

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT STRATEGIC BOARD

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 19 SEPTEMBER 2013

Report of Chief Officer for Business and Communities

Status: For consideration

Also to be considered by: Sevenoaks Kent Locality Board – 11th September 2013

Sevenoaks District Council - 1st October 2013 (tbc)

SDC Governance Committee

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: In May 2013, it was announced that Locality Boards across Kent would not continue in their present form. This report sets out the background to Locality Boards and seeks approval to work with the County Council to set up a Sevenoaks District Strategic Board. The setting up of local arrangements to replace the Sevenoaks District Kent Locality Board has the support of the Leader of Kent County Council. Members are asked to approve the arrangements set out in this report as the basis for discussion approval by both Kent County Council and Sevenoaks District Council.

This report supports the Key Aim of the Community Plan - all themes (Safe Communities, Caring Communities, Green Environment, Healthy Environment, Dynamic Economy and Sustainable Economy)

Recommendation to SDC Governance Committee and Kent County Council:

To recommend the approval of:

- (a) The creation of a Sevenoaks District Strategic Board which builds on the working arrangements of the previous Sevenoaks District Kent Locality Board
- (b) The proposed Strategic Board delivery structure
- (c) The draft terms of reference

Reason for recommendation: the Strategic Board will continue Member level involvement in facilitating better joint working with the County Council resulting in a more seamless approach to services for residents. It will replace the Locality Board and oversee the delivery of the Sevenoaks District Community Plan which contributes to the three ambitions set out in Kent County Council's 'Vision for Kent'.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The creation of the Sevenoaks District Kent Locality Board was approved on 12th January 2012. It set out to deliver the three ambitions for Kent set out in the Kent Forum's 'Vision for Kent'.
 - Ambition 1 – to grow the economy – for Kent to be open for business with a growing, 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.
- 2 Locality Boards set out a plan for how the locality would help meet local priorities within the three ambitions in the 'Vision for Kent', Kent County Council's Community Strategy and the Sevenoaks District Community Plan.
- 3 Locality Boards acted as advisory boards but with the ability to promote the localism agenda through the commissioning and co-ordination of services that have previously been delivered by the County Council using budgets devolved from the County Council.
- 4 The terms of reference for the Locality Board made it clear that Members were responsible to their own organisation for their contribution to the Board, and that no decision of the Board would be able to overridden the decisions of either Council.

Sevenoaks District Strategic Board

- 5 In May 2013 the Leader of Kent County Council announced that existing arrangements for Locality Boards across the County would not continue.
- 6 Following discussions between the Leader of Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council, the Leader of Kent County Council agreed to the continuation of County Members' support within Sevenoaks District for a Member level board. The purpose of the Board would be to steer and oversee the priorities for the next three years (2013-2016) set out in the newly agreed Sevenoaks District Community Plan as well, as well as consider issues of mutual interest between the two Councils.
- 7 Approval will therefore be sought from Members to create a Sevenoaks District Strategic Board based on the previous working arrangements of Locality Board and subject to the draft terms of reference attached as appendix 1.
- 8 The following table shows how the Strategic Board arrangements will work at the District level:

Requirements for a Strategic Board (based on previous requirements for a Locality Board)	Arrangements for the Sevenoaks District Strategic Board
The Strategic Board should comprise all Members of the County Council who represent a District locality and an equal number of District Councillors.	There will continue to be 7 County Councillors in the District and 7 District Council Members
The Chairman of the Strategic Board	This will to be the Leader of the District Council.
The involvement at Strategic Board meetings of a senior KCC Officer as an adviser	The District Council Chief Executive and other Officers necessary to give advice on current business will continue to attend. KCC will provide a senior officer to attend Strategic Board meetings.
The setting of local terms of reference which acknowledge the wider Kent agenda in relation to the Kent Council Leaders	<p>Draft terms of reference are attached as appendix 1.</p> <p>The Local Strategic Partnership will act as the delivery group for the Strategic Board, ensuring the delivery of the Vision for Kent ambitions through the Community Plan and other vehicles.</p>
The development of a Strategic Board work programme which is aimed at delivering the 'Vision for Kent' three Ambitions.	<p>The work plan will be informed by the priorities in the new three year Community Plan, agreed in April 2013.</p> <p>The new Community Plan previously agreed by Cabinet and full Council in March and April 2013, clearly identifies links between the priorities in the Community Plan and the three ambitions in the 'Vision for Kent'.</p> <p>The Strategic Board would retain its focus on the 6 key work streams previously agreed by the previous Locality Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Commissioning arrangements • Schools • Health • The Community Plan • Troubled Families • The future of library provision in the District

	These will be subject to review by the Strategic Board
Member working groups of the Strategic Board	The Strategic Board will agree the creation of Member working groups based on the priorities of the Board and the work programme. These will report directly to the Strategic Board.
Strategic Board minutes to be publicly available	Strategic Board minutes will be made available on the Council's website. The Local Strategic Partnership minutes will also be made available on the website.
Annual report of achievements and outcomes	This work will be done for the Local Strategic Partnership, with SDC Officers compiling the annual report on the Community Plan.

Sevenoaks District Strategic Board Delivery structure

- 9 The Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) will be the Officer level delivery group for the Strategic Board. Attached as appendix 2 is a draft organisational structure chart showing sub-groups and their relationship to the LSP and the Strategic Board.
- 10 The proposed delivery structure includes the following sub-groups:
- Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership
 - Housing LSP sub-group
 - Voluntary and Community Sector Forum
 - Sevenoaks Health Action Team
 - Sevenoaks District Children's Local Operational Group, replacing the Sevenoaks Local Children's Trust Board, subject to current reorganisation.
- 11 On Monday 12th August 2013, information from Kent County Council was received by the Chief Officer for Communities and Business regarding a proposal to take forward Local Children's Arrangements through existing Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB), with district level Local Operational Groups.
- 12 This proposal has not been formally agreed. If it is agreed by the County Council, the Local Operational Group is likely to be one of the groups able to assist delivery of the Community Plan and therefore appears on the organisational structure chart at appendix 2.

Key Implications

Financial

At present the Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership is responsible for the allocation of funds arising from the Kent Agreement. This fund provides grants of up to £5,000, to help projects which support and deliver the Community Plan priorities. It has assisted such projects as the Hero Project, the 8-12s Project, Graduate Volunteering project, Business Advice and guidance and Peer mediation and restorative practice. This is one-off funding and will not be replaced but could continue in the short term as a local delivery fund, overseen by the Local Strategic Partnership to continue to deliver the Community Plan priorities for action. Currently, £66,094 revenue stream funding remains.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

There is no intention to set up the Strategic Board as an organisation in its own right. The Board Members would be responsible to their own organisations for actions taken by the Strategic Board.

RISK	MITIGATION
Funding may not be available to support the delivery of the Board's work programme.	Partnership arrangements in the District provide for delivery of the Community Plan through partner organisations core budgets and add value by enabling partners to work together. Consideration of any new activities that the Strategic Board wished to undertake would have to include finding appropriate funding.
Other stakeholders may wish to join the Local Board	It is proposed that only democratically elected Members sit on the Board, restricting membership to District and local County Members. Stakeholders on the Local Strategic Partnership continue to be committed to working in partnership as part of a delivery group for the Local Board and could be invited to attend Local Board meetings for items that are relevant to them.

Equality Impacts

Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:		
Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence

Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:		
Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to disadvantage or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The Community Plan recently approved by Cabinet and full Council included an Equality Impact Assessment that was considered by Members. All of the work undertaken by the Strategic Board would be delivered through existing mechanisms.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to promote equality of opportunity?	Yes	Any new policy decisions would have to be approved by the Cabinet in the usual way and equality issues would be considered accordingly. The Community Plan makes a commitment to equalities and this commitment would continue to be part of the partnership arrangements
c. What steps can be taken to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		As above

Community Impact and Outcomes

The purpose of the Strategic Board is to help to deliver local community priorities and to foster more seamless delivery of local services. The impact on the community should therefore be positive.

Resource (non-financial)

Officer time from to service the Board is currently committed to the Local Strategic Partnership and sub-groups. The Sevenoaks District Strategic Board will be a public meeting and as such, it will be the responsibility of the Democratic Services team to administer with support from the Business and Communities team.

Conclusions

Members' approval is sought to create a Sevenoaks District Strategic with the intention of achieving a more seamless approach to services in the District, and to oversee the delivery of the Sevenoaks District Community Plan. It will focus on youth commissioning, schools, health, troubled families, libraries and the Community Plan. Draft terms of reference and an organisational chart are appended. It should be noted that the future of the Sevenoaks District Local Children's Trust Board within the delivery structure for the Strategic Board is yet to be determined.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft terms of reference

Appendix 2 - Strategic Board organisational structure

Background Papers:

Sevenoaks District Community Plan

Kent County Council's Vision for Kent

Lesley Bowles

Chief Officer for Business and Communities