

## Economic development consultations (Sevenoaks Town Council and Partnership) – Weds 26<sup>th</sup> March

<p><b>Employment &amp; skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problems finding suitably qualified staff</li> <li>• Perception of the skills gaps in the workforce</li> <li>• Links with local colleges, universities or job centres</li> <li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right attitude to work</li> <li>• Difficulty filling apprenticeship role</li> <li>• Job Centre Plus would help young persons development alongside Sevenoaks Town Council</li> <li>• Young people struggle to enter market</li> <li>• Generational worklessness – links to Troubled Families Project</li> <li>• Small group of older worklessness – need for training</li> <li>• Retail training</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tourism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging more tourists to the district</li> <li>• Providing more places for tourists to stay</li> <li>• Providing tourism advice &amp; support for tourism businesses</li> <li>• Providing networking opportunities for tourism businesses &amp; accommodation providers</li> <li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trouble spreading the word and connecting with Visit Kent (although the summer bus service is helpful)</li> <li>• Oyster (zone 6) extended to include Bat &amp; Ball</li> <li>• Good facilities – better communication</li> <li>• Integrated transport (parking, park &amp; ride)</li> <li>• Gateways to the town</li> <li>• More places for people to stay, need for large central hotel</li> </ul>
<p><b>Support services for businesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you need business support &amp; advice? What areas of expertise are most important?</li> <li>• Are business loans sufficiently available?</li> <li>• What do you think the Council can do to help businesses in the district be more successful?</li> <li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business rates</li> <li>• Empty shops could house pop-up shops or vinyls– st John's, Sevenoaks High Street</li> <li>• Relationship with Landlord must improve</li> <li>• Networking – latch on to successful networks</li> <li>• Informal e-forum for business</li> <li>• Build up a local chamber</li> </ul>
<p><b>Energy &amp; sustainability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What can the Council do to help businesses use energy more carefully?</li> <li>• What can the Council do to help businesses to adapt to the changing climate e.g. the impact of severe weather and flooding?</li> <li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not having the time to access funding</li> <li>• Making it easy for business</li> <li>• Transport – cycling strategy (NDP)</li> <li>• Sustainability of businesses: trouble expanding, more commercial office space, serviced offices, conference facility (Bat &amp; Ball)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Places for growth &amp; improvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there areas or locations in the district that should be identified for growth or improvement?</li> <li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bat &amp; Ball: tarmac land at community centre, improve employment opportunities, conference and start-up units, Sainsbury's</li> <li>• Bottom end of St John's Hill</li> <li>• L-term place for markets</li> <li>• Gateway/Sevenoaks Station</li> <li>• Sevenoaks Station as a secondary shopping centre</li> <li>• Night-time economy at Bat &amp; Ball and St John's</li> <li>• BT exchange to be more prescriptive (big area for Sevenoaks)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbying for improved rail transport</li> <li>• Including Swanley in the outer zone of TfL fare zone 6</li> <li>• Improve Swanley train station</li> <li>• Improve Bat &amp; Ball station</li> <li>• Improve roads/junctions that get very congested – specify or identify on the map</li> <li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park &amp; Ride, Cycling Strategy to inform Integrated Transport Strategy</li> <li>• Congestion issues</li> <li>• Shared space, Bat &amp; Ball, High Street, Sevenoaks Station</li> <li>• Sevenoaks Town Partnership support plan to Bat &amp; Ball</li> <li>• Evening buses would mean less business owners take up parking spaces</li> <li>• Additional taxi rank &amp; signage in the town centre</li> </ul>
<p><b>Making the district a good place to do business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting the district as a great place to set up a business</li> <li>• Making sure there is employment space to set up and expand a business – what premises' are in short supply</li> <li>• Helping town centres to be more vibrant</li> <li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative working space could be private sector led</li> <li>• Independent future for Sevenoaks</li> <li>• Connectivity link to London and key figures who live/work there</li> <li>• Marketing - national businesses, London Bridge</li> <li>• Facilities for staff who work here – link to Sencio, Stag Arts Centre</li> <li>• Quality of life/environment</li> <li>• Reputation is significant</li> <li>• High Street – good quality, spending demographics, retail offers</li> <li>• Lower rates than London but easy access</li> <li>• L-term plans to reflect and boost demand</li> <li>• No named person for business – barrier bust</li> <li>• On website</li> </ul>
<p><b>Broadband</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What areas in our district need faster broadband</li> <li>• Helping rural areas have faster broadband</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good service compared to other areas but must be maintained</li> <li>• Need or public wi-fi in the town centre</li> <li>• Mobile coverage – interference Fort Halstead</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Helping areas who want faster broadband to find local solutions</li><li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li></ul>	
--	--