

## ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORT

#### SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8<sup>th</sup> February 2018

#### Economic Development:

- A sector led Visitor Economy Study has been prepared by Roni Lovegrove with involvement from a wide range of stakeholders and the Study was presented to the Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The Council will continue to work with the sector to enable them to build on the collaboration between different parties and organisations that has developed since the original stakeholder workshop in March 2017.
- The Council commissioned an Economic Study of Edenbridge on behalf of the Edenbridge Town Council and Town Partnership and the study was presented to the Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017. The Study has been discussed at the Edenbridge Economic Forum and the Eden Valley Tourism Forum.
- Opportunities for Business Incubator Space in Swanley and Low Cost Workspace in other towns are being investigated for inclusion in future development opportunities or using existing property assets.
- A new Economic Development Strategy for the Council will be published in 2018 and the consultation draft will be considered by the Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> March. The Strategy will then be published for consultation prior to its formal adoption.

#### Community Safety:

- Continue to work on the Convent site in Swanley with partner agencies
- Have set up a gangs multi-agency working group, this will be working with young individuals through projects and diversional activities
- Working on the 2018-19 strategy and action plan which will start on 1 April 2018
- Internet Safety Day - Digital Challenge going to 25 schools across the District
- CSU goes from strength to strength dealing with ASB and community safety concerns
- Community MARAC has been embedded well and has a more holistic approach to not just tackle asb but mental health, standard and medium domestic abuse cases and substance misuse
- We have been doing community events to address local concerns, we have done this in Hextable, Swanley and West Kingsdown and will be doing one in New Ash Green and Westerham
- Continuing to deliver on safeguarding and training for SDC staff

## Emergency Planning:

- The Country ' Moved to Critical' twice in 2017, firstly in response to the May Manchester bombing attack and then again following the explosion on the London Underground at Parson's Green in September. A Kent Strategic Co-Ordination Group, which the Council is part of, was held several times a day throughout both events.
- The discovery and subsequent detonation of 120 World War Phosphorous caused numerous issues which took officers and Sevenoaks Town Council several weeks to resolve. The incident resulted in contamination problems of a public open space, high costs and highlighted the need for better communication between partners.
- The Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) and partners have delivered a number of topical training exercises and events. Key officers attended Exercise Vulcan which tested local and KCC recovery and strategic plans in the event of a Grenfell tower type incident and also Exercise Brabham at Brands Hatch Racing Circuit, which tested the JESIP (Joint Emergency Services Interoperability programme) principles of multiagency working. This scenario covered a Road Traffic Collision involving a HGV carrying chemicals which resulted in a toxic cloud drifting over a full capacity circuit. The KRF annual seminar focussed on Security & Terrorism Preparedness and Consequence Management. The Westerham Emergency Plan was also tested with a flooding scenario.
- Officers are working with the KRF to deliver bespoke emergency planning and revision training for Sevenoaks staff. The training which will be delivered from April 2018, will include member and other specialist training and culminate with a full exercise around a Grenfell Tower scenario.
- A security audit of the building has been undertaken and a number of recommendations have been made to improve security both with regards to ensuring a general safe and secure operating environment as well as any National security threats.