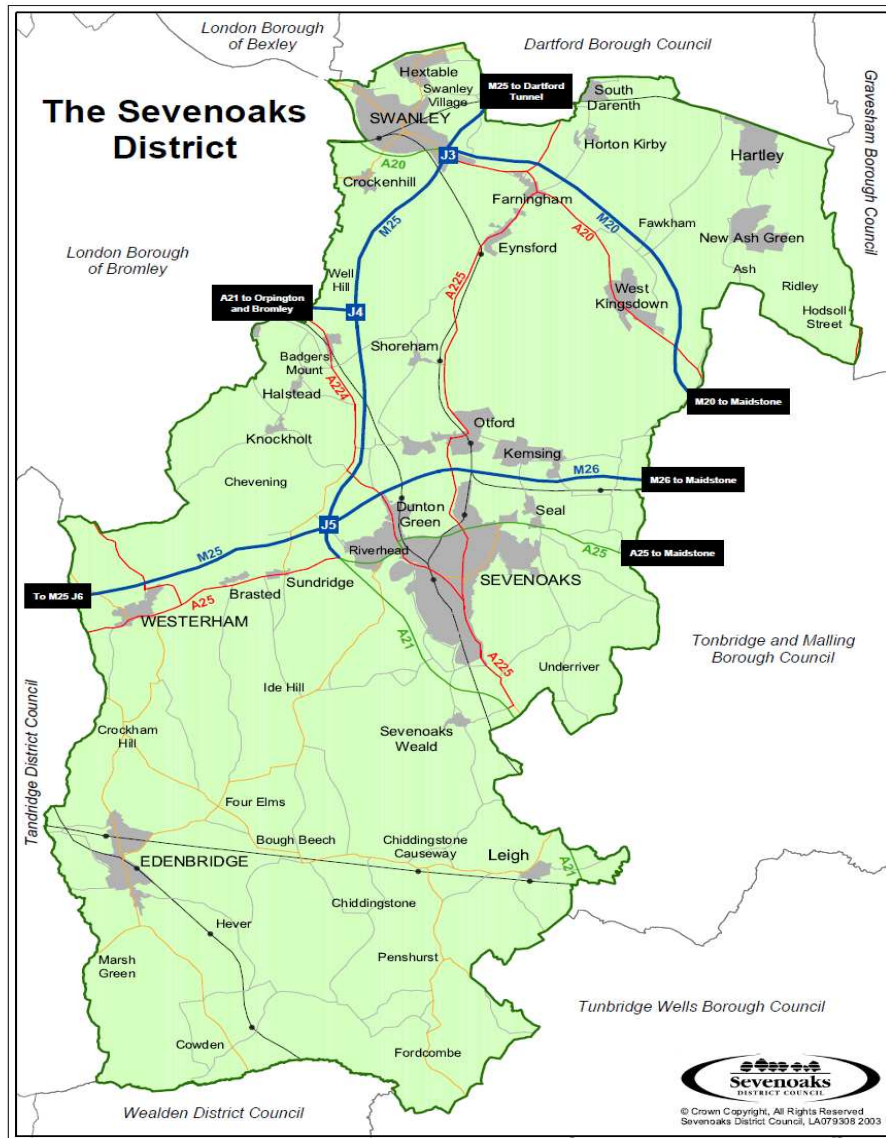
## Our Partners



**Kent** Fire &  
Rescue Service







## About the Sevenoaks District

Sevenoaks District is located in West Kent. The District covers almost 142 square miles and 93% is designated Green Belt.

The quality of its landscape is a distinctive feature. The national significance of the landscape is recognised by the inclusion of 60% of the District within either the Kent Downs (to the North) or High Weald (to the South) Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

With excellent transport links, a skilled workforce, a healthy supply of commercial space, a good quality of life and an eclectic blend of shops, restaurants and historic buildings, Sevenoaks District is a great place to live, visit, work and do business.

The economy of the District is broad based and has a higher than average level of employment in small businesses and a lower than average level in large businesses compared to the South East average. It is dominated by the service sector with the highest level of employment in wholesale and retail trade followed by business services.

Sevenoaks town is the largest employment centre and is primarily a centre for service industries. Swanley and Edenbridge also have significant concentrations of employment.

London is only a short distance away by train. In addition, the fast Eurostar connection to London and Europe available at Ebbsfleet is only a few miles outside the District.

With direct access to the M25, M26 and M20, London's primary airports, Kent's seaports and the UK motorway network are all within easy reach. By car Gatwick takes less than 30 minutes and Heathrow around 55 minutes. The District is also well connected to Kent's designated growth areas.

The proximity of the District to central London means that there are high levels of commuting, particularly by train. Over 16% of those in employment commute by train to work compared with fewer than 6% in the South East as a whole.

Gross weekly pay for working age employees living in Sevenoaks is above the county and national averages at £582.00 per week. However, the District also has levels of child poverty within 2 wards which are in the highest levels (top 20%) of child poverty in the country.

An overall impression of affluence masks local pockets of urban and rural deprivation. There are six areas in the District more deprived than the national average. Some wards in the District suffer from higher than national average unemployment rates, higher levels of poverty, poor health, low educational and skill levels and higher than average rates of crime.

Actual and perceived affluence in parts of Sevenoaks District makes it particularly difficult to demonstrate need in areas of deprivation and it is consequently a real challenge to access funding for growth or services.

While we have excellent transport links out of Sevenoaks, within Sevenoaks, the sparse and rural nature of the District makes it difficult for some people to access services, particularly vulnerable groups such as young people, older people and people with learning disabilities. The lack of a Job Centre in the District compounds problems as residents who need employment related support have to travel to access services.

The age profile of the District's population is slightly older than the South East average and the trend towards an ageing population is set to continue in the future.

The District is distinguished by relatively high levels of home ownership. These factors, together with the proximity of London, have an impact on the affordability of housing. Average house prices in the District exceed both the County and South East averages. The District also has one of the sparsest populations in the County and this is a challenge for local agencies and other service providers.

The District has a strong and vibrant voluntary, community and faith sector, which undertakes a huge and diverse range of services every day. For example, they support those who need extra help, provide specialist counselling and advice services, help older people to remain independent, empower younger people to take control of their lives and achieve their ambitions, support people with physical health difficulties, disabilities or mental health difficulties, support people who can't get to their local hospital and don't have access to transport. The District benefits from committed Town and Parish Councils and other groups representing different sectors of our community.

The area is served by 42 Local Authority primary schools as well as Knole Academy, Orchards Academy and Hextable School, 1 pupil referral unit, 3 special schools and a variety of independent schools, 2 community hospitals in Sevenoaks and Edenbridge and 3 Police stations. There is a wide variety of leisure facilities, including leisure centres at Edenbridge, Sevenoaks and Swanley. There are indoor and outdoor bowls centres, golf courses, sports grounds, recreation areas and scenic country walks.

The District also has an important historic and cultural legacy with 17 nationally designated historic parks and gardens including Knole House and Park. Tourism plays a major factor in the District's economic success with internationally recognised attractions, including Chartwell, Hever, Knole and Penshurst Place and Chiddingstone Castle which benefit the local service sector. The District is also served by the Stag Community Arts Centre in Sevenoaks Town.

## Priorities for the next three years

To help identify priorities for the District over the next three years we consulted many different groups, including community representatives, statutory and voluntary organisations, businesses, partnerships and residents.

The following groups have been consulted in the preparation of this document:

- All residents, via the District-wide questionnaire through the Council's "In Shape" magazine.
- Young People at Kent County Council's Youth Advisory Group
- West Kent Ability Group
- Staff engaged in Housing, Planning, Health and Wellbeing, Community Safety, Economic Development and Regeneration and Environmental Health
- Businesses through Business Breakfasts
- Young People, at the Youth Café at the Stag Community Arts Centre.
- Children and young people who sit on School Councils
- Families in Knockholt, at half-term activities
- Residents at the launch of the White Oak Charter in Swanley
- Families in Eynsford at half-term activities
- Residents in Edenbridge, Sevenoaks, New Ash Green and Swanley
- Sevenoaks Voluntary Sector Forum
- Older People at Hollybush Court Day Centre

- Sevenoaks Kent Locality Board (Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council Members)
- Sevenoaks District Council Members
- Town and Parish Councils
- Sevenoaks District Kent Locality Board Housing Sub-Group
- Community Safety Partnership
- Sevenoaks Local Children's Trust Board
- Sevenoaks Health and Wellbeing Board

During our consultations, including more vulnerable people and groups, residents told us that they sometimes need extra support in their lives and extra support to engage in their communities and avoid social exclusion.

For example, support is needed to help families on low incomes, those who find themselves in difficult economic circumstances, and those who want to be supported to be as independent as possible. This can reflect housing and other needs, access to key local services and facilities, access to reliable public transport and access to employment opportunities.

The needs of vulnerable people are taken into account within each part of the Community Plan



## Equality and inclusion statement

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, colour, nationality, ethnicity.
- Gender, marital status or caring responsibility.
- Sexual orientation.
- Age.
- Physical or mental disability or mental health.
- Religion or belief.
- Health status.
- Employment status.

## Index

<b>Safe Communities</b>	A safer place to live, work and travel	Pages 11-12
<b>Caring Communities</b>	Children have the best start and people are supported to lead independent and fulfilling lives	Pages 13-14
<b>Green Environment</b>	People can enjoy clean and high quality urban and rural environments	Pages 15-16
<b>Healthy Environment</b>	People have healthy lifestyles, access to quality healthcare and health inequalities are reduced.	Pages 17-18
<b>Dynamic Economy</b>	A thriving local economy where businesses flourish and people have skills for employment	Pages 19-20
<b>Sustainable Economy</b>	People can live, work and travel more easily and are empowered to shape their communities	Pages 21-22

This page is left intentionally blank

DRAFT

## Safe Communities

Feeling safe in the community and at home is really important. During our consultations local people told us that they want to make Sevenoaks District a safer place to live, work and travel. Reducing speeding vehicles and improving safety for all road users, including pedestrians and cyclists, is also a clear priority.

Residents said that they want local and more visible policing. They value the role of Neighbourhood Police teams as they help them to feel safer and work with communities to help address local concerns. Residents want to continue to develop and improve their relationship with their local Officers.

Sevenoaks District continues to be one of the safest places to live in Kent. However, from our consultations we recognise that residents are concerned about crime and anti-social behaviour, including fly-tipping, intimidation and harassment, noise and criminal damage.

The Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership brings together all of the key agencies in the District who have an impact on crime, anti-social behaviour and the perception of crime. Its Community Safety Unit is based at the Sevenoaks District Council offices and responds daily to anti-social behaviour and other community safety priorities in the District.

The Community Safety Partnership recognises that early intervention with some young people helps to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. The Partnership will continue to focus on preventative and diversionary programmes to help those young people most at risk of becoming involved in crime

However, we must continue to challenge perceptions about young people. Young people can also be the victims of crime, bullying and anti-social behaviour. We will also work with the Partnership on the Government's Troubled Families initiative, which aims to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour, worklessness and persistent school absence.

On 15 November 2012, in the first ever elections, 41 new Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) were elected across England and Wales to give local people a say when it comes to cutting crime in their area. PCCs will make and influence key decisions about Community Safety and we are committed to working alongside partners and local people to ensure that the needs of the residents in the Sevenoaks District are identified and represented.

**Pictures to go here**

**We want Sevenoaks District to be a safer place to live work and travel**

## Priorities for the next three years:

- Safe 1 Facilitate effective working between the Police, Partners and Communities
- Safe 2 Tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime
- Safe 3 Deliver a low crime rate in the District
- Safe 4 Support vulnerable and repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Safe 5 Tackle speeding vehicles and improve safety for all road users including pedestrians and cyclists.

**An Action Plan is shown on pages 24 - 27**

**Supports the Vision for Kent –Ambition 2 “To tackle disadvantage”, Ambition 3 “To put citizens in control” and cross cutting theme “Improving Community Safety, crime and anti-social behaviour”**

## Facts and Figures

- With fewer than 5,000 crimes per year, Sevenoaks District has the second lowest level of all crime in Kent and achieved a reduction of 0.5% in recorded crime in the period October 2011– September 2012 when compared the same period in the pervious year.
- The Sevenoaks District Community Safety Unit’s District’s Anti-Social Behaviour Officer received a total of 217 reports between September 2010 and October 2011. The most common type of reported behaviour is intimidation and harassment, followed by noise and criminal damage.
- The Kent Crime and Victimization Survey (for the period April 2012 – September 2012) showed that 96.4% of people in the District felt safe. This represents a slight improvement compared with the same period in the previous year.
- Theft of Motor Vehicles increased in the period September 2011 –October 2012 by 6.3% (13 crimes) when compared to the same period in the previous year. Sevenoaks District has the highest level of Theft of Motor Vehicles in Kent.
- Theft from Motor Vehicles increased in the period September 2011 –October 2012 by 7.3% (36 crimes) when compared to the same period in the previous year.
- There are currently 10 PACTs (Partners and Communities Together groups). These groups enable local residents to identify their community safety priorities and work with the Police and other agencies to make improvements. Action plans are updated on a regular basis. Speeding vehicles is the most consistently identified priority for local people

## **Caring Communities**

The Sevenoaks District is seen as a prosperous area, but this can mask poverty, vulnerability, rural isolation all of which can be a barrier to people accessing services and support as well as limiting social and economic opportunities.

Forecasts for the District suggest that the proportion of people aged 65 and above will significantly increase in the years leading up to 2031. This will have an impact on service planning for health, social care, housing and other support services.

During our consultations, local residents felt it was important for older people and vulnerable people to be able to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. We recognise that people need different types of support and help at different times in their lives. Health and social care use “life stages” to recognise the need to support people to start well, develop well, live well, work well and age well. The new health and wellbeing boards will help to ensure that health and social care work together to bring about better outcomes for individuals.

We also recognise that vulnerable people need to be supported to be able to sustain tenancies and owner occupation. In order that people can remain independent, they need access to appropriate housing support, care services, benefits and other services and facilities. Working with voluntary and faith sector partners, we can help local people to take greater control of their own finances.

During our consultations, residents also told us that they felt it was important to give children and young people the best possible start in life. We want to work with partners and families to provide the right social and emotional support to make sure that children thrive. We will also continue to support improved outcomes for children to make sure children and young people are healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.

**Pictures to go here**

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



## Priorities for the next three years:

- Caring 1 Provide the right support at the right time (including for vulnerable groups, people on low incomes and those who care for others)
- Caring 2 Improve outcomes for children and young people
- Caring 3 Reduce poverty and social exclusion

**An Action Plan is shown on pages 28 - 30**

**Supports the Vision for Kent –Ambition 2 “To tackle disadvantage” and Ambition 3 “To put citizens in control”**

## Facts and Figures

- The overall impression of affluence in the District masks local pockets of urban and rural deprivation. Six out of the 74 smallest areas for which the level of deprivation is measured in the District, are more deprived than the UK average. Five of these areas, including the two worst, are within Swanley and one is in Hartley. (LDF Core Strategy)
- Forecasts show that in the period 2010-2026 we will see a 6,600 or 31% increase in those people who are over 65. The number of people who are over 85 will increase by 1,900 or 62.99%. This is a large increase overall in the retired population of the District and will have a significant knock on effect for the future provision of housing and services
- Over the same period the number of people aged 25-44 will decrease by 3,600 or 13.2%. This is a significant decrease in the working population by 2026. The number of people aged 0-15 will decrease by 1,700 or 7.6%. This indicates a long term change in the population structure of the District (Kent County Council Population Forecasts, Research and Statistics)
- On average throughout the UK, one in five (21.3%) children is classified as below the poverty line.). 11.6% of children in Sevenoaks District are in families on out of work benefits. Children within two 2 wards, in Sevenoaks District (Swanley St Mary’s and Swanley White Oak) have the highest child poverty levels (top 20%) in excess of the county and national average (KCC Research and Statistics 2012)
- In rural areas within Sevenoaks District elderly people can feel isolated due to geographic barriers to service and inadequate transport links. (Sevenoaks Disadvantage Profile, 2011)

## Green Environment

Residents in Sevenoaks District value our environment. They place a high value on the quality of the landscape and want to protect its historic character and the high quality natural and built environment.

This is recognised in the Local Development Framework Core Strategy (adopted in February 2012). The Core Strategy sets out a twenty year spatial vision and strategic planning policy that supports the delivery of the Community Plan. It sets out that new development should be of high quality, respect distinctive local character, incorporate sustainability and take into account potential climate change.

The Government recognises that climate change is happening. We recognise that we need to support local communities in adapting to the effects of climate change. This includes assessing the risks and opportunities for both residents and businesses in the District, including such issues as flood risk, water shortages and frequent droughts.

During our consultations, residents also told us they were concerned about saving energy, reducing the use of natural resources and improving air quality. We are committed to leading by example and working with communities to implement measures to reduce the impact of climate change and reduce our carbon footprint. We will also help vulnerable groups who find it difficult to afford to heat their homes due to the rising costs of essential utilities.

Residents have told us that they also want to protect open spaces in the District, spaces where they can enjoy the green environment and green infrastructure and open, spaces for children to play and for people to enjoy sports. Green Infrastructure performs a variety of functions including the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as well as providing space for informal and formal recreation. In addition, the Local Development Framework Open Space Strategy recognises the importance of preserving and enhancing open space for the enjoyment of all.

Residents are also concerned about keeping the District looking clean. Cleanliness of the local environment can affect people's perception of the local community and quality of life. It also has an impact on how safe we feel in our communities and this is recognised within the Safe theme of the Community Plan on pages 11-12. Residents also told us that they value and want to keep the weekly refuse collection.

**Pictures to go here**

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

## Priorities for the next three years:

- Green 1 Maintain the extent of the Green Belt and conserve and enhance the value of our countryside and green spaces, particularly areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- Green 2 Ensure new development is designed to a high quality and takes into account local character
- Green 3 Reduce energy use and pollution, preserve our resources and mitigate the impact of climate change
- Green 4 Maintain a clean local environment

An Action Plan is shown on pages 31-34

**Supports the Vision for Kent – Cross Cutting theme “Protecting and Enhancing the Environment” and Ambition 2 “To tackle disadvantage”**

## Facts and figures

- The total energy consumption in Sevenoaks District is above the average for local authority areas in Britain. The per capita energy consumption in Sevenoaks District is 18% more than the South East average, 8% more than the Kent average and 10% more than the national average. The Code for Sustainable Homes and the BREEAM standards require mandatory energy reduction measures in new developments. (LDF Core Strategy)
- The Energy Act 2011 creates a “Green Deal”. This is a new way to enable fixed improvements to the energy efficiency of households and non-domestic properties, which will be refunded by a charge on energy bills that avoids the need for consumers to pay upfront costs (Department of Energy and Climate Change)
- Poor air quality is an issue in certain parts of the District along main roads. Eleven Air Quality Management Areas have been declared and the Council has an Air Quality Action Plan (2009) that includes measures to improve air quality. Road traffic is the main contributor to poor air quality and the level of traffic, particularly through traffic, is largely outside the control of the District (LDF Core Strategy)
- Parts of the District are liable to flood. Historically, flooding has occurred within the catchments of the Rivers Darent and Eden. Areas with a high probability of flood risk (1 in 100 year event) are identified in and around Edenbridge, to the north of Sevenoaks, and along the Darent Valley. There are also other areas which are at risk of more localised flooding. (LDF Core Strategy)

## Healthy Environment

The Health and Social Care Bill (2012), makes big changes to the way the NHS works from 2013/14. It increases GPs' powers to commission services on behalf of their patients. Sevenoaks District will be covered by two Health and Wellbeing Boards which bring together GPs, local health and social care commissioners, elected representatives and a range of partners including voluntary and community sector organisations, who will work together to improve health and wellbeing of people in the Sevenoaks District and reduce health inequalities.

They will focus on the following five key outcomes for health:

- every child has the best start in life
- people are taking greater responsibility for their health and wellbeing;
- the quality of life for people with long-term conditions is enhanced and they have access to good quality care and support;
- people with mental ill health are supported to live well
- people with dementia are assessed and treated earlier.

They are based on the principles set out in the “Kent Health Inequalities action plan - Mind the Gap, Building Bridges to better Health”. This builds on the findings of the Marmot review published in “The Strategic Review of Health Inequalities - Fair Society, Healthier Lives” where Marmott sets out that “Health inequalities result from social inequalities”.

Healthier lifestyles help to prevent serious or long-term life threatening illness and provide a sense of wellbeing. However, not all groups have equal access to services, facilities and opportunities. The rural nature of parts of the District presents problems in accessing services due to the lack of rural transport services.

From our consultations, we know that transport to local health facilities is an issue for many people who do not drive. Residents were concerned to make sure that the health needs of children and young people were taken into account and that we improve access to health advice and information including advice about drug and alcohol misuse. It is also important to maintain access to the District's leisure facilities, open spaces and to the countryside and to continue to provide healthy lifestyle activities.

We are aware of the challenges we face in planning the health and social care needs of an ageing population because people are living longer. In addition, we know that both diabetes and dementia are increasing and will continue to increase over the next 15 years. These issues will have an impact on the provision of health and social care services and facilities.

From our consultations, it is clear that residents and partners wanted to maximise the benefits to the District from the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We want to work with local communities to build on the success of these events to increase cycling, physical activity and sport participation in the area. We also want to promote inclusive activity and awareness of disability.

**Pictures to go here**

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

## Priorities for the next 3 years

Healthy 1 Reduce health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing for all

Healthy 2 Encourage access to health services for all

Healthy 3 Reduce risk taking behaviour that affects health and wellbeing

**An Action Plan is shown on pages 35 - 37**

**Supports the Vision for Kent –Ambition 2 “To tackle disadvantage” and Ambition 3 “To put citizens in control”**

## Facts and Figures

- There is a difference in life expectancy between different wards in the District. For example, men in more deprived areas have 6 years shorter life expectancy than those from less deprived areas, whereas women have 11.6 years shorter life expectancy.
- Sevenoaks District has the second highest prevalence of type 2 diabetes in West Kent and the number of those with Type 2 Diabetes is expected to rise over the next 15 years. Type 2 Diabetes can cause serious health complications including heart disease, kidney problems, blindness and in extreme cases even amputation (Sevenoaks Disadvantage Profile, 2011)
- 7,834 people in West Kent are currently estimated to have late onset dementia. By 2023, 11,692 people (+50 %) are likely to have late onset dementia. 178 people are currently estimated to have early onset dementia in West Kent. The number of people who have early onset dementia is projected to increase to 203 (+14 %) by 2023. (Dementia Joint Strategic Need Assessment – West Kent)
- The following information is taken from the 2012 Health Profile for Sevenoaks District (Department of Health)
  - About 16.1% of year 6 children in the District are classified as obese, which is lower than the average for UK.
  - An estimated 18% of adults smoke (compared to an average of 20.7% for the UK) and 23.9% are obese (compared to an average of 24.2 for the UK)
  - The rate of increasing and higher risk drinking in the District is higher than the UK average (23.7% compared to 22.3% nationally)





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

## Dynamic Economy

We recognise that a lot of what we want to achieve in our District over the next 15 years depends on having a thriving local economy where businesses can flourish. We wish to encourage the growth of existing businesses and the start up of new businesses. We also want to highlight the benefits to businesses of locating within the District.

Sevenoaks District is home to approximately 6,355 VAT registered enterprises, with the vast majority of those being small and medium sized enterprises. We have a strong rural economy with one of the highest levels of homeworkers, home businesses and self-employed people in the county. Businesses in the District benefit from a transport infrastructure, which is among the best of anywhere in the south of England. London is only a short distance away from Sevenoaks or Swanley by rail and the fast Eurostar connections to London and Europe are available at Ebbsfleet, only a few miles outside the District.

During our consultations businesses identified the following priorities:

- Enable local people to have the right skills and training to take up work opportunities
- Create places for people to stay in the District, continue to support tourism, the rural economy and rural diversification
- Support business growth and development, start-up and home working.
- Improve access to fast and reliable broadband, particularly in rural areas
- Town and village centres to remain vibrant. Some areas in the District need extra help, particularly Swanley and New Ash Green
- Support transport infrastructure for businesses and improve transport within the District
- Protect employment land for the future business needs of the District
- Provide advice and information to business and help them to access financial support

We will work to create an environment where business can flourish and take advantage of the support and initiatives that are open to them. The Local Development Framework sets out the strategic planning policy that supports the Community Plan. This recognises the importance of supporting business needs in the District and will help to achieve the objectives set out in this plan.

## Priorities for the next three years:

- Dynamic 1 Maintain a supply of employment land and premises
- Dynamic 2 Retain existing businesses and encourage new businesses
- Dynamic 3 Improve skills for employment
- Dynamic 4 Improve broadband connectivity
- Dynamic 5 Improve the sustainability of the business economy

## An Action Plan is shown on pages 38 - 41

**Supports the Vision for Kent Ambition 1 – “To grow the economy” and Ambition 2 “To tackle disadvantage”**

## Facts and Figures

- GVA is the value of goods and services produced and is used to measure the overall economic wellbeing of an area. GVA in Sevenoaks District (15,824) is the lowest in West Kent and lower than the County average (17,138) (KCC’s Research and Evaluation’s district and county estimates)
- The three largest employment sectors in the District are; construction; professional, scientific and technical; business admin and support services (ONS UK Business Survey)
- The total value of tourism to the economy in 2011 was £178,453,000, representing a 2.7% increase from 2009. It also supported 4,279 jobs and generated a total of 290,000 visitors, of which 47,000 were overseas visitors (Cambridge Model tourism impact statistics 2011)
- The District has a higher proportion of individuals with NVQ4 and NVQ 3 and above equivalent qualifications compared to the South East (41.9% in Sevenoaks District compared to 36.2% in the South East and 32.9% in Great Britain). The District has a higher proportion of individuals with NVQ3 and above equivalent qualifications (62.7% in Sevenoaks compared to 56.7% in the South East and 52.7% in Great Britain).
- The proportion of individuals in Sevenoaks District with no qualifications is higher than for South East as a whole, but lower than Great Britain (11.1% in Sevenoaks District compared to 9.1% in the South East and 12.3% in Great Britain).
- Unemployment in Sevenoaks District is below the County average (3.3%), (Kent County Council) In the year April 2011 – March 2012
- Incapacity benefits (40%) Jobseekers (23%), Lone Parent (11%) and Carer (11%) account for the most frequently claimed type of benefits claimed by benefits claimants in the Sevenoaks District (Feb 2012, Health and Social Care Mapping)
- While there was a net loss of 95 sq. m employment floor space in the main settlements in the District (Sevenoaks Urban area, Swanley and Edenbridge), there was a net increase of 3250 sq. m in employment floor space across the rest of the District.

## Sustainable Economy

The District's proximity to London means that there are high levels of commuting from the District, especially by train. However, we know from our consultations that residents find travelling within the District difficult, particularly for those without cars. The need for better and more sustainable transport is a significant priority.

During our consultations, local residents said that they wanted to be able to walk and cycle more safely. We will promote public and community transport options to reduce pressure on parking and congestion and enable people to access key local services and facilities more easily.

Residents were concerned about the lack of affordable homes. They also felt strongly that there should be a greater choice of local housing retirement and down-sizing opportunities. This should include private options. With a growing older population, the District's housing requirements will change considerably in the next 15 years. Sevenoaks District has the highest average house prices in Kent and people find it very difficult to afford to buy homes. We aim to ensure that there is access to affordable, decent homes for all, by providing the right mix of different housing types and small homes in new developments and taking the needs of vulnerable groups into account. Affordable homes need to be provided in wards and parishes to meet the type and level of evidenced need for each respective area. Our new homes need to be sustainable, that is fit for the future in being able to adapt to changing needs, reduce energy consumption and built using sustainable standards of construction. We must also take into account the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller communities in the District.

We recognise that there is a strong history of volunteering in the District. There are many voluntary, community and faith groups operating in the District. They make our communities vibrant and play an active role in bringing different parts of our community together. They also provide an invaluable range of essential services and facilities to people who need support, including those who care for people who need special support. We want to support and encourage strong and active communities by encouraging volunteering and providing support and help for people who volunteer and care for others. We will support local people wishing to shape their own communities through Neighbourhood and Parish Plans. We also want to work in partnership with local communities, neighbourhoods and residents to ensure that we are delivering services that people want, that residents' views are known and that we listen and respond.

We will help protect and promote the use of the District's wealth of community buildings and facilities including, for example, sports and leisure centres, libraries, village halls, playing fields, outdoor gyms. We will also make sure that developers consider the need for new or improved community facilities as part of any new development. These enable a variety of voluntary and community activities to take place.

**Pictures to go here**

**We want Sevenoaks District to be a place where people can live, work and travel more easily and are empowered to shape their communities**

## Priorities for the next three years:

Sustainable 1 Reduce the need to travel, promote and improve access to key local services and public and community transport

Sustainable 2 Provide for additional housing development including the right mix of housing types and smaller homes for older people and meet the needs identified for Gypsies and Travellers in the Local Development Framework

Sustainable 3 Work with local people to deliver strong, active and sustainable communities

**An Action Plan is shown on pages 42 - 45**

**Supports the Vision for Kent – Ambition 1 “To Grow the Economy”, Ambition 2 “To tackle disadvantage” and Ambition 3 “To put citizens in control”**

## Facts and figures

- Sevenoaks has seen the lowest population growth of all Kent districts. Between 2001 and 2011 Sevenoaks' population increased by 5,584 people, which is equivalent to a 5.1% increase. (2011 Census)
- The District's commitment to volunteering and strong and active communities was highlighted by the number of volunteers involved in the Olympic Torch Relay and the London 2012 Paralympic Road Cycling at Brands Hatch. Over 280 volunteers were recruited and trained and remain keen to use their new skills.
- There was an 88% increase in the average house price in Sevenoaks District between 2001 and 2011. The average house price in 2011 was £401,975 and the average (median) earnings were £22,703. (Home Truths, National Housing Federation)
- The Council is forecast to have healthy housing land supply which shows that it can meet its housing targets up to 2026. (LDF Core Strategy)
- Kent County Council's "Growth Without Gridlock" identifies the following key transport challenges for Sevenoaks:
  - Achieving a rebalancing of the transport network in favour of non-car modes as a means of access to services and facilities.
  - Working towards an improved and integrated network of public transport services in and between both urban and rural areas.
- The Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show People Accommodate Pitch need assessment (2012) estimated there are at least 498 local gypsies, travellers and travelling show people living in the District. The study estimates the need for an additional 72 pitches/plots for gypsies and travellers over the period 2012-2026.



The following pages contain the partnership action plans for the following themes:

Safe Communities	Pages 24-27
Caring Communities	Pages 28-30
Green Environment	Pages 31-34
Healthy Environment	Pages 35-37
Dynamic Economy	Pages 38-41
Sustainable Economy	Pages 42-45

Sevenoaks Locality Board  
**making it happen**  
*- together*





## Safe Communities – a safer place to live work and travel

### Safe 1 Facilitate effective working between the Police, Partners and Communities

#### We will do this by:

- Consulting and involving local communities in community safety or crime issues that affect them through PACT panels
- Ensuring that more people are aware of Police and community safety activity in their local communities
- Improving communication with residents through a range of media, including social media
- Undertaking annual assessments of community safety needs and putting in place annual action plans responding to those needs

#### Our targets are:

**Safe 1.1** Increased number of people involved in local community safety projects

Baseline: To be established 2012/13

**Safe 1.2** 85% of the actions in the Community Safety Partnership Strategy and Action Plan to be on target to be achieved each year

Baseline: 85% of the actions in the Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan were on target to be achieved in December 2013

#### Lead

Community Safety Partnership

Community Safety Partnership

#### Delivery supported by

Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan



**Safe 2 Tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime**

**We will do this by:**

- Proactively responding to reports of anti-social behaviour and noise
- Ensuring children and young people have positive activities to divert them from crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reducing incidents of fly-tipping by fast removal and improved enforcement
- Helping 'Troubled Families' by taking coordinated action to improve life chances by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, absence from school and worklessness
- Designing out crime and making environments safer

**Our targets are:**

**Safe 2.1** Maintain the low percentage of people who say ASB is a very or fairly big problem below 5% (Based on monitoring of 7 strands of anti-social behaviour in the Kent Crime and Victimisation Survey)  
Baseline: To be established April 2013

**Safe 2.2** Reduce the number of people who say that fly-tipping is either a very or fairly big problem  
Baseline: To be established

**Safe 2.3** Reduced number of Children and Young people entering the Youth Justice System for the first time  
Baseline: Between April – December 2012, there were 39 children and young people entering the young justice system for the first time

**Safe 2.4** 33% improvement in outcomes for 42 families identified as part of the Year 1 cohort of the Troubled Families programme, rising to 50% in Year 2 and beyond  
Baseline: To be established April 2013

**Lead**

Sevenoaks District  
Community Safety  
Unit

Community Safety  
Partnership

Community Safety  
Partnership

Sevenoaks  
Troubled Families  
Project Board


**Delivery supported by**


Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan



Sevenoaks District Troubled Families Project  
Board



Safe 3 – Deliver a low crime rate in the District		
<b>We will do this by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing all recorded crime in line with annual targets</li> <li>Increasing Safer Towns Partnership Membership and working with businesses to reduce crime</li> </ul>		
<b>Our targets are:</b>  <b>Safe 3.1</b> Crime reduced by 1% compared to the previous year Baseline: All recorded crime for April 2012 - December 2012 stands at 3924  <b>Safe 3.2</b> Business crime reduced by 2% compared to the previous year Baseline: At February 2013, there were 1173 business crimes accounting for 25.2% of the total crime in the District. (Business crime is defined as crimes where the victim is an organisation)	<b>Lead</b>  Community Safety Partnership  Sevenoaks District Business Crime Reduction Partnership	<b>Targets support by</b>  Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan  

Safe 4 Support vulnerable and repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour		
<b>We will do this by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helping children and young people to feel safe from bullying at home and at school and safe on the internet</li> <li>Reducing repeat incidents of Domestic Abuse and actions to improve reporting and recognising the importance of early intervention</li> <li>Improving information available to local communities about the services and facilities that are available for victims of crime and anti-social behaviour</li> <li>Reducing incidents of bullying of people with learning and other disabilities</li> <li>Investigating repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour</li> </ul>		
<b>Our targets are:</b>  <b>Safe 4.1</b> 2% reduction in repeat incidents of domestic abuse by March 2014 Baseline: At December 2012, there were 690 victims of domestic abuse and 161 repeat incidents  <b>Safe 4.2</b> Review 100% of repeat victims of crime and refer actions to Daily Tasking as appropriate	<b>Lead</b>  Sevenoaks District Domestic Abuse Working Group	<b>Delivery supported by</b>  Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan    Sevenoaks District Domestic Abuse Working



## Caring Communities – where children are enabled to have the best start and where people can be supported to lead independent and fulfilling lives

### Caring 1 Providing the right support at the right time (including vulnerable groups, people on low incomes and those who care for others)

#### We will do this by:

- Adapting properties to enable older and vulnerable people to live as independently as possible
- Helping people to remain in their own homes where this is possible and appropriate by expanding the use of technology such as Telehealth and Telecare, providing social care and support at the right time and continuing to provide disabled facilities grants
- Completing a housing needs analysis for older people and people with learning disabilities and help to inform future provision
- Improving on current levels of down-sizing to help free-up additional family housing, much of which is currently under occupied
- Working closely with KCC, Supporting People Team to provide housing related support to enable people to sustain tenancies and home ownership
- Increasing support and respite placements offered to those who care for others
- Developing initiatives for vulnerable people, particularly people with learning disabilities to access to social opportunities

#### Our targets are:

**Caring 1.1** Increased number of people in the District provided with equipment and housing adaptations following assessment  
Baseline: To be established April 2013

**Caring 1.2** Increased number of respite placements offered to people in the District  
Baseline: To be established April 2013

**Caring 1.3** Increased number of carers assessments carried out and carers supported  
Baseline: To be established April 2013

#### Lead Partner

KCC Families and Social Care

KCC Families and Social Care

KCC Families and Social Care

#### Delivery supported by

Sevenoaks District Health Action Team





## Caring 2 Improve outcomes for children and young people

### We will do this by:

- Focusing on the health needs of children aged 0-5 and their parents in the Sevenoaks District Health Inequalities Action Plan 'Mind the Gap'
- Making best use of Children's Centres, focusing on breast feeding, child weight, supporting literacy and personal social and emotional needs
- Providing youth work and youth outreach work in the District to support the needs of young people
- Using the multi-agency Sevenoaks Local Children's Trust Board to support social, emotional and care needs of children and young people
- Enabling more young people to have their achievements recognised
- Supporting vulnerable children in Year 6 in their transition from Primary to Secondary Schools
- Working as a Team around the Family (TAF) to reduce barriers that prevent children and young people achieving and learning

### Our targets are:

**Caring 2.1** Increased number of TAFs (Team around the Family) with outcomes achieved for children under 5

Baseline: To be agreed April 2013

**Caring 2.2** Reduced gap between the lowest 20% and the median (middle data point) for Communication Language and Literacy Development (CLL) and Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) as assessed at Children's Centres

Baseline: At Early Years Foundation stage, the percentage achieving 78+ points @6= PSED and 6+ CLL for Sevenoaks in 2011/12 was 80.2% The gap between the lowest 20% and the median Sevenoaks during 2010/11 was 27.9%

### Lead Partner

KCC Families and Social Care

KCC Children's Centres

### Delivery supported by

Sevenoaks District Troubled Families Project Board



Sevenoaks Local Children's Trust Board



Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017

**Caring 3 Reduce poverty and social exclusion**

**We will do this by:**

- Providing free support and advice for residents about debt management and financial awareness
- Supporting people in the transition to universal credit through benefits surgeries
- Through planning policies, seek to protect services that serve local communities in rural parts of the District
- Working with Job Centre Plus and other agencies to reduce unemployment
- Producing a directory of organisations providing support

**Our targets are:**

**Caring 3.1** Reduced percentage of children and young people within Sevenoaks classified as living within poverty in the District  
 Baseline: 11.6% Children in families in receipt of Child Tax Credits (below 60% median income) or Income Support /Job Seekers Allowance, with 2 wards falling within the 20% highest child poverty levels in Kent. The majority of children in poverty lived with a lone parent.

**Caring 3.2** Increased number of people completing pre-employment training in unemployment hotspots in the District  
 Baseline: To be established 2013/14

**Lead Partner**

Sevenoaks District  
 Locality Board  
 Officer Delivery  
 Group & sub-  
 groups

SDC Economic  
 Development/Job  
 Centre Plus

**Delivery supported by**

Sevenoaks Local Children’s Trust Board



Sevenoaks District Health Action Team



# Green Environment – where people can enjoy clean and high quality urban and rural environments

## Green 1 – Maintain the extent of the Green Belt, conserve and enhance the value of our countryside and green spaces, particularly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

### We will do this by:

- Ensuring that appropriate planning policies are in place to:
  - Protect the Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the District’s historic heritage
  - Enable access to green and open spaces, the countryside and the historic environment
- Working together to deliver projects including the proposed Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme aimed at working with communities, landowners and local groups to conserve the landscape, wildlife and rich heritage of the area and learn about, enjoy and celebrate their local area

### Our targets are:

**Green 1.1** Planning policies used effectively, as monitored through the LDF Annual Monitoring Review

Baseline information (from Annual Monitoring Review 2012 April 2011-March 2012):

- 59% of housing completions were within the main settlements
- No additional dwellings were allowed on appeal by the Planning Inspectorate within the Green Belt
- As at 31st March 2012, 13 Conservation Area Appraisal Management Plans have been adopted
- There were no changes to the conservation area extents
- There has been no change in the number of historic parks and gardens
- There was no change in the number of scheduled ancient monuments

**Green 1.2** Darent Valley Heritage Lottery Fund bid for a Landscape Partnership scheme submitted and if successful, delivery supported by the Locality Board Officer Delivery Group

Baseline: Consultation held with Partners on the Vision for the Landscape Partnership scheme 2012/13

### Lead

SDC Planning Policy

Kent Downs AONB

### Delivery supported by

Local Development Framework Core Strategy



Kent Downs and High Weald AONB Management Action Plans

Kent Environment Strategy



Countryside Access Improvement Plan 2007-2017

**Green 2 – Ensure new development is designed to a high quality and takes into account local character**

**We will do this by:**

- Through the use and enforcement of Planning Policies set out in the LDF, ensuring new development is designed to a high quality and where possible makes a positive contribution to the distinctive character of the area in which it is situated
- Taking into account the recommendations in AONB design guides in planning and development control decisions

**Our targets are:**

**Green 2.1** Two thirds of new housing development to be rated good or better against the Building for Life criteria and no development to be rated poor  
 Baseline: In the 2012 Annual Monitoring Review 100% of housing schemes assessed against the Building for Life Criteria scored “Good” or above

**Lead**

SDC Planning Policy

**Delivery supported by:**

Local Development Framework Core Strategy



DRAFT

**Green 3: Reduce energy use and pollution, preserve our resources and mitigate the impact of climate change**

**We will do this by:**

- Ensuring new development is not built in areas likely to flood, complies with BREEAM environmental assessment standards and promoting renewable energy
- Driving, inspiring and supporting action to reduce carbon emissions, conserve natural resources, improve thermal efficiency of the housing stock and tackle fuel poverty through a Sevenoaks 'Climate Local' agreement
- Improving and monitor air quality in the District through monitoring of Air Quality Management Areas

**Our targets are:**

**Green 3.1** Sevenoaks 'Climate Local' to be agreed, including local reduction/improvement targets and at least 75% of all actions on target to be delivered in the first year, rising to 80% in the second year and improving in the third year

**Baseline:**

- In February 2013, SDC commenced discussions about a Sevenoaks Climate Local with partners
- Current DECC (time lag per capita data 2009/10); Domestic (2.5 kt CO2); Industry and commercial (1.6 kt CO2); Transport (4.6 kt CO2) – M25 outside of our control

**Green 3.2** Air quality across the District to be regularly reviewed and assessed and the Air Quality Management Action Plan delivered

Baseline: In February 2013, there were 13 designated AQMAs in the District

Lead	Targets supported by
SDC Housing	Local Development Framework Core Strategy  Sevenoaks District Health Team (Health Inequalities Action Plan)  Kent Environment Strategy
SDC Environmental Health	 Sevenoaks District Air Quality Management Action Plan “

**Green 4: Maintain a clean local environment**

**We will do this by:**

- Maintaining a weekly rubbish collection service
- Promoting recycling in the District as part of Kent wide campaigns via the Kent Waste Partnership
- Conducting local 'Environmental Visual Audits' in areas where local communities wish to see improvements

**Our targets are:**

**Green 4.1** Weekly rubbish collection service maintained

Baseline: Sevenoaks District Council currently maintains its commitment to a weekly collection

**Green 4.2** Recycling campaigns delivered in line with campaigns led by the Kent Municipal Waste Management Partnership

Baseline: To be provided April 2013

**Green 4.3** Environmental Visual Audit action plans in place and achieving change in areas where improvement is needed

Baseline: 9 EVA action plans were produced between April 2012 -February 2013

**Lead**

Sevenoaks District Council

SDC Direct Services

Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership

**Delivery supported by**

Kent Municipal Waste Management Strategy

Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan





## Healthy Environment – where people can have healthy lifestyles, where access to quality healthcare and health inequalities are reduced

### Healthy 1 – Reduce health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing for all

#### We will do this by:



- Delivering the Sevenoaks District ‘Mind the Gap’ action plan to reduce the gap in health inequalities
- Through the Health and Wellbeing Boards, engaging the new Clinical Commissioning Groups to support delivery of health priorities
- Supporting healthy weight programmes, particularly for children measured as being overweight or obese as part of the National Child Weight Management Programme
- Helping people to manage long-term health conditions
- Improving early assessment and diagnosis of dementia and improving community support for patients and their carers
- Maximising the opportunity gained from the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics to promote healthy lifestyles, disabled sport and volunteering.

#### Our targets are:

**Healthy 1.1** Sevenoaks District ‘Mind the Gap’ Action Plan agreed and at least 75% of the actions in the action plan on target to be achieved in the first year of delivery, rising to 80% second year and improving in the third year  
 Baseline: Health Action Team Health Inequalities Workshop in February 2013 has resulted in first draft of Sevenoaks District Health Inequalities Action Plan

**Healthy 1.2** Quarterly partnership Health Action Team meetings coordinated to improve partnership working, identify gaps and address needs to achieve the health and wellbeing outcomes  
 Baseline: Health Action Team away day February 2013 has resulted in first draft of Sevenoaks District Health Inequalities Action Plan

**Healthy 1.3** Two Clinical Commissioning Groups (West Kent and Dartford Gravesham and Swanley) in the District achieving agreed outcomes  
 Baseline: To be established in April 2013

Lead	Delivery supported by
Sevenoaks District Health Action Team	Sevenoaks District Health Action Team (Sevenoaks District Mind the Gap) 
Sevenoaks District Health Action Team	Sevenoaks Local Children’s Trust Board 
CCGs	

**Healthy 2 – Encourage access to health and social care services for all**

**We will do this by:**

- Improving health advice, information and support available to parents and carers and their children through Children’s Centres
- Through Health and Wellbeing Boards, ensuring that health and social care is co-ordinated
- Supporting the health and wellbeing needs of people with mental ill health, learning disabilities and physical disabilities
- Providing information in different ways and through different channels to improve awareness of support available



**Our targets are:**

**Healthy 2.1** Increased number of health checks provided in community settings

Baseline: To be provided by Sevenoaks District Health Action Team

**Healthy 2.2** Increased number of families supported through parent and child clinics being provided at Children’s Centre’s in the District

Baseline: To be provided by Families and Social Care April 2013

Lead	Delivery supported by
Sevenoaks District Health Action Team	Sevenoaks District Health Team (Health Inequalities Action Plan) 
Children’s Centres KCC Public Health/CCGs	Sevenoaks Local Children’s Trust Board 

## Healthy 3– Reduce risk taking behaviour that affects health and wellbeing

### We will do this by:

- Supporting people, particularly young people, to stop smoking
- Reducing teenage pregnancy, improving awareness of sexual health and targeting support to particular areas of need for example:
  - Increasing the number of schools providing Sex and Relationship Education
  - Providing a C card condom scheme from schools
  - Increasing the number of pharmacies offering Emergency Hormonal Contraception and chlamydia testing and treatment
- Supporting people to improve their health by raising awareness of and tackling the harmful effects from drugs and alcohol

### Our targets are:

**Healthy 3.1** Reduce the rate of increase in alcohol admissions to Hospital through the delivery of partnership interventions

Baseline: 1241 per 100,000 population 2010/11

**Healthy 3.2** Increased number of sexual health and C-Card services in targeted areas Local reduction targets to be agreed as part of the review of the action plan

Baseline: To be established by the Sevenoaks District Teenage Pregnancy Local Implementation Group

**Healthy 3.3** Increased number of smokers who become 4 week quitters

Baseline: 199 in the period April – December 2012

### Lead

Sevenoaks District Health Action Team

Sevenoaks District Teenage Pregnancy Local Implementation Group (LIG)

KCC Public Health/CCGs

### Targets supported by

Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan



Sevenoaks District Health Team (Health Inequalities Action Plan)



Sevenoaks Local Children's Trust Board




**Dynamic Economy – a thriving local economy where businesses flourish, people have skills for employment and tourism is supported**

**Dynamic 1 – Maintaining a supply of employment land and premises**

**We will do this by:**

- Allocating and safeguarding in the District Council’s planning policies land for employment use
- Resisting changes of use from employment to other planning use classes
- Pursuing major development opportunities in Fort Halstead and in the Swanley and New Ash Green retail areas
- Encouraging vibrant and viable town centres through a range of partnerships

**Our target is to:**

<p><b>Dynamic 1.1</b> Maintain the overall stock of employment land across the District every year          Baseline: In 11/12 there was a loss of 95sqm of employment land in the main settlements and a gain of 3155sq.m across District</p>	<p><b>Lead</b>  SDC Planning Policy</p>	<p><b>Target supported by</b>  Local Development Core Strategy</p> 
--	---	--

DRAFT

## Dynamic 2 – Retaining existing businesses and encouraging new businesses

### We will do this by:

- Encouraging new businesses through the development and delivery of an Economic Development Strategy
- Enabling home and flexible working through ‘live to work’ units as allocated in the District Council’s planning policies
- Encouraging, through the planning system, a supply of modern, well-designed business accommodation
- Encouraging and supporting tourism, sustainable rural diversification and the rural economy e.g. Kent Downs AONB South East Sustainable Tourism Project “Our Land our Experiences to Treasure”
- Helping businesses to access funding and growth accelerator opportunities
- Developing a consistent programme of business support
- Lobbying for improved transport services, e.g. to mitigate the negative effects of the London Bridge rail Development

### Our targets are:

**Dynamic 2.1** Increased net growth in the number of businesses (measured by business rates new accounts created and the number of accounts closed)  
Baseline: To be provided at April 2013

**Dynamic 2.2** Tourism economy grown by 2% by 2016 (Measured by the Cambridge Model)  
Baseline at 2011 was £178,453,000

**Dynamic 2.3** Economic Development Strategy developed with 75% of actions on target to be delivered in the first year, rising to 80% in the second year and continuing to improve in the third year  
Baseline: New strategy in development (February 2012)

### Lead

SDC – Economy Development/  
West Kent Partnership

SDC – Community Development/  
Visit Kent

SDC Economic Development

### Delivery supported by

SDC Economic Development Action Plan



West Kent Partnership Area Investment Framework

Local Development Core Strategy



Kent Downs and High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Action Plan

## Dynamic 3 Improve Skills for Employment

### We will do this by:

- Supporting 16-24 year olds into employment through a range of training courses
- Increasing the number of apprenticeships taken up in the District and investigate skills gaps
- Supporting learners with learning disabilities into assisted employment opportunities
- Supporting “troubled families” to access learning and training opportunities through the European Social Funded “Progress –Go Further” initiative and the Government funded Youth Contract
- Improving educational attainment for young people attending schools within Sevenoaks District and investing in schools

### Our targets are:

**Dynamic 3.1** Increased number of young people in apprenticeships at Level 2, 3 and 4

Baseline: baseline and confirmation of targets will be provided in March following the approval of the strategy by KCC

**Dynamic 3.2** Reduce the number of young people who are not in education, training or employment by 1% (as measured by 3 monthly average % for the District)



Baseline: Three monthly average during 2012/13 was 3.98%

**Dynamic 3.3** Increased number of young people aged 14-24 accessing learning or training opportunities as a result of the Troubled Families programme


Baseline: To be provided in 2013/14 when data from Cohort year 1 becomes available


**Dynamic 3.4** Increase the number of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs or more at grades A\*-C who attend schools within Sevenoaks District

Baseline: 42.4% in 2012/13

Lead	Delivery supported by
KCC Education, Learning and Skills	SDC Economic Development Action Plan
CXK Ltd (Previously Connexions Kent and Medway)	 Sevenoaks Troubled Family Project
Sevenoaks District Troubled Families Project Board	 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017



Dynamic 4 – Improve Broadband connectivity		
<b>We will do this by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helping to prove the need and demand for faster broadband</li> <li>• Applying for funding to support rural communities in accessing superfast broadband</li> <li>• Supporting local communities to find broadband solutions</li> </ul>		
<b>Our target is to:</b>  <b>Dynamic 4.1</b> Support delivery of national and county targets to achieve faster broadband for 90% of homes and businesses and a minimum of 2 megabytes for the remaining 10% Baseline: To be established	<b>Lead</b>  SDC Economic Development	<b>Target supported by</b>  SDC Economic Development Action Plan  

Dynamic 5 – Improve the sustainability of the business economy		
<b>We will do this by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Putting in place a series of workshops to enable local businesses to increase energy efficiency</li> <li>• Supplying businesses in the District with sustainability information packs to increase awareness of schemes and opportunities which they can take advantage of</li> </ul>		
<b>Our target is to:</b>  <b>Dynamic 5.1</b> Increased number of businesses assisted each year to improve energy efficiency within their business Baseline: 0 businesses assisted during 2012/13	<b>Lead</b>  SDC Economic Development	<b>Delivery supported by</b>  SDC Economic Development Action Plan  

## Sustainable Economy – where people can live, work and travel more easily and are empowered to shape their communities

### Sustainable 1 – Reduce the need to travel, promote and improve access to key local services and to public and community transport

#### We will do this by:

- Seeking to ensure that new development is located in the most sustainable locations in the District
- Considering the transport infrastructure implications of commercial, retail and larger residential developments in the District
- Supporting improvements to infrastructure through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- Promoting the existing transport links, and working towards more sustainable and integrated transport by seeking to deliver the implementation plan (set for 2018) in the Sevenoaks District Strategy for Transport 2010- 2026 and lobbying to implement recommendations targeted at Sevenoaks District in “Growth without Gridlock”
- Promoting the use of community transport to meet particular needs and supporting the voluntary sector in any funding bid for community transport initiatives
- Promoting the benefits of the Kent Freedom Pass within schools within the Sevenoaks District
- Promoting cycling by identifying potential new routes, highlighting locations for new cycle parking and improving promotion through the Sevenoaks District Cycling Strategy

#### Our targets are:

**Sustainable 1.1** Travel plans produced for 100% of new commercial or retail developments in the District and transport infrastructure and sustainable travel considered as part of S106 agreements for larger residential developments

Baseline: To be provided by KCC April 2013

**Sustainable 1.2** Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule providing funds for infrastructure improvements

Baseline: A consultation on a draft CIL charging scheduled for Sevenoaks District was carried out in 2012/13

**Sustainable 1.3** Kent Freedom pass promoted in all schools within the Sevenoaks District

Baseline: Awaiting information from Kent Highways

#### Lead

Kent Highways

SDC Planning Policy

KCC Highways

#### Delivery supported by

Local Development Framework



Growth Without Gridlock



Sevenoaks District Strategy for Transport 2010-2026

Sevenoaks District Cycling Strategy



<p><b>Sustainable 1.4</b> Supported bus budget sustained annually          Baseline: Supported bus budget for Sevenoaks District was £1million (exact figure to be confirmed) during 2012/13. £20,000 of improvements to Sevenoaks bus Station were delivered during 2012/13</p>	KCC Highways	
--	--------------	--

**Sustainable 2 – Provide for additional housing development including the right mix of housing types and tenure and smaller homes for older people and meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers**

**We will do this by:**

- Having District Council Planning policies in place:
  - Identifying and updating on a yearly basis the supply of specific deliverable housing sites to meet housing needs over a 5 year period
  - Seeking to provide for affordable housing in new developments in response to locally identified housing needs, assisting those unable to afford suitable homes in the open market
  - Promoting housing development to meet the needs of smaller households, older people, housing with mixed tenure and smaller homes to meet the needs in the District
  - Providing small scale affordable housing schemes to meet locally identified needs in rural areas
  - Meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People through Planning Policy
- Delivering a housing strategy to support the housing needs within the District

**Our targets are:**

Our targets are:	Lead	Delivery supported by
<p><b>Sustainable 2.1</b> 75% of Sevenoaks District Housing Strategy and Action Plan delivered, rising to 80% in the second year and improving in the third year.            Baseline: To be provided 2013/14</p>	Locality Board Housing Sub-Group	Sevenoaks District Housing Strategy
<p><b>Sustainable 2.2</b> Maintain the percentage of affordable homes achieving the lifetime homes standard at 100%            Baseline: 100% of affordable homes achieved Lifetime Homes standard in 2011/12</p>	SDC Housing	Local Development Framework 
<p><b>Sustainable 2.3</b> Maintain an average of 165 dwellings per year over the LDF plan period, 2006-2026, to meet the Core Strategy Housing Provision of 3300.            Baseline: There have been 1360 units completed since 2006, which gives a surplus of 370 over the requirement of 990 units and an average of 227units per year</p>	SDC Housing	SDC Vision for Balanced Communities 




<p><b>Sustainable 2.4</b> Meet the accommodation needs set out in the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show People Accommodation Needs assessment (2012) Baseline: The Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show People Accommodation Needs Assessment was agreed in 2012</p>	SDC Planning Policy	
---	---------------------	--

**Sustainable 3 – Work with local people to deliver strong, active and sustainable communities**

**We will do this by:**

- Promoting and increasing participation in regular volunteering and community activities
- Supporting the development of Parish and Neighbourhood Plans through the Planning system
- Ensuring that residents are consulted about the issues that affect them and that they are involved in the design and planning of services
- Enable local social, community and cultural activities to flourish for all age groups
- Optimising the use of community spaces, making best use of local facilities e.g. libraries and community buildings

**Our targets are:**

	Lead	Delivery supported by
<p><b>Sustainable 3.1</b> Increased number of people volunteering and number of volunteer hours monitored by partner agencies Baseline: To be established</p>	SDC Community Development	<p>Sevenoaks District Health Action Team</p> 
<p><b>Sustainable 3.2</b> Increased number of people who have taken part in major consultations Baseline: As part of the Community Plan consultation 203 people responded to the survey and an estimated further 150 took part in the consultation</p>	Sevenoaks District Locality Board Officer Delivery Group	<p>Community Safety Strategy and action plan</p> 
<p><b>Sustainable 3.3</b> Increased number of neighbourhood bodies and community led projects/plans (including Neighbourhood and Parish Plan) Baseline to be established 2013/14 through annual audit of all partners and LDF Annual Monitoring Review (AMR): The Otford Parish Plan was published for public consultation in June 2012 and will be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document. Sevenoaks District Council also consulted on three proposed Neighbourhood Plan Areas in June 2012 covering the Parishes of</p>	Sevenoaks District Locality Board Officer Delivery Group and all sub-groups	<p>Local Development Framework</p> 

<p>Ash-cum-Ridley, Edenbridge and Shoreham</p> <p><b>Sustainable 3.4</b> Joined up approach by agencies when considering location and use of community buildings, e.g. libraries.          Baseline: A Libraries Sub-Group of the Locality Board has been set up and receives regular reports about potential use of library buildings.</p>	<p>Sevenoaks District Locality Board Officer Delivery Group and all sub-groups/ Locality Board Library Sub-group</p>	
---	--	--

DRAFT

## Glossary

ASBO	Anti-Social Behaviour Orders are statutory measures that aim to protect the public from behaviour that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress. An order contains conditions prohibiting the offender from specific anti-social acts or entering defined areas. For more information please visit <a href="http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk">www.sevenoaks.gov.uk</a>	HS1	High Speed 1. High Speed 1 is the railway between St Pancras in London and the Channel Tunnel and connects with the international high speed routes between London and Paris, and London and Brussels. <a href="http://highspeed1.co.uk/Who-we-are">http://highspeed1.co.uk/Who-we-are</a>
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Two AONBs cover the Sevenoaks District and these are the High Weald AONB (covering much of Sussex and parts of Kent and Surrey) and the Kent Downs AONB (covering a quarter of Kent from the White Cliffs of Dover to the London and Surrey borders). For more information please visit <a href="http://www.kentdowns.org.uk">www.kentdowns.org.uk</a> or <a href="http://www.highweald.org">www.highweald.org</a>	KCC	Kent County Council. For more information please visit <a href="http://www.kent.gov.uk">www.kent.gov.uk</a>
CCGs	Clinical Commissioning Groups – (Refers to the two CCGs covering the Sevenoaks District – West Kent CCG and Dartford Gravesham and Swanley CCG)	LDF	The Local Development Framework forms the “spatial expression” of the Community Plan and therefore contains land use policies that reflect the aims identified in the Community Plan. For more information please visit <a href="http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk">www.sevenoaks.gov.uk</a>
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allows local authorities to secure funding for infrastructure (e.g. roads) to support development by requiring developers to pay a standard charge per sq m of qualifying new development.	LCTB	Sevenoaks District Local Children’s Trust Board <a href="http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kct/lctb_sevenoaks.cfm">http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kct/lctb_sevenoaks.cfm</a>
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change	PACT	Partners and Communities Together is a scheme which enables local communities to work with service providers to identify, prioritise and deal with local community safety issues. For more information please visit <a href="http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk">www.sevenoaks.gov.uk</a>
GVA	Gross Value Added is the value of goods and services produced in the Districts economy and	PCC	Police and crime commissioners (PCCs) will ensure the policing needs of their communities are met as effectively as possible, bringing communities closer to the police, building confidence in the system and restoring trust.



PCCs will make and influence key decisions that will impact on how a local area looks and feels. Their job is to listen to the public and then respond to their needs, bringing more of a public voice to policing and giving the public a name and a face to complain to if they aren't satisfied.  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners/public/>

SDC Sevenoaks District Council

Sub-groups of Locality Board Officer Delivery Group

The Locality Board Officer Delivery Group is the Delivery group for the full Sevenoaks District Kent Locality Board. Sub-Groups include, Sevenoaks Health Action Team, Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership, the Sevenoaks Housing –Sub-Group and the Sevenoaks Voluntary Sector Forum.

## Sevenoaks District Kent Locality Board

### Who are we?

The Locality Board consists of 7 Kent County Council Members and 7 Sevenoaks District Council Members. The Board will be chaired by the Leader of Sevenoaks District Council.

The Board is responsible for supporting, steering and scrutinising the work of multi-agency partnerships serving the District.

The Locality Board will set local priorities for action and deliver the countywide ambitions for the locality.

The Community Plan is delivered by the district and county councils, the health service, the police, the fire service and housing associations together with voluntary groups, businesses and faith communities. Together they make up the Locality Board Delivery Group.

## What are the countywide ambitions?

The Vision for Kent 2012-2022 is Kent's Sustainable Community Strategy.

It sets out three Countywide Ambitions for Kent

- Ambition 1 - To grow the economy: For Kent to be 'open for business' with a growing and successful economy and jobs for all
- Ambition 2 - To tackle disadvantage : For Kent to be a county of opportunity, where aspiration rather than dependency is supported and quality of life is high for everyone
- Ambition 3 - To put citizens in control: For power and influence to be in the hands of local people so they are able to take responsibility for themselves, their families and their communities

Within this document, we have identified which local priorities support the ambitions set out in the countywide "Vision for Kent"



## How to get involved

If you feel that you or your organisation can make a contribution to delivering the key priorities or the priority outcomes please let us know. For more information or a copy of the Community Plan for Sevenoaks District, please contact:

Community Planning and Projects Officer  
Sevenoaks District Council  
P O Box 182, Argyle Road  
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP

Telephone: 01732 227000  
Minicom: 01732 227496

Email: [community.plan@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:community.plan@sevenoaks.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityplan](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityplan)

**This publication is available in large print. For a copy call 01732 227000**

If you need help communicating with us or understanding the document, we can arrange for an interpreter to help you. Please contact us on 01732 227000 stating your language and telephone number.