

TOURISM, LEISURE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO STATEMENT 2016-17 Councillor Jane March

1. Portfolio Holder Responsibilities

My role leads on non-regeneration led economic development, tourism, overseeing local facilities such as the Crematorium, Assembly Hall Theatre, the Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery, Parks and our Sports Centres. I am responsible for the Farmers' Market and for our frontline services such as those provided by the Tunbridge Wells Gateway and Weald Information Centre in Cranbrook and the Tourist Information Centre.

2. Functions and Services

As Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure and Economic Development I am responsible for all services relating to these areas covering a 2016/17 revenue budget of £5,575,570

- Economic Development non-regeneration
- Tourism
- Farmers Market
- Assembly Hall Theatre
- Museum and Art Gallery
- Public Art
- Leisure
- Parks, Sports Centres
- Events
- Grants
- Cemeteries & Crematorium
- Customer Access & Gateway

Finally, I am also the Lead Cabinet Member on a range of partnerships, namely:

- West Kent Partnership
- Royal Tunbridge Wells Together
- Cultural Learning Hub Project Board
- Heritage Lottery Funding Project Board for Grosvenor and Hilbert Recreation Ground
- South East Local Enterprise Partnership
- Public Art Board
- LEADER Programme

3. Our Achievements in 2015-16

- Launch of Royal Tunbridge Wells Together and appointment of Town Centre Manager.
- Further development and optimisation of the 'visittunbridgewells' website (including Blog).
- Successful Jobs & Training Fair held in AHT.
- Delivery of Christmas campaign with retailers in Royal Tunbridge Wells.
- Escalate Loans Scheme/successful West Kent Business Support Programme.
- Delivery of new pedestrian/visitor signs in Royal Tunbridge Wells.
- Securing an outcome to our Stage 1 Heritage Lottery Funding application to develop a town centre Cultural and Learning Hub.
- Completion of essential works to the Assembly Hall Theatre and consideration of options for its long-term future.
- Development of a long-term vision for the management of Calverley Grounds incl. Green Flag Plan, events and play area
- Completion of the current Heritage Lottery Fund works in Grosvenor and Hilbert Park and continued, further enhancement works.
- Continued support of Broadband Delivery UK in the provision of rural broadband across the borough.
- Annual Fairtrade Event held in Town Hall.
- Improved business communications via social media and e-newsletter.
- Completion of the £1.7 million investment programme at the Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre
- Skills Fest with West Kent Partnership and Salomans
- Green Flag Awards

4. Key Plans and Strategies

- Economic Development Strategy
- West Kent Partnership – Economic Priorities
- Destination Management Plan
- Cultural Strategy
- Museum Audience Development Plan
- Customer Care Programme
- Sports & Active Recreation Strategy 2016-2021

5. Our priorities for 2016-17

- Delivery of Year 1 Action Plan by Royal Tunbridge Wells Together.
- Opening of Creative Workspace in Monson Road – The House.
- Jobs & Training Fair, and Skillsfest with West Kent Partners and Jobcentreplus
- Preparation of Stage 2 Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council submissions for the Cultural and Learning Hub.
- Consideration of viability options for the Assembly Hall theatre's future including the possibility of a new theatre.
- Implementation of the sports (facilities/playing fields) strategy, setting out a route-map for upgrading and extending existing facilities around the Borough.
- Working with the Friends Group to explore further enhancements to Calverley Grounds. Seeking to establish other funding streams, including HLF programmes.
- Development of a Tunbridge Wells Lottery.
- Capital works programme for the Bereavement Service.
- Green Flag awards for Dunorlan Park and Victoria Cross Grove

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