

Public Document Pack



Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells

Tuesday, 18 April 2017

To the Members of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

I request your attendance at a meeting of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to be held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS, on Wednesday, 26 April 2017, at 6.30 pm, when the following business is proposed to be transacted.

1 Apologies for absence

2 Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest by members in items on the agenda. For any advice on declarations of interest, please contact the Monitoring Officer before the meeting.

3 Announcements

To receive announcements from the Mayor, the Leader of the Council, members of the Cabinet and the Chief Executive.

4 The minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 1 - 18)

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 22 February 2017, to be approved as a correct record.

Annexe

5 Questions from members of the public

To receive questions from members of the public, of which due notice has been given, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 8, to be submitted and answered.

6 Questions from members of the Council

To receive questions from members of the Council, of which due notice has been given, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10, to be submitted and answered.

7 Community Safety Partnership Plan (Pages 23 - 84)

8 Appointment of Deputy Mayor 2017/2018 (Pages 85 - 88)

- 9 **To Record the Council's Appreciation for the Mayor**
To record the Borough Council's appreciation of the valuable services rendered by the Mayor and the assistance given to him by the Mayoress during his period of office.
- 10 **Urgent Business**
To deal with any business the Mayor regards as urgent due to special circumstances.
- 11 **Common Seal of the Council**
To authorise the Common Seal of the Council to be affixed to any contract, minute, notice or other document arising out of the minutes, or pursuant to any delegation, authority or power conferred by the Council.
- 12 **Date of next meeting**
The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting, to be held on Wednesday 24 May at 10am.

William Benson
Chief Executive

Please note that this meeting may be recorded or filmed by the Council for administrative reasons. Any other third party may also record or film meetings, unless exempt or confidential information is being considered, but they are requested as a courtesy to others to give notice of this to the Committee Administrator. The Council is not liable for any third party recordings

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, duly convened and held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS, at 6.30 pm on Wednesday, 22 February 2017

PRESENT:

The Mayor Councillor David Neve (Chairman)

Councillors Backhouse, Barrington-King, Dr Basu, Bland, Bulman, Chapelard, Mrs Cobbold, Dawlings, Elliott, Dr Hall, Hamilton, Hannam, Hastie, Heasman, Hill, Hills, Holden, Horwood, Huggett, Jukes, Lewis-Grey, Mackonochie, March, McDermott, Moore, Munn, Noakes, Nuttall, Oakford, Ms Palmer, Podbury, Rankin, Reilly, Scholes, Simmons, Sloan, Mrs Soyke (Vice-Chairman), Stanyer, Stewart, Mrs Thomas, Uddin, Weatherly, Williams and Woodward

IN ATTENDANCE: William Benson (Chief Executive) and Mathew Jefferys (Democratic Services and Elections Manager)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

FC57/16 Apologies were received from Councillors Gray, Lidstone and Jamil.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

FC58/16 No declarations of pecuniary or significant other interest were made.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FC59/16 The Mayor noted that a written summary of his past and future engagements had been made available to members.

He invited Caitlin from the Benenden Players to talk about their pantomime Pinocchio with a twist that had been attended by the Mayor and Mayoress on 3 February 2017.

The Mayor also reminded members that tickets were still available from the Mayor's Office for his End of Term Dinner/Dance at the High Rocks on 28 April 2017.

Councillor Jukes had no announcements.

The Chief Executive had no announcements.

THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

FC60/16 The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2016 were submitted. Councillor Heasman noted that on page 7 the penultimate paragraph "he had not joined the Council for the allowances and chose not to take them" that this was incorrect; he added that he did take his allowances but does not give them away to charity.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting dated 7 December 2016 be approved as a correct record.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

FC61/16 The Mayor advised that no questions from members of the public had been received under Council Procedure Rule 8.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

FC62/16 The Mayor advised that there were seven questions pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10 which would be taken in the order in which they were received.

1. Question from Councillor Williams

"Can you please confirm that there were over 21,000 attendees at the Assembly Hall's Pantomime, which was a record number?"

Answer from Councillor March

Councillor March commended Councillor Williams for the first half of his question, and that he was correct, over 21,000 tickets had been sold for the Panto. He was incorrect to say this was a record number as there had been higher attendances in the past.

2. Question from Councillor Williams

"Would the portfolio-holder, in noting the major role played by CCTV in apprehending suspects in recent local newspaper front page incidents, like to comment on the value as she sees it of the service?"

Answer from Councillor Weatherly

Councillor Weatherly responded that she did not know the specific headline to which Councillor Williams was referring but obviously she was happy when any Council service can help Kent Police to ensure the safety of our residents. She added that Tunbridge Wells continued to be the safest place in Kent and that the CCTV service plays a role in this.

3. Question from Councillor Hill

"With the closure of another "sheltered" housing scheme in Southborough which was provided by the Housing Association, we are concerned that we are being told, there is no need for this type of housing, and yet we are seeing "sheltered" housing for private sale being developed in Southborough and across the Borough.

Can the portfolio-holder explain how this is fair to all our residents?"

Answer from Councillor Weatherly

Councillor Weatherly responded that the decision to close Pennington Manor was taken by Town & Country Housing Group and not Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. Pennington Manor was no longer fit for purpose and demand for flats there had dropped. She was sure that Councillor Hill also was aware that Southborough has other sheltered schemes in the form of St Andrew's Court, Harmer Court and the Gallard's Almshouses.

She added that historically the Borough has had an over supply of sheltered accommodation. The closure of a scheme that was not fit for purpose will

help address this imbalance.

Councillor Weatherly commented that she was not sure she fully understood the first half of Councillor Hill's question and that if older local residents, many of whom can be asset rich but cash poor, wish to downsize and move in to attractive new sheltered schemes, the council could not stop them? In her mind this helped with housing supply. It also allowed these residents to maintain their financial independence, avoided unnecessary interference from the state and helped free up funds for other people that need more support.

Supplementary question from Councillor Hill

"What are we as a Borough doing to keep our elderly residents who require social housing in the areas they know?"

Response from Councillor Weatherly

Councillor Weatherly referred Councillor Hill to her previous answer.

4. Question from Councillor Chapelard

"Is the portfolio-holder aware of the economic impact of the closure of Grosvenor bridge on local businesses?"

Answer from Councillor March

Councillor March responded that she had not been made aware of any specific concerns being raised by businesses or residents with the Economic Development team, nor had any issues been raised via social media, or any major concerns raised in the Press.

KCC had stated that 'the traffic is flowing freely either end of the site road closure and the diversion route is functioning adequately'. KCC was responding directly to any complaints that they got.

If there were issues then they would be happy to discuss these with the businesses.

Supplementary question from Councillor Chapelard

Councillor Chapelard said that there had been issues with local traders who felt they were losing significant amounts of revenue due to the loss of passing trade and he welcomed Councillor March's offer to work with them to make sure they were not financially penalised by the closure for the next eight months of the nine month schedule".

The Mayor commented that this was more a statement than a question however Councillor March wished to answer.

Response from Councillor March

Councillor March responded that what she stated was that she would like to hear from these businesses. She did not say that she would financially compensate them and in fact there was no statutory provision for compensation by the highway authority if a business were affected by roadworks. The general rule is that individuals should seek professional legal

advice to advise on their rights. What she would do is if they let the Borough Council know about it then the authority could pass them on to Kent services but if the Borough Council did not know about it and businesses did not tell the Council there was nothing that could be done.

5. Question from Councillor Chapelard

“Can the portfolio-holder provide i) the income generated and ii) the total number of fines issued for (a) littering and (b) dog fouling in the last 12 months?”

Answer from Councillor Basu

Councillor Basu responded that enforcement officers were looking out for people that did not clean up after their dog has fouled as well as those individuals who drop litter and that they patrol particular hot spot areas.

In the period 1 February 2016 to 31 January 2017 the Council had served 1,630 FPNs for littering and three for dog fouling.

In the same period the income received by the Council was £110,300 for litter and £150 for dog fouling offences.

Councillor Basu commented that he would encourage councillors and residents to let the Council know of hot spot areas for dog fouling and littering. Where possible, details of particular times of day and of owners that did not clean up after their dogs or a description of the dog itself would help so that patrols can be targeted.

Supplementary question from Councillor Chapelard

Councillor Chapelard asked if littering officers would be deployed to patrol areas where there may be an opportunity to make an example of someone as dog fouling is a bigger public threat compared to littering.

Response from Councillor Basu

Councillor Basu responded that he had already answered the question.

6. Question from Councillor Chapelard

“How many refugees has Tunbridge Wells Borough Council welcomed and accommodated to date?”

Answer from Councillor Weatherly

Councillor Weatherly responded that the Housing Manger and the housing team have worked hard with residents, local landlords and businesses and that she was pleased to confirm that so far six Syrian refugees had been housed.

Supplementary question from Councillor Chapelard

Councillor Chapelard asked whether the Council would be lobbying the Government through Kent County Council to reverse the shameful decision that the UK Government took last week including Tunbridge Wells MP Greg

Clark to only accept 350 unaccompanied children to this country.

Response from Councillor Weatherly

Councillor Weatherly responded that it was outside the council's remit to do that.

7.Question from Councillor Chapelard

“At the last Full Council meeting I submitted the following question: Could the Portfolio-Holder provide a breakdown of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council staff reductions for each of the years since 2010 and how these were achieved?

Your attempt at an answer referred to quarterly updates rather than provide a year-by-year breakdown of staff reductions and the reasons behind them. Why did you not provide an answer to my supplementary question about voluntary and compulsory redundancies?”

Response from Councillor Jukes

Councillor Jukes responded to say that he was sorry Councillor Chapelard did not get an answer immediately after the meeting but he understands that the Director of Finance had now provided one.

Supplementary question from Councillor Chapelard

Councillor Chapelard said that the answer was 80 redundancies. He expressed disappointment that there was no mechanism to follow up questions from the opposition and asked what guarantees the Leader could give that these matters would be followed up within reasonable timeframes.

Response from Councillor Jukes

Councillor Jukes responded that if Councillor Chapelard gave him a copy of his original question and supplementary he would get an answer to him within seven days.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES 2017/18

FC63/16 The Mayor opened the item noting that the report had been considered by the relevant Cabinet Advisory Bboard and the Cabinet, and had been circulated for public consultation.

Councillor Jukes introduced the report and moved the recommendations. Councillor McDermott seconded the recommendations.

Councillor Holden said he was not happy to support the Corporate Priorities report and referred in particular to the description of the Civic Amenity Vehicle service, which stated that the collections had been altered. Councillor Holden considered that the frequency of collections had in fact been cut, and in some cases from weekly to monthly. He was also concerned at the lack of analysis around the reduced amount of waste collected for landfill and how it was being accounted for. He said he did not think the report's assessment – that there was no reported increase in fly-tipping was accurate, adding that the clerk to Hawkhurst Parish Council had advised him two days previously, that

more fly-tipping than ever was being reported. Councillor Holden went on to disagree with the statement in the report which described how the Council worked with town and parish councils jointly to improve the weekend waste collection service. Councillor Holden felt the local councils had been coerced into the agreement through the prospect of facing withdrawal of the service. Additionally, Councillor Holden did not feel the Council's commitment within year four, of the Five Year Plan – to continue to enable and assist town and parish councils and community groups, to develop their own plans was genuine. He felt this commitment would, in fact, continue to impose costs more locally and shift the burden onto local council precepts.

Councillor Moore referred to proposals made several years previously, to move the Council's offices to a more suitable location, and said she considered the current proposals to be even more compelling. Councillor Moore supported the new set of priorities within year four of the Five Year Plan, including the promotion of Tunbridge Wells borough as a key destination for visitors including the provision of a new theatre, offices and car parking. Councillor Moore considered it essential that the Council attracted new growth and investment and noted that work towards producing a new Local Plan would help deliver the growth needed. Councillor Moore reiterated her support for the Council's corporate priorities within year four and that the Council should remain consistent in its approach to the overall Five Year Plan.

Councillor Woodward referred to the Civic Amenity Vehicle service and reminded members that he was a member of the working group that looked at the options available. Councillor Woodward said that the parish councils who received the service had been involved in the work and any decisions made were referred to parish council chairmen. Councillor Woodward was unclear as to why there was confusion over the framework for the revised service and advised members that the issue had been given due consideration by the working group and parish chairmen.

Councillor Basu said that the revised Civic Amenity Vehicle service had been monitored closely by the Council and that residents were satisfied with the service being provided.

Councillor Hamilton said she had also been a member of the working group and one of its key objectives had been a reduction in landfill, which she felt was being achieved and was a positive outcome. Councillor Hamilton endorsed the comments made by Councillor Woodward.

Councillor Barrington-King reminded members that the North Farm depot had had two serious, recent closures, which could have contributed to fly-tipping. Councillor Barrington-King felt this particular issue could be resolved by Kent County Council taking the lead in ensuring that a recycling facility be placed in the eastern area of the borough.

Councillor McDermott seconded the motion and added that he had attended the Parish Chairmen's Forum when the Civic Amenity Vehicle service had originally been discussed and he confirmed that the parish chairmen had, along with the working group, brought forward proposals for a revised service. Councillor McDermott expressed concern at the circular discussion that was being perpetuated around the service and he referred to a statement Councillor Holden had made approximately four months previously, in which he had agreed to look into the issue of an additional recycling site.

Councillor Jukes said the Council had recently assisted Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Council with an application for a community centre, with the Council funding the overall package. Councillor Jukes added that both he and Councillor McDermott had attended a number of parish council meetings and he urged Councillor Holden to take the opportunity to attend those meetings, as well as the Parish Chairmen's meeting in March.

RESOLVED – That the list of corporate priorities, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be agreed.

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017/18

FC64/16 Councillor Jukes moved that the Asset Management Plan for 2017/18 be approved and adopted. He added that the annual housekeeping report was a positive one, with the following key aspects: (i) the authority's asset base was now valued at over £100m; and (ii) rental income now exceeded maintenance costs by over £500k per annum. Councillor Jukes added that the authority was looking at other properties that would provide an on-going revenue stream, as well as continuing the programme of disposing of non-performing assets.

Councillor McDermott seconded the motion to approve the document.

Councillor Munn said that he was pleased to see that new rentals within the Council's portfolio had realised a total income of £26.7m, as set out on page 41.

Members of the Council supported the recommendations unanimously.

RESOLVED –

1. That the results of the public consultation in respect of the Asset Management Plan 2017/18 be noted; and
2. That the Asset Management Plan 2017/18, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be adopted.

BUDGET 2017/18

FC65/16 The Mayor proposed – and the Deputy Mayor seconded – that Council Procedure Rules 13.4.2 and 13.4.3 be suspended, in order to remove the time restriction imposed on individual speakers on this item. This was approved by all present.

Councillor Barrington-King, Portfolio-holder for Finance and Governance, explained the background behind the proposed budget for 2017/18, which was being presented to the Full Council for approval. He said that the priority was to deliver the right financial answer for the Council, at a time when local government was facing unparalleled challenging circumstances. He began by paying due credit to the work of Mr Colyer, the authority's Director of Finance and Corporate Services, and to his team and for the support given to the Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board by Mr McGeary, Democratic Services Officer.

Councillor Barrington-King also wished to record his thanks to the Digital

Transformation team, for the successful work they had accomplished in encouraging people to move away from paper transactions to digital services; he added that the resultant cost savings were significant. Councillor Barrington-King stressed that there would still be support for people who were unable to access services digitally.

The full text of Councillor Barrington-King's speech is available on request from Mathew Jefferys, the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager.

Councillor Jukes seconded the budget and reserved his right to speak.

Councillor Munn, on behalf of the Labour group, said that they were unable to support the proposed budget. He stressed that this position was in no way a reflection upon the Director of Finance and Corporate Services and his support staff.

Councillor Chapelard, on behalf of the Liberal Democrat group, began by thanking the Director of Finance and Corporate Services and his team. He added that the Liberal Democrat group applied a different definition of what a 'balanced budget' meant, adding that financial independence could not be claimed all the time the authority was still in receipt of some central government revenue support grant.

Councillor Chapelard felt that by far the greatest sacrifice made in recent years towards efficiency savings had been at the expense of staff, with 80 having left the authority since 2010, either through compulsory or voluntary redundancy. During the same time, he added, councillors' allowances had been reduced by just 2%. Councillor Chapelard believed that councillors should show some leadership and take a 10% cut in their allowances, leading to a £36k saving.

Councillor Holden said that many of the budget pressures stemmed from the last Labour government's poor management of the economy. He said that he was supportive of the Borough Council's low council tax rate and added his congratulations to the Portfolio-holder for Finance and Governance on his presentation of the budget for 2017/18.

Councillor Moore wished to address one of the assertions made by Councillor Chapelard. She said that a more effective way of reducing costs associated with councillors was to reduce their total number and move to elections every four years. She added that the budget breakdown shown on page 116 showed how complex local authority finances were, adding that a change in government policy – as witnessed by the reduction in new homes bonus – can have a significantly adverse impact on financial planning. On a positive note, Councillor Moore said that the authority's policy of being an enabling Council was helping it to achieve economic success, which was of general benefit to the Borough.

Councillor Williams asked that the policy under which single parent families were having to pay an increase in their council tax could be reviewed.

Councillor Hastie congratulated the Portfolio-holder for Finance and Governance for his presentation of the proposed budget and the finance team for their supporting hard work. He endorsed the arguments put forward by Councillor Moore on the new homes bonus. Councillor Hastie also emphasised how the actual 2% reduction in councillors' allowances since

2010 was closer to a 10% cut, when inflation was taken into account; he added that it was unlikely that anyone would accuse members of prospering from their allowance payments.

Councillor Bulman endorsed the approach set out of maintaining a balanced budget. On the issue of redundancies, he said that it was important to keep a focus on the business needs of the Council as the over-riding factor. In supporting the proposed budget, Councillor Bulman raised two important caveats: first, he expressed the wish that the increase in car park charges could be introduced on a gradual basis; secondly, he said he would like to see each Council service adopt a 'base budget' review, in the interests of achieving value for money for the authority's residents.

As the seconder of the proposal, Councillor Jukes congratulated the Portfolio-holder for Finance and Governance on his presentation of the budget, adding that the supporting officer team was very highly rated in the county. He added that the authority was in discussion with the MP for Tunbridge Wells, pressing the case for local authorities to set their own level of planning and licensing fees which, in the former case, would reduce this authority's costs by £1.2m. Councillor Jukes said that a re-evaluation of business rates would also have a significant impact on the Council; he cited the Crescent Road car park, where the authority's business rate liability would be increased by 167%.

As the mover of the proposals, Councillor Barrington-King welcomed the support expressed, adding that he had noted the comments made. He said that the proposed budget was based upon the very best information available and he urged the Council to proceed to 'do well and doubt not'. In accordance with the relevant legislation regarding Full Council decisions on the budget, a recorded vote was taken on the recommendations.

Members voting in favour of the recommendations: Councillors Backhouse, Barrington-King, Basu, Bland, Bulman, Mrs Cobbold, Dawlings, Elliott, Dr Hall, Hamilton, Hannam, Hastie, Heasman, Hills, Holden, Horwood, Huggett, Jukes, Lewis-Grey, Mackonochie, March, McDermott, Moore, Noakes, Nuttall, Oakford, Ms Palmer, Podbury, Rankin, Reilly, Scholes, Simmons, Sloan, Mrs Soyke, Stanyer, Stewart, Mrs Thomas, Weatherly, Williams, Woodward and Uddin.

Members voting against the recommendations: Councillors Chapelard, Hill and Munn.

Member abstaining from voting: The Mayor (Councillor Neve).

RESOLVED – That Council approve the Council Tax for 2017/18 as set out in the resolution in Appendix A.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2017/18 - 2021/22

FC66/16 Councillor Barrington-King proposed that the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy, covering the period 2017/18 to 2021/22, be approved and adopted, following a period of formal public consultation.

Councillor Jukes seconded the proposal and reserved his right to speak.

Councillor Moore referred to the outcome of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review in 2015, set out on page 163 of the

agenda, which showed the extent of the cuts made to the budget for the Department for Communities and Local Government – a reduction of 53% for the coming four years. Against that backdrop, she added, a huge amount of credit was due to the work of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services and his staff for their financial management.

Councillor Jukes, as the seconder of the proposal, pointed members of the Council to page 185 of the agenda, where the key achievements of the current Medium Term Financial Strategy were set out.

Councillor Barrington-King, as the mover of the proposal, praised the officer team for the thoroughness and robustness of the revised Strategy and urged the Council to adopt the document.

RESOLVED –

1. That the responses to the Medium Term Financial Strategy consultation, set out in Appendix B to the report, be approved; and
2. That the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 - 2021/22 set out as Appendix A to the report, be adopted.

COUNCIL TAX 2017/18

FC67/16 Councillor Barrington-King, Portfolio-holder for Finance and Governance, presented a report, setting out the council tax requirement for 2017/18. He moved acceptance of the resolution set out in Appendix A of the report.

Councillor Jukes seconded the proposal and reserved his right to speak.

There being no discussion on this item, Councillor Barrington-King, as the mover of the proposal, expressed his gratitude to members of the Council for their support.

In accordance with the relevant legislation regarding Full Council decisions on the setting of the council tax, a recorded vote was taken on the recommendations.

Members voting in favour of the recommendations: Councillors Backhouse, Barrington-King, Basu, Bland, Bulman, Mrs Cobbold, Dawlings, Elliott, Dr Hall, Hamilton, Hannam, Hastie, Heasman, Hill, Hills, Holden, Horwood, Huggett, Jukes, Lewis-Grey, Mackonochie, March, McDermott, Moore, Munn, Noakes, Nuttall, Oakford, Ms Palmer, Podbury, Rankin, Reilly, Scholes, Simmons, Sloan, Mrs Soyke, Stanyer, Stewart, Mrs Thomas, Weatherly, Williams, Woodward and Uddin.

Members voting against the recommendations: Councillor Chapelard.

Members abstaining from voting: The Mayor (Councillor Neve).

RESOLVED – The detailed resolution is set out in the attached annexe.

ANNEXE

COUNCIL TAX EMPTY PROPERTY DISCOUNTS

FC68/16 The Mayor reminded members that, if they had an 'other significant interest' within the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Members, the Monitoring Officer had indicated that they should withdraw from the meeting, for the consideration of this item.

Councillor Barrington-King introduced a report which set out proposed changes to the Council's policy on the application of council tax empty property discounts. He moved that the amended policy, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be adopted. He emphasised that the purpose of the amended policy was to provide greater incentive for empty properties to be returned to use.

Councillor Holden felt that there had been a sustained attack on landlords and even though he did not have properties in this Borough he did have properties in Dover, Folkestone and Hastings; he believed that this sustained attack risked making the private rented sector smaller. Councillor Holden continued that a month free when changing over tenants was important and that the Council should bear in mind that landlords are not businesses, they provide private rented housing at a time when local authorities needed to increase housing.

Councillor Munn felt that landlords were indeed businesses, adding that they were not subject to having to pay business rates.

As the seconder of the proposal, Councillor Horwood reiterated his support for the amended policy, adding that he welcomed all efforts to bring empty properties back into use.

In summing up the debate, Councillor Barrington-King voiced his gratitude to members for their comments and emphasised his backing for the policy and the reasons for its implementation.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.7, a recorded vote was taken on the motion to approve the following recommendation..

Members voting for the motion: Councillors Backhouse, Barrington-King, Bland, Chapelard, Mrs Cobbold, Elliott, Dr Hall, Hamilton, Hannam, Hastie, Hill, Hills, Horwood, Huggett, Lewis-Grey, Mackonochie, McDermott, Moore, Munn, Noakes, Nuttall, Oakford, Ms Palmer, Podbury, Rankin, Reilly, Scholes, Simmons, Sloan, Mrs Soyke, Stanyer, Stewart, Mrs Thomas, Weatherly, Williams and Woodward.

Members voting against the recommendation: Councillor Holden.

Members abstaining from voting: The Mayor (Councillor Neve).

RESOLVED – That the Council Tax Empty Property Discount Policy, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be adopted.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY 2017/18

FC69/16 Councillor Barrington-King, Portfolio-holder for Finance and Governance, presented the authority's Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2017/18 for approval. This, he explained, set out the authority's policies for managing investments and borrowing. He drew particular attention to the legal

requirements which the authority was required to meet in preparing the document and that it had been to the Cabinet Advisory Board on 17 January and no additional recommendations had been made.

Councillor Jukes seconded the proposal to approve the document.

In summing up, Councillor Barrington-King acknowledged the common sense shown in supporting this report.

RESOLVED – That the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2017/18 be approved.

THE CIVIC COMPLEX PROJECT

FC70/16 The Mayor announced that there was a registered speaker, Mr Tansley, who was due to speak on this item however, as he was not here to address Full Council and having taken advice from the Monitoring Officer about the provision in the Constitution about public speaking it was decided that his statement would not be read out.

Councillor Jukes introduced the report, explaining that he had asked for the item to be put on the agenda and that by going forward to RIBA stage 3 not only did it set the design and concept of the project it would answer a great number of the questions that members would have. He continued that he had been promoting this for nearly three years and the benefits it could bring to Tunbridge Wells particularly if the Government continued with their pledge with a larger share of business rates and in the event of the project going ahead that it will attract new businesses to the Borough and increase business rate revenue quite considerably.

Councillor Jukes used the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury as an example. He said it had been estimated that it would increase the value of the businesses around the Marlowe by £20 million per annum where in fact this figure was considered to be £34 million last year and projected to increase to £36 million next year.

Over the past two years Councillor Jukes said that he had been promoting this project with various organisations, particularly the parish councils who were all in favour, the Town Forum, who had been very supportive, and the Civic Society. He added that the Times of Tunbridge Wells and the Courier had all carried excellent articles on the scheme.

Councillor Jukes said that the authority was at the point where it wished to 'freeze' any further major design changes. He added there was a considerable amount of value engineering on this project where money could be saved and different methods employed towards the achievement of the project.

Councillor Jukes emphasised that the authority was at the stage where it could move forward to stage 3. He said that he wanted all members of the Council – and members of the public – to understand the project details at this point, adding that he would bring forward any subsequent changes to the Full Council at the earliest stage.

Councillor Barrington-King seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak.

Councillor Holden felt that the scheme was not going to benefit the rural part of the Borough, adding that survey data showed that attendance was 60 per cent from the town and 40 per cent from rural areas.

Councillor Holden proposed that this item be deferred to another meeting on the basis that there was considerable concern and anxiety over the authority's ability to find £2.4 million savings to finance the project. He added that more certainty was required over this important aspect.

Councillor Holden said that he wanted to see a decoupling of the two projects. He explained that there were two projects, namely the Town Hall, which is a Borough-wide concern, and the theatre which was a Tunbridge Wells concern. He felt that people in Cranbrook, Frittenden and Sissinghurst did not want to pay for a replacement theatre in Tunbridge Wells, where one already exists, any more than they want to pay for one in Hastings, Ashford or Maidstone.

The proposal to defer was seconded by Councillor Simmonds who also reserved his right to speak.

The Mayor asked if any member wished to speak on the motion to defer this item.

Councillor Woodward said he felt that one of the reasons for considering this deferral was that Councillor Williams had suggested that there had been some change in the project and this was erroneous information. He felt that there was no case for deferring.

Councillor Stanyer supported the deferral on the basis that proceeding at this point was premature without the detail over how the loan debt would be funded.

Councillor Moore commented that members needed the information that would come from the stage 3 process and that there was no point in deferring further.

Councillor Heasman thought it inappropriate even considering deferral; he believed that members could not make any final decisions until they had all the facts that stage 3 provided would provide.

Cllr Backhouse stressed that the authority needed to proceed with this, adding that it was not in the Council's overall interests to delay any further. Councillor Oakford strongly agreed with this statement.

As the seconder of this motion, Councillor Simmons raised a point of order. He sought clarification on what the Council was being asked to vote on by means of this amendment.

Councillor Holden said he what he was actually concerned about was the £2.4 million savings the Council needed to find every year across the period of the loan repayment and that there needed to be more certainty that this was achievable. He added that by seeking deferral of the issue at this point would allow sufficient time to provide the required detail.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.4, Councillor Chapelard asked that a recorded vote be taken.

Members voting for the amendment: Councillors Bulman, Dr Hall, Hannam, Hastie, Holden, Simmons, Stanyer, Stewart and Williams.

Members voting against the amendment: Councillors Backhouse, Barrington-King, Basu, Bland, Mrs Cobbold, Dawlings, Elliott, Hamilton, Heasman, Hill, Hills, Horwood, Huggett, Jukes, Lewis-Grey, Mackonchie, March, McDermott, Moore, Munn, Noakes, Nuttall, Oakford, Palmer, Podbury, Rankin, Scholes, Sloan, Mrs Soyke, Stewart, Mrs Thomas, Uddin, Weatherly and Woodward.

Members abstaining: Councillors Chapelard and the Mayor, Councillor Neve.

AMENDMENT LOST

The meeting returned to the substantive motion.

Councillor Sloan endorsed the proposal and said that the Town Hall was clearly not fit for purpose nor was the Theatre. He continued that the questions surrounding the costs of the project and service of the debt had been answered. He felt it was the right time for the borough to proceed with the project and move to RIBA stage 3.

Councillor Stewart said she had voted against this last time. She added that the Council was already in a period of austerity and was going to struggle to provide the services our residents expected; she said that cuts to services would be required to fund this project and that she had no appetite for these cuts. Whilst the authority struggle to provide CCTV and consider charging for green waste she did not think it should continue with stage 3.

Councillor Moore said that the Borough could not have more housing without improving the vibrancy of the town centre. She added that this project was a declaration of confidence in the future of the main urban area and borough as a whole. Councillor Moore said that there was evidence that rural areas do use the theatre. She felt it important to remember that 'we are one borough'. Members needed to consider the community of the borough as a whole. Whilst it would never be possible to de-risk this project a commitment needed to be made to the vision. Councillor Moore considered that it was members' civic responsibility to invest in the future of the town and its cultural offering.

Councillor Hannam commented that £2.4 million in savings should be spent equitably across the Borough not earmarked for a new theatre in Royal Tunbridge Wells which his ward residents had no interest in seeing built.

Councillor Bulman asked members to consider the Marlowe Theatre. He said it had taken approximately 10 years to get to the stage where there was no subsidy, adding that this meant no direct subsidy as there was a £300,000 service charge and a £435,000 depreciation cost. Councillor Bulman continued that the Marlowe Theatre was unique as it served an area which included Thanet which did not have the competition of London close by. He asked whether members really believed that people will visit a theatre here rather than going to the West End?

Councillor Bulman suggested that the Town Hall was fit enough for purpose and there was a danger in replicating the ABC Cinema site. He challenged the assertion that a new Town Hall was viable. Councillor Bulman concluded by stating his opposition to the proposal and added that he would like to put the question to the Borough's residents to seek their views.

Councillor Bland said that this Council was in the business of making evidence based decisions. Until the authority reached the end of stage 3 he did not believe that members had sufficient evidence to proceed. Councillor Bland believed that the full details of how much the scheme will cost, whether there is an assured tenant, what was the future of the Town Hall, what was the level of borrowing required etc. and, at that stage, members would be able to take a decision.

Councillor Oakford suggested that members needed to take a Borough-wide view on this issue and to think of the long term benefits. He added that he would love to come to a high quality show in Tunbridge Wells and noted that some people were reluctant to change. Councillor Oakford stressed that, the more the authority delayed the more the costs would increase. He said that successful councils made tough decisions during difficult times. He felt that Tunbridge Wells was the most progressive council in Kent, adding that, only by the authority proceeding to stage 3 would councillors have the detailed data to make an informed decision. He emphasised that he fully supported the proposal.

Councillor Backhouse commented that he saw this as a fiscal investment, adding that it was crucial to support advancing to stage 3.

Councillor Mrs Thomas spoke about the cost for an average family going to see a show in London, adding that, within that context, she would like to see a really good theatre in Tunbridge Wells.

Councillor Rankin added that the scheme was not only about residents but businesses too, in other words, the Council had to take decisions which were of benefit to the whole community. She declared that she was a 'one Borough' Councillor, adding for a proposal such as this, it was a divisive route to think along the narrow lines of whether her ward residents would benefit from this. She reminded members that this was an issue where a more mature view had to be taken, adding that she supported the proposal to move to stage 3.

Councillor Holden echoed Councillor Hannam's comments about a new theatre. He did not believe it was in his residents' interests or what they wanted. He supported the suggestion of a referendum, thereby determining residents' views on the proposal.

Councillor Hall said she was perturbed about the scheme costs and felt members were not being told the full details and that there remained many unanswered questions. She felt the burden of the resultant debt was unacceptable, as it would lead to cuts in services like CCTV and charges for garden waste collections.

Councillor March addressed Councillor Hannam's comments and advised that, in the last five years, five per cent of Assembly Hall sales came from the Cranbrook, Sissinghurst and Frittenden area, equating to nearly 13,000 ticket sales. She asked whether he was ignoring these residents or had he chosen not to represent their views. Councillor March explained that a 1,000 seat theatre was mainly able to offer only one night shows compared with a 1,200 seat theatre which could put on week-long productions, that would be 45 per cent musicals; she added that these were much more likely to run at a profit. Councillor March said that, at the moment, the Borough Council's subsidy for

the Assembly Hall was £250k per annum. She added that, with a new theatre, the initial subsidy was expected to be in the region of £350k per annum but that a subsidy-free position was realistic within eight years, if the authority operated the theatre to its maximum benefit. Councillor March stressed that the limited capacity of the current theatre, in terms of the number of seats, inadequate facilities and poor backstage provision, was leading to lost opportunity in terms of attracting better shows and increased revenue.

Councillor Chapelard hoped the Council understood that there were genuine concerns over progressing with this project. He had real reservations about the site and its impact on traffic and the idea of building more car parks. He wanted to know what the subsequent tax rise would be and what would be the cuts to services.

Councillor Chapelard felt that members were being pressurised into this decision without all the information and he feared the loss of public services just to have a new theatre. He added that the Liberal Democrats would not accept a new theatre unless there were kerbside glass recycling as there was no point in having a new theatre if the Council was not serious about its environmental responsibilities. He hoped Councillor Jukes would be willing to bring forward this information at a much earlier stage and provide councillors with options. Councillor Chapelard stressed that there were real cross party concerns. He added that, while the scheme might be the right concept, the Liberal Democrat group would be abstaining until such time as the supporting evidence was presented.

Councillor Hill commented that the authority should proceed to stage 3 and commended Councillor Jukes for keeping councillors informed.

Councillor Huggett felt arguments over this scheme could go on forever and still members were never going to 100 per cent agree. She urged that the Council move to stage 3 in order to establish all of the facts and be able to make a fully-informed decision.

Councillor Ms Palmer acknowledged that there were concerns but said that, until the authority decided to progress to stage 3, members would not have the full picture. She continued that the Council owed it to the residents of Tunbridge Wells, including those from rural areas, to obtain the full details and then in this Council Chamber to make an informed decision. Councillor Ms Palmer said that she supported progression to stage 3.

As the seconder of the motion, Councillor Barrington-King thanked members for the comprehensive debate. He reminded members that at this stage and having spent some considerable sums there would be some reputational damage for the Council if it did not proceed and move to stage 3. He commended the Labour group for their common sense approach.

Councillor Barrington-King said that he was astonished at the amount of hyperbole that had been expressed and the amount of irrational, emotive comments coming forward without any substance; he had but concluded that they were erroneous and based on supposition. He reminded members that if they had attended all the meetings and read all the papers they would be in receipt of all the information already. He continued that he would listen to anyone in this Council Chamber as long as they had done their homework. He advised that members needed to now make a decision.

Councillor Jukes, in summing up, said at least he had achieved a proper

debate on the current position but said that, unfortunately, it appeared that many members were still unaware of the full facts. Councillor Jukes added that he hoped that there was now a far better understanding.

Councillor Jukes addressed a number of key points: first, that the Marlowe was the only theatre in East Kent. He said that there was a sizeable theatre in Margate. He responded to another statement made, namely that the Town Hall be left empty. He advised members that he had been talking to interested parties for over a year but had been unable to advise members as there needed to be some commercial confidentiality, although he would do so when an agreement had been reached. Councillor Jukes explained that one serious constraint upon finding a suitable occupant was that the Town Hall was unlikely to become vacant for another five years.

Councillor Jukes added that he could have proceeded without this debate but that he was glad it had taken place and that all members now knew the up-to-date position. He moved the motion to proceed to stage 3.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.4, Councillor McDermott asked that a recorded vote be taken.

Members voting in favour of the recommendations: Councillors Backhouse, Barrington-King, Basu, Bland, Mrs Cobbold, Dawlings, Elliott, Hamilton, Heasman, Hill, Hills, Horwood, Huggett, Jukes, Lewis-Grey, Mackonchie, March, McDermott, Moore, Munn, Noakes, Nuttall, Oakford, Palmer, Podbury, Rankin, Reilly, Scholes, Sloan, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Thomas, Uddin, Weatherly and Woodward.

Members voting against the recommendations: Councillors Bulman, Holden, Dr Hall, Hannam, Hastie, Simmons, Stanyer, Stewart and Williams.

Members abstaining from voting: Councillors Chapelard and the Mayor, Councillor Neve.

RESOLVED –

1. That all consultancy fees identified in the report are spent at risk and that they will be abortive costs if the buildings are not developed;
2. That the Council moves into RIBA Stage 3 (developed design) for the project to progress:
 - i. the Office;
 - ii. the Theatre;
 - iii. an Underground Car Park;
 - iv. a Development Framework; and
 - v. the Procurement of a development partner.

REVISED STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR GAMBLING ACT 2005 POLICY

FC71/16 Councillor Backhouse introduced the report and commented that the gaming policies were an important part of local and national controls that are in place to regulate gambling.

Councillor Backhouse moved the two recommendations.

Councillor Hills seconded the motion and commented that he hoped that there would be no amendments as it had been carefully considered by the Licensing Committee and that any member that had any problems with the report should have fed them to the Committee at the drafting stage. He continued that if there were to be any changes there would need to be another 12 week consultation before coming back to Full Council.

RESOLVED –

1. That the outcome of the 12 week consultation responses on the proposed Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Statement of Licensing Principles/Gambling Policy - drafted in accordance with the Gambling Commission's 5th edition Guidance - be noted; and
2. That the amended policy be agreed and adopted.

URGENT BUSINESS

FC72/16 The Mayor confirmed there was no urgent business to consider within the provisions of Council Meetings Procedure 2.1.12.

COMMON SEAL OF THE COUNCIL

FC73/16 **RESOLVED –** That the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to any contract, minute, notice or other document arising out of the minutes or pursuant to any delegation, authority or power conferred by the Council.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

FC74/16 It was noted that the next meeting of the Full Council would take place on Wednesday 26 April 2017 at 6.30pm.

NOTE: The meeting concluded at 9.45 pm.

The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

1. It be noted that on **1 December 2016** the Council calculated
 - (a) the Council Tax Base **2017/18** for the whole Council area as **44,448.64** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")] and,
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix.
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for **2017/18** (excluding parish precepts) is **£7,493,600**.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year **2017/18** in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) **£68,326,480** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by parish councils.
 - (b) **£58,526,400** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) **£9,800,080** being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).
 - (d) **£220.48** being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including parish precepts).
 - (e) **£4,499,300** being the aggregate amount of all special items and parish precepts referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix).
 - (f) **£119.26** being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no parish precept relates.

(g) Parts of the Council's area

Special Expenses Areas:

	£
Capel	174.11
Rusthall	227.65
Royal Tunbridge Wells	228.87
Southborough	235.38

Parish and Town Areas:

	£
Benenden	163.07
Bidborough	230.79
Brenchley	172.06
Cranbrook & Sissinghurst	246.33
Frittenden	153.09
Goudhurst	231.54
Hawkhurst	181.99
Horsmonden	204.95
Lamberhurst	175.15
Paddock Wood	268.48
Pembury	202.33
Sandhurst	211.25
Speldhurst	179.30

Being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (f) above the amounts of the Special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate. (i.e. The total of the Band D Council Tax for the Borough General, Special Expenses and Parish and Town Councils. NB. **Excludes** Kent County Council, Police and Fire Authorities).

Total Borough + Special + Parish	BAND A 6/9 £	BAND B 7/9 £	BAND C 8/9 £	BAND D 9/9 £	BAND E 11/9 £	BAND F 13/9 £	BAND G 15/9 £	BAND H 18/9 £
Benenden	108.72	126.83	144.95	163.07	199.31	235.54	271.79	326.14
Bidborough	153.86	179.51	205.15	230.79	282.07	333.36	384.65	461.58
Brenchley	114.71	133.83	152.94	172.06	210.29	248.53	286.77	344.12
Capel	116.07	135.43	154.77	174.11	212.79	251.49	290.18	348.22
Cranbrook & Sissinghurst	164.22	191.59	218.96	246.33	301.07	355.81	410.55	492.66
Frittenden	102.06	119.07	136.08	153.09	187.11	221.13	255.15	306.18
Goudhurst	154.36	180.09	205.81	231.54	282.99	334.44	385.90	463.08
Hawkhurst	121.33	141.55	161.77	181.99	222.43	262.87	303.32	363.98
Horsmonden	136.64	159.41	182.18	204.95	250.49	296.03	341.59	409.90
Lamberhurst	116.77	136.23	155.69	175.15	214.07	252.99	291.92	350.30
Paddock Wood	178.99	208.82	238.65	268.48	328.14	387.80	447.47	536.96
Pembury	134.89	157.37	179.85	202.33	247.29	292.25	337.22	404.66
Royal Tunbridge Wells	152.58	178.01	203.44	228.87	279.73	330.59	381.45	457.74

Agenda Annex

Rusthall	151.77	177.06	202.36	227.65	278.24	328.82	379.42	455.30
Sandhurst	140.84	164.31	187.78	211.25	258.19	305.13	352.09	422.50
Southborough	156.92	183.08	209.23	235.38	287.68	339.99	392.30	470.76
Speldhurst	119.54	139.46	159.38	179.30	219.14	258.98	298.84	358.60

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (f) and (g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (h) That it be noted that for the year **2017/18** the major precepting authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings below –

2017/18	BAND A £	BAND B £	BAND C £	BAND D £	BAND E £	BAND F £	BAND G £	BAND H £
KCC excl. social care	756.24	882.28	1008.32	1134.36	1386.44	1638.52	1890.60	2268.72
KCC social care levy	29.64	34.58	39.52	44.46	54.34	64.22	74.10	88.92
KCC Total	785.88	916.86	1047.84	1178.82	1440.78	1702.74	1964.70	2357.64
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner	104.77	122.23	139.69	157.15	192.07	226.99	261.92	314.30
Kent Fire & Rescue Service	48.90	57.05	65.20	73.35	89.65	105.95	122.25	146.70

That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (g) and (h) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year **2017/18** for each of the categories of dwellings shown below –

2017/18	BAND A 6/9 £	BAND B 7/9 £	BAND C 8/9 £	BAND D 9/9 £	BAND E 11/9 £	BAND F 13/9 £	BAND G 15/9 £	BAND H 18/9 £
Benenden	1048.27	1222.97	1397.68	1572.39	1921.81	2271.22	2620.66	3144.78
Bidborough	1093.41	1275.65	1457.88	1640.11	2004.57	2369.04	2733.52	3280.22
Brenchley	1054.26	1229.97	1405.67	1581.38	1932.79	2284.21	2635.64	3162.76
Capel	1055.62	1231.57	1407.50	1583.43	1935.29	2287.17	2639.05	3166.86
Cranbrook & Sissinghurst	1103.77	1287.73	1471.69	1655.65	2023.57	2391.49	2759.42	3311.30
Frittenden	1041.61	1215.21	1388.81	1562.41	1909.61	2256.81	2604.02	3124.82
Goudhurst	1093.91	1276.23	1458.54	1640.86	2005.49	2370.12	2734.77	3281.72
Hawkhurst	1060.88	1237.69	1414.50	1591.31	1944.93	2298.55	2652.19	3182.62
Horsmonden	1076.19	1255.55	1434.91	1614.27	1972.99	2331.71	2690.46	3228.54
Lamberhurst	1056.32	1232.37	1408.42	1584.47	1936.57	2288.67	2640.79	3168.94
Paddock Wood	1118.54	1304.96	1491.38	1677.80	2050.64	2423.48	2796.34	3355.60
Pembury	1074.44	1253.51	1432.58	1611.65	1969.79	2327.93	2686.09	3223.30
Royal Tunbridge Wells	1092.13	1274.15	1456.17	1638.19	2002.23	2366.27	2730.32	3276.38
Rusthall	1091.32	1273.20	1455.09	1636.97	2000.74	2364.50	2728.29	3273.94
Sandhurst	1080.39	1260.45	1440.51	1620.57	1980.69	2340.81	2700.96	3241.14
Southborough	1096.47	1279.22	1461.96	1644.70	2010.18	2375.67	2741.17	3289.40
Speldhurst	1059.09	1235.60	1412.11	1588.62	1941.64	2294.66	2647.71	3177.24

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Full Council

26 April 2017

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

Yes

Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017/18

Final Decision-Maker	Full Council
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Lynne Weatherly – Portfolio Holder for Communities and Wellbeing
Lead Director	Paul Taylor – Director of Change and Communities
Head of Service	Adam Chalmers – Head of Communities and Engagement
Lead Officer/Author	Terry Hughes – Community Safety Manager
Classification	Non-exempt
Wards affected	All

This report makes the following recommendations to the final decision-maker:

That the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017/18 be approved.

This report relates to the following Five Year Plan Key Objectives:

This report links to the Council's community quadrant, in particular creating confident communities. It also demonstrates how the Council works well with others in delivering these confident communities.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Community Safety Partnership	9 February 2017
Management Board	1 March 2017
Communities CAB	22 March 2017
Overview & Scrutiny	10 April 2017
Cabinet	13 April 2017
Full Council	26 April 2017

Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017/18

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Community Safety Partnership Plan sets out how the Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Partnership (CSP) will address local priorities to reduce crime and disorder across the Borough. The plan is presented to Cabinet for recommendation and to Full Council for adoption.
 - 1.2 All CSPs are required by law to carry out a yearly in-depth analysis of crime, anti-social behaviour and other partnership data in order to produce an annual strategic assessment. This process identifies the priorities for the year ahead. The CSP partnership plan is then developed to set out how these priorities will be tackled.
 - 1.3 Based on the intelligence from the strategic assessment, the partnership plan actions have been developed in consultation with a range of partners. The plan has also been designed to continue to complement and support the delivery of the Kent Police and Crime Plan, published by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott.
 - 1.4 The priorities identified in the Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Partnership Plan were discussed at a CSP meeting on 9 February 2017.
 - 1.5 The Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Constitution and the Local Government (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 state that the partnership plan must be adopted by Full Council.
-

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Partners began working together to address crime and disorder in the early 1990s. In 1998, the Crime and Disorder Act was published. This imposed a statutory duty on partners, known as the 'Responsible Authorities', to work closely together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and reduce the fear of crime. The partnership was formalised and became a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). It is now referred to as the 'Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Partnership' (CSP).
- 2.2 The partners referred to by the Act as 'Responsible Authorities' are Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Kent County Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, National Probation Service, Kent Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company and the NHS West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group. The CSP also has many non-statutory partners including housing associations, voluntary and community sector organisations. The CSP meets on a quarterly basis.

- 2.3 The Community Safety Unit (CSU), based in Tunbridge Wells Town Hall, was set up in 2010 as the operational delivery unit of the CSP. It is a multi-agency office staffed by officers from TWBC, KCC, Kent Police, and other agencies working together to reduce crime and disorder.
- 2.4 This co-location of partner agencies has facilitated more effective joint working through daily briefings, improved sharing of information (within a formal protocol) and increased co-operation between agencies.
- 2.5 In the 2016/17 financial year, we were again very well positioned within Kent, coming 1st, 2nd or 3rd in 13 of the 15 regularly measured crime categories making Tunbridge Wells the safest place to live in the county.
- 2.6 The Responsible Authorities are required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area. This strategy takes the form of the partnership plan.
- 2.7 Before formulating a strategy, the Responsible Authorities must carry out a review of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in the area, and prepare and publish an analysis of the results of that review. This analytical document is called the strategic assessment and is an in-depth analysis of crime, anti-social behaviour and other partnership data over a one-year period. This analysis forms the priorities for the financial year. The strategic assessment, which was developed by the TWBC Community Safety Team with assistance from police and other partners, is available as a PDF upon request from Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Unit.
- 2.8 In 2016/17 the key priorities for the CSP have been agreed as follows:
1. Domestic abuse
 2. Road safety
 3. Alcohol and substance misuse
 4. Vulnerable victims
- 2.9 The partnership also has a duty to give due regard to the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The Tunbridge Wells Partnership Plan has been developed to continue to support the work of the PCC in delivering his Kent-wide priorities whilst we deliver on the local priorities for Tunbridge Wells.
- 2.10 The Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017/18 outlines how statutory and other agencies will address the key priorities shown above.
- 2.11 The plan will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the CSP to ensure progress. The CSP will be responsible for holding agencies to account where they have failed to fulfil their actions within the plan.
-

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 Under the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Constitution and the Local Government (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, this plan must be brought in front of Full Council for formal adoption.
 - 3.2 The partnership plan presented outlines how the agencies within the CSP will work together to keep residents of the Borough safe from crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - 3.3 Full Council has the option of approving the plan, amending the plan or requesting that a new plan be produced.
-

4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 This report is designed to inform members of the multi-agency activity which TWBC and partners have committed to undertake to reduce crime and disorder. The preferred option is for the plan to be considered and approved.
-

5. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- 5.1 CSP partners were presented with a copy of the Strategic Assessment on 9 February and invited to collaborate on the selection of this year's priorities and made further contributions that will be taken forward into action plans for vulnerable victims (Priority 4). The CSP ratified the priorities identified at their meeting on 9 February 2017.

RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET ADVISORY BOARD AND CABINET

- 5.2 The Communities Cabinet Advisory Board was consulted on this decision at its meeting on 22 March 2017 and agreed the following recommendation:

That the recommendation in the report be supported.

- 5.3 The Cabinet, at their meeting held on 13 April 2017, supported this recommendation.
-

6. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 6.1 The plan will be made available on the CSU website and a link provided on the community safety section of the Council's website.
 - 6.2 Partner commitments to the plan will be monitored quarterly at CSP meetings
 - 6.3 Monitoring information is sent to the Office of the PCC, twice a year, for those priorities or actions funded from the PCC's contribution to CSP funds.
-

7. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Legal including Human Rights Act	<p>This report presents the partnership plan as required by the Council's Constitution and the Local Government (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000.</p> <p>Legal requirements are set out in the report.</p> <p>At this stage there are no direct consequences arising from the recommendation that adversely affect individual's rights and freedoms as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998. Potentially consequences could arise in the future implementation of the Plan that would need to be evaluated at the time.</p>	Keith Trowell, Senior Lawyer (Corporate Governance) 03 March 2017
Finance and other resources	All actions within the plan will be undertaken from existing resources or funded by the CSP. Funded activity must show how it provides value for money and sustainability, for example through the use of volunteers.	Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager 24 February 2017
Staffing establishment	No direct implications.	Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager 24 February 2017
Risk management	No direct risks.	Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager 24 February 2017
Environment and sustainability	No direct implications.	Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager 24 February 2017
Community safety	<p>The activity contained within this plan is designed to build safer communities by tackling the CSP's priorities of:</p> <p>Reducing alcohol and substance misuse, addressing domestic abuse, improving road safety and improving services for victims while reducing risk for vulnerable people.</p>	Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager 24 February 2017
Health and Safety	No direct implications.	Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager 24 February 2017
Health and wellbeing	The actions contained within the plan should contribute to increased wellbeing, and the work to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and substance misuse should have a positive impact on the health of those affected.	Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager 24 February 2017

Equalities	<p>Decision-makers are reminded of the requirement under the Public Sector Equality Duty (s149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The decisions recommended through this paper could directly impact on end users.</p> <p>The priorities identified support the aim of the public sector equality duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – providing support services for women and men who experience domestic abuse – giving hate crime (racial and religious) additional attention over the next twelve months, following a noted increased in race-based hate crime over the last year. <p>The priorities identified support the aim of the public sector equality duty to advance equality of opportunity by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – continuing to reduce child road casualties as data previously showed that children are disproportionately affected compared with other age groups; – targeting projects and initiatives aimed at tackling substance misuse and alcohol abuse, towards age groups including adults and young people. <p>The strategic assessment has not identified any specific needs or disadvantage relating to the protected characteristics of disability, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity, marital or civil partnership status or gender reassignment.</p>	<p>Sarah Lavallie, West Kent Equalities Officer 8 March 2017</p>
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8. REPORT APPENDICES

The following documents are to be published with and form part of the report:

- Appendix A: Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017/18
- Appendix B: Funding Allocations 2017/18
- Appendix C: Strategic Assessment 2016/17

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None



Partnership Plan

2017 – 2018

For further information please contact:

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Introduction

Each year, the Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Partnership (CSP) produces a Partnership Plan which sets out how partners will work to address crime and anti-social behaviour over the coming year. The plan is informed by a yearly Strategic Assessment which looks at current data and trends to identify priorities for the borough to help reduce and tackle crime and disorder.

Review of 2016/17

During the reporting period (October 2015 – September 2016) crime in Tunbridge Wells increased from 5,040 to 5,285 recorded offences. This is a rise of 4.7% on the previous year – the smallest increase of all twelve districts in Kent and still the lowest overall level of crime in Kent.

The 2016/17 priorities listed below were strengthened by objectives and priorities set by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

During the year, the CSP undertook a variety of projects and initiatives linked to the priorities of:

1. Domestic abuse
2. Road safety
3. Violent crime
4. Alcohol and substance misuse

The following pages outline key statistics for the year and the work done by the community safety team and CSP/CSU (Community Safety Unit) partners.

It must be noted that inherent challenges exist in the way crime is reported and ultimately recorded. This is particularly true for complex crimes such as sexual offences, domestic abuse and hate crime. An Office of National Statistics report published in 2016 cautions the use of statistics for a variety of reasons. When recording hate crime for instance, it is possible for an offence to have more than one motivating factor, affecting the way it is categorised. Another factor cited in the report is improved compliance with the National Crime Recording Standard which may result in short-term movements in data as incidents are more appropriately recorded or re-categorised to provide a more realistic representation of an incident. This not only affects monthly data but makes short term trends less reliable.

Domestic abuse

Identified as a priority for 2016/17. The following activities were undertaken:

- DAVSS received 195 referrals in Q1 - Q3 of which 71 were graded high risk and 124 standard or medium risk.
- 74 new cases and 19 repeat cases were referred to a Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).
- During Q1 five Tunbridge Wells residents undertook 29 Freedom Programme sessions (which examines the influence of attitudes and beliefs on the actions of abusive men and the responses of victims and survivors) between them at Edenbridge and two residents undertook 13 sessions between them at Sevenoaks. In Q2 five residents participated in the DAVSS Freedom Programme in Tonbridge. A further programme was scheduled for Q4.
- Seven men were supported, or partially supported, through the CDAP (Community Domestic Abuse Programme – for male perpetrators of domestic abuse) during the first three quarters of the financial year.
- 39 victims of sexual abuse were supported by the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor.
- Two victims of domestic abuse were supported through the Sanctuary scheme which secures properties to allow victims to remain in their own home.
- One-Stop-Shop (OSS) funds were allocated to West Kent Refuge (as lead agency) but the OSS is a multi-agency endeavour that requires substantial long-term partner commitment. There is no OSS in Tunbridge Wells at present but our residents do travel to the OSS in Tonbridge. The Domestic Abuse Forum has picked this up as an area of focus and a report on the efficacy of an OSS in Tunbridge Wells will be tabled at a future CSP meeting.

Analysis: During the 12 months from October 2015 to September 2016, there were 1,403 recorded incidents of domestic abuse reported to Kent Police within the borough. This is an increase of 6% over the 12-month period against a 17% rise during the previous 12 months. There were 589 recorded repeat victims of domestic abuse during the same period. All districts in Kent experienced an increase in recorded domestic abuse offences over the period.

Figures for the period October 2015 to September 2016 show repeat domestic abuse offences account for 42% of all reported domestic abuse crimes in Tunbridge Wells.

Adjusted data made available for the period April to November 2015 enables a comparison with the same period in 2016. For these two 8-month periods the repeat rate was 37% in 2015 and 41% in 2016. The Kent district average for both periods is 38%.

Recommendation

Victims of domestic abuse, in particular, are strongly encouraged to report incidents and improvements are consistently being made to the way such calls are handled. We will aim, through the Domestic Abuse Forum, to reduce the repeat victimisation rate.

Due to a higher than average increase and a seemingly high repeat victimisation rate we recommend making domestic abuse a priority for 2017/18.

Domestic abuse case study

Kathy was initially referred to DAVSS by the police as a high risk case following a serious physical and sexual assault when she reported that her partner had thrown her against a wall and tried to strangle her. He then tried to throw her out of the window but was unsuccessful because there was a safety catch on the window. She managed to escape and fled to a friend in Maidstone. However, she would not support any police action because she feared that this would make him even more abusive. Subsequently she discovered that she was pregnant and the midwife referred her to Social Services who advised her to contact DAVSS as she had returned to her housing association flat in the West Kent area.

Following her call to the DAVSS Helpline, her allocated DAVSS Advisor contacted her immediately to agree a safety plan and an early meeting. She said that her ex-partner was not living in the flat but visited regularly and would try to force the door if she did not let him in as he had broken in on one occasion already. She feared he would do this again before the police had time to arrive. Immediate contact was made with the housing association – who recognised the urgency of the situation – and immediately arranged for a safety chain to be put on her door and a fireproof letterbox to be installed as arson had been threatened.

Kathy was open about her distrust of all officials due to some negative previous experiences when she was in a former abusive relationship. However, she agreed to meet the DAVSS Advisor when it was explained that it would be a trained volunteer and therefore not 'an official'. Even so, she said that she did not believe anyone could help her.

Kathy arrived at the meeting with her bags packed saying she could not return to her flat as it was too dangerous. This was a challenging situation and it was agreed that she would go to her mother's although this could not be for more than a few days as the flat was already overcrowded. Kathy agreed to go to a refuge place whilst she tried to get more permanent accommodation before the baby was born.

Kathy revealed that she had been a self-harmer from time-to-time because of the abuse she had experienced; she said that she had also taken drugs and had attempted suicide very recently. However she was now determined to stop all drug-taking for the sake of her unborn child and, with support, enrolled onto a drug relapse prevention programme.

The DAVSS Advisor immediately contacted two refuges both of whom had spaces but her application was turned down for two different reasons, one was too near to the area where the alleged perpetrator was living, and the other for reasons of social mix within the refuge as Kathy had disclosed that she had a mental health diagnosis.

The social worker was contacted the same day and was very helpful in re-arranging meeting dates to suit Kathy, including an early session with the mental health team. She also followed up with the refuges, and providing support to link up with other agencies in the area Kathy was fleeing to.

The DAVSS Advisor contacted the housing association about the planned move and they were very sympathetic to Kathy's dilemma, agreeing to waive the one month's notice period and to assist when she moved out.

Kathy's case was considered by the West Kent MARAC before being transferred to the MARAC process in her new area. She was also referred to the local domestic abuse service for further support as the perpetrator was still trying to contact her.

Kathy is now safe in her new accommodation and is in touch with all the agencies in her new area who can provide her with the support she needs.

Successful outcomes

- Kathy's mother agreed to Kathy coming to live with her temporarily although this meant temporary overcrowding of her flat; and then extended her welcome until a private rental could be obtained.
- There was excellent co-operation with social care service and the housing association – a real demonstration of what can be achieved in a short space of time where good partnership relationships are established.
- Kathy obtained a new safe home and was supported to do this by the local authority in the area to which she had fled.
- Kathy joined a drug relapse prevention programme and is now free from drugs.
- The social worker ensured that she was registered with a new GP and a midwife, and put her in touch with the local mental health service.
- A MARAC to MARAC referral was made and DAVSS referred her on to the local domestic abuse service in her new area.
- Kathy now feels safe and confident in her new home.

Unexpected benefits

- Kathy referred herself to a drug relapse prevention programme and is now free of drugs.
- Kathy said that she had felt so supported that she had not reverted to self-harming and was no longer suicidal. She said that she felt much safer, happier and in control of her life again.
- Kathy said that her health had also improved as she no longer had stomach pains and was no longer physically shaking from anxiety.
- Kathy recognised that 'the officials' had been very helpful and wanted them to be thanked.

A final word from Kathy:

"You were very efficient and friendly. When I heard it was a volunteer service I thought it wouldn't be very professional but I was wrong. You have done everything for me."

Name and some details altered to preserve anonymity – client gave permission to publish.

Road safety

Identified as a priority for 2016/17. The following activity was undertaken:

- Tunbridge Wells' first 20 mph area, in the ward of St John's, went 'live' in February 2017. The Community Safety team has contributed to promoting the scheme in a variety of ways including a primary school competition to design a poster. The winning entry, chosen by the mayor, features in the Spring of Local magazine and will feature in other publicity material throughout the year.
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) promoted pedestrian safety during road safety week/month in June.
- Speed Watch events were held in 17 wards, parishes and towns during the first three quarters of 2016/17. 1,751 speeding drivers received an advisory letter from Kent Police. Of these, 1,275 advisory letters were sent to drivers from Speed Watch operations in Hawkhurst alone. Operations in Five Oak Green and Tudeley generated 141 letters. It should be noted that Hawkhurst run many more operations than other areas.
- Kent Police commit to attend a Speed Watch operation at least once every month and work closely with Speed Watch schemes supporting them all year round.
- KCC Wardens: Promotion of Rochester Road Safety Experience (RSE). Team members' training at RSE venue (Biker Down/Emergency First Aid). Delivery of road safety presentations to local schools/youth groups in Hawkhurst and Cranbrook (inc. those with special educational needs). Road safety presentation to the Adult Social Care group in Cranbrook. Supported school crossing patrols to discourage discourteous and aggressive driver behaviour. Engaged with parents at school gates, promoting the 'be bright, be seen' when walking in poor visibility conditions. Distributed road-safety themed literature and resources, including hi-visibility reflective strips for young cyclists. Speaking to owners of vehicle(s) who have parked thoughtlessly or dangerously.
- As well as the 'business as usual' events, KCC Wardens assisted in managing the public during a spontaneous vehicle fire in Hawkhurst and used police accredited powers to directing traffic following a HGV/motor vehicle collision near Paddock Wood.
- KCC Wardens involved themselves in the annual Safety in Action event at Salomans Estate, organised by Salus. Over 400 children from 18 schools attended the event. The children were asked which scenario they enjoyed the most: Driver Safety was most popular.
- Engaged with Economic Development and external partners to ensure '20's Plenty' is appropriately supported by the CSU.
- KFRS Licence to Kill programme attracted 141 young people in Q1-Q3.
- KFRS provided funding to the CSU to support the schools' education programme (Road Safety Show) which ran during November's national Road Safety Week (RSW is co-ordinated by Brake the road safety charity). The 'Captain Safety' show was presented to approximately 800 primary school pupils at the Assembly Hall Theatre and Goudhurst primary school.
- In respect of the new Road Safety Centre, all Tunbridge Wells schools have been encouraged by KFRS and the CSU to make use of this valuable resource. To date four schools (82 children) have attended from Tunbridge Wells.

Analysis

Data from 2015 (the latest available) has seen a 12% reduction in all casualties (482 to 423). This is 59 fewer casualties this period, following an increase of 41 during the previous period. This compares well with a Kent-wide reduction of 7%. The total number of KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) casualties fell to 54 and there were further reductions in slightly injured casualties. There was a welcome reduction in child casualties with KSI's down from seven to three and slight injuries down from 44 to 23.

Casualty reductions in this reporting period bring us back below the KCC 2004-2008 baseline and within KCC's long-term target. The reductions in child KSI and slight injuries to three and 23 respectively, also bring us within the 2004-2008 average of three and 35, respectively.

There is further scope to support and expand Community Speed Watch - two Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) were purchased by CSU in 2016 for use by local groups.

We continue to rely on (and direct, to some degree) our KCC Wardens to provide positive messages in villages and around schools.

Through KCC Wardens, police, borough council's Community Safety team, 20's Plenty group, KFRS and Salus (Safety in Action) we continue to engage and educate the public on the subject of road safety.

Recommendation

The borough council has a role to play in contributing to the *education* strand of the three E's (education, engineering and enforcement). We are able to engage with hundreds of young people through Safety in Action weeks and other road safety education programmes. We also are able to influence work undertaken by KCC Wardens to address parking issues around schools and local shopping areas.

Road safety remains a priority for many communities and we recommend road safety continues to be a priority for 2017/18

Violent crime

Identified as a priority for 2016/17. The following activity was undertaken:

- During Q1-Q3 street pastors engaged with over 1,800 people during weekend evenings (Thurs-Sat) and into the early hours of the morning. As well as providing advice and, in some cases, comfort to late night revellers, street pastors helped people keep safe by calling for an ambulance on eight occasions and the police 16 times. They enlisted the help of CCTV Operators on 18 occasions using the two 2-way radios provided free of charge by the Safe Town Partnership.
- Eleven Safe Town Partnership exclusions for violence were put in place during Q1-Q3. All were male, from Tunbridge Wells or Tonbridge with an average age of 27. Six of the assaults that led to a ban were on members of the public. The remainder were on door staff or police.
- Pubwatch members used CCTV over 100 times to assist with monitoring incidents and the operators further monitored over 100 other violent offences.
- During quarters one to three CCTV monitored a total of 126 incidents graded as *violent*. These incidents range from assaults and domestic violence to public order and racial incidents. Violent incidents are routed to the police in real time for immediate attention. CCTV operators bring such incidents to daily briefings for further attention or for feedback from agencies to operators.
- Eight visits to licensed premises have been carried out and training sessions related to licensing responsibilities have been delivered.
- Kent Police's Community Liaison Officer (CLO) is based in the CSU and reviews all hate crimes within the borough putting into place suitable interventions, signposting and making referrals where appropriate. In the first three quarters of 2016/17 the CLO assisted with or managed 102 cases where hate was either a primary or secondary element.

Analysis

Violent crime includes violence against the person, robbery, and sexual offences. During the period October 2015 to September 2016, there were 1,696 recorded offences – an increase of 195 offences (13%) over the previous year.

Despite the rise, at 14.6 recorded violent crimes per 1,000 residents, Tunbridge Wells has the second lowest rate of violent crime in the county (after Sevenoaks).

Park, Culverden, Sherwood and Southborough & High Brooms are the four wards with the most violence against the person (VAP) offences in Tunbridge Wells between April and November 2016.

Arrests for drunkenness across the borough halved from 119 to 56 during the reporting period; within the 'town centre' wards arrests reduced from 103 to 44. Multiple arrests may stem from a single recorded incident. Pleasingly, there was also a big reduction in town centre incidents from 55 to 25.

Arrests for drunkenness fell from 119 in 2015 to 56 in 2016. 44 of these arrests sprung from 25 incidents in and around Tunbridge Wells town centre. This is an improvement on 2015 when there were 55 such incidents in around the town centre resulting in 103 arrests.

Robbery

The number of robberies halved during this period, which is encouraging. Robbery of personal property dropped from 43 to 19. Robbery of business property, such as a bank or travel agency, reduced from ten to six. Tunbridge Wells has the second lowest rate of robberies in the county.

Hate crime

In July 2016 a motion was submitted to Full Council regarding hate crime. The motion stated that we - Tunbridge Wells Borough Council – “condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally, and offered the reassurance that the Council would work to ensure local bodies and programmes have support and resources needed to fight and prevent racism.”

Police data for the four weeks prior to and following the EU referendum showed an increase in hate crime across Kent (109 reports during the period before the vote, 172 following the vote). Tunbridge Wells showed an increase in race-based hate crime from four to nine during this period. Religious-based hate crime remained steady at two offences prior to and following the 23 June vote.

During the months following the referendum police colleagues, including the CSU’s Community Liaison Officer, visited several community faith leaders and engaged with the public in Tunbridge Wells town centre to show support for those affected by hate crime and to provide reassurance that such behaviour will not be tolerated.

Sexual Offences

Sexual offences rose 32% from 125 to 165 over the period, including a 36% rise in incidents graded serious. September 2016 saw a spike in recorded sexual offences of 26 – much higher than the preceding three months (13, 16 and 15). The average for the 12 months prior to September is 11.5 offences. Ward data for April to November 2016 shows a sharp rise in incidents in Park ward with other significant rises in Hawkhurst, Cranbrook and St James’.

Despite some high profile sexual offence cases that made local news headlines in 2016 it is clear there has been a recent increase in the reporting of historic sexual offences. An analysis of sexual offence data for this assessment revealed that of the seven reported sexual offences in Frittenden this year – an unusually high number – five were historic.

Recommendation

All the night-time economy activities for this priority have been subsumed into the ‘Alcohol and substance misuse’ priority for 2017/18. Similarly, London gang-related activities in Tunbridge Wells will be monitored and reported on quarterly through the ‘Alcohol and substance misuse’ priority.

Tunbridge Wells has the second lowest violent crime rate in Kent.

Therefore we recommend violent crime is NOT set as a priority for 2017/18.

Alcohol and substance misuse

Identified as a priority for 2016/17. The following activity was undertaken:

- During Q1 and Q2 15 young people were given individual education/information interventions to help them focus on the behaviour that resulted in them being referred to a worker or intervention programme.
- During Q1-Q3 CGL, (Change, Grow, Live - a voluntary sector organisation specialising in drug and criminal justice intervention projects) offered structured treatment programmes to 308 individuals.
- Addaction engaged 81 young people in substance misuse early intervention services. Nine young people started structured treatment while 37 left treatment (35 in active treatment in total).
- Addaction recruited and trained a new Early Intervention worker. During Q2 several groups were set up for the summer; including National Citizen Service.
- Other referrals saw eight young people picked up by Kent Youth Drug Intervention Scheme (KYDIS) and a further nine engaging with specialist treatment.
- During the first half of 2016/17 Kenward Trust delivered outreach work to over 700 young people in car parks, recreation grounds and other open spaces in and around the town centre.
- 20 Tunbridge Wells Hospital staff were trained to use Drug Use Screening Tool (DUST).
- In Q1-Q3 police made 16 arrests (town centre, Rusthall, Pembury, Southborough and High Brooms) for possession or intent to supply crack or heroin. Some males had links to London gangs, such as the Dollis Valley Estate gang.
- The Sherwood Partnership offered support to families and individuals in Sherwood to reduce harm caused by substance misuse. During the first two quarters there were 21 alcohol-related hospital admissions and three admissions due to substance misuse.
- Trading Standards: Test purchases for underage sales now requires RIPA authorisation.
- The Street Cruiser (youth bus) parks between Calverley Grounds and Great Hall car park on Friday evenings from 5-7pm attracting 13-27 young people. YPBS provide two staff while KCC provide two or three youth workers to engage with young people who enjoy video games and music entertainment and soft refreshments.
- Seven rough sleepers (six men, one woman) who were guests of the Winter Shelter had issues around substance misuse (drugs and/or alcohol) and were signposted to CGL for help and support.
- Extra police officers were resourced for some key dates, including Thursday 18 August 2016 (1800-0200 hrs) to coincide with the release of A-level results and Thursday 25 August 2016 (1400-2200 hrs) to coincide with release of GCSE results.

Analysis

Between October 2015 and September 2016, there were 1.6 (previously 1.8) recorded drug offences per 1,000 population in Tunbridge Wells, equal to the Kent district average.

Hospital admissions due to the effects of alcohol and psychoactive substance continued to fall.

Alcohol-specific hospital admissions for people aged under 18 was less than five in 2015/16.

Substance: After two consecutive annual reductions in offences Tunbridge Wells is now ninth out of 12 Kent districts.

Substance: Reduction of 94 admissions - Pantiles and St Mark's, Sherwood and Pembury all have higher overall admissions.

Alcohol: Data for 2015/16 shows no ward had more than four admissions per quarter, in many cases fewer than four - a marked improvement in overall numbers, down from 93 to 66.

There was a clear reduction in trafficking offences in 2016 while possession offences fell by just three to 162 reported crimes. This is slightly above the Kent average but eleventh out of 12 Kent districts. This does represent an improvement over the longer term as the past eighteen months have seen none of the regular and significant spikes of the preceding eighteen months.

We continue to receive reports of cannabis use amongst groups of young people in open spaces.

Kenward Trust Outreach, Street Pastors, Youth Service, the Street Cruizer, police operations and private security teams continue to engage with and deter young people from taking drugs in open spaces.

Alcohol abuse and substance misuse are key themes that stand alone as issues of personal wellbeing but they're also a factor in several other thematic areas. Though we improved overall for drug offences we are eleventh for possession offences. Reports of groups of young people 'hanging around' open spaces in the town centre and some neighbourhoods often include cannabis use. Reports to the CSU of the use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) have lessened significantly.

Recommendation

Alcohol and substance misuse to include NTE and London-gang related projects and monitoring, and to remain a priority for 2017/18.

Priority setting for 2017/18

This year the CSP has agreed to focus on four key issues:

1. Domestic abuse
2. Road safety
3. Alcohol and substance misuse
4. Vulnerable victims

These priorities meet the shared goals outlined in the following documents published by the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Kent County Council:

- Safer in Kent: The Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan April 2017 to March 2021 – Kent Police & Crime Commissioner (draft as of February 2017)
- 2014-17 Kent Community Safety Agreement – Kent County Council (refreshed July 2016)

A new Kent Community Safety Agreement is currently being written with input from district community safety agreements with an expected sign-off in mid-March. At this stage it would appear that KCC's priorities will not vary greatly from the 2014-17 agreement.

The PCC has provided almost 75% of CSP funding this year. Our priorities reflect the Commissioner's strategic priorities of placing an emphasis on victims and tackling the misery caused by abuse and substance misuse.

During 2016/17 the CSU made significant changes to the structure of regular daily, weekly and monthly meetings. We now chair 'victim-led' meetings with agendas developed against the measure of *threat, harm* and *risk* to individuals and communities; with a stronger emphasis on harm over volume. These meetings offer better value for our partners and consequently, and by way of the Kent and Medway Information Sharing Agreement, we have better representation from key agencies, such as mental health and social care.

This year's strategic assessment process used a risk assessment tool called MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement). We applied MoRiLE to traditional crime types and thematic areas that include a high degree of vulnerability such as modern slavery, counter-terrorism (Prevent), child sexual exploitation (CSE), gangs and Organised Crime Groups (OCGs). These themes are increasingly being enforced through multi-agency work (police, Environmental Protection, Licensing, Immigration Service, etc).

Statutory partners, other agencies and voluntary services also have a role in addressing these themes around improved awareness, education, data sharing and safeguarding. While this will be daily business for some agencies, an audit and understanding of the work partners undertake in addressing these themes will contribute to an incomplete picture and highlight any gaps in service and awareness provision. Consequently, these themes have been integrated into Priority 4: Vulnerable victims.

The Community Safety Unit

The Community Safety Unit (CSU), located in Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) offices is the delivery arm of the CSP. The CSU works daily with a variety of partner organisations to provide a multi-agency approach to issues as they arise. Partnership working within the CSU will continue to develop throughout the year.

It is important to note that specific community safety issues may remain a priority for one or more partners of the CSP, but not be a priority for the partnership as a whole. This Plan is designed to identify and highlight those issues that should be partnership priorities for the coming year, regardless of individual partner priorities.

The PCC's funding allocation for the forthcoming financial year has been confirmed as the same amount we received during the previous year, and together with funding from TWBC and partners, will be used to address our local priorities.

Regular monitoring of all projects within the Partnership Plan will be undertaken to ensure they provide value for money.

Ongoing work to address anti-social behaviour

The wider policing landscape has changed significantly since the CSU was established in 2011. We are no longer afforded a frontline presence in every ward, be they in blue or green, and the array of support staff no longer includes dedicated roles, such as crime reduction officers and schools liaison officers.

In the strategic assessment reference is made to 'pockets of anti-social behaviour', despite the borough-wide rate remaining steady and, relative to Kent, low for a number of years. Within residential neighbourhoods this has occasionally amounted to small groups of youths, often linked to cannabis smoking, causing an array of low-level disturbances and moving on before police arrive. In some situations, the more determined members of the group will escalate their behaviour to criminal damage.

Showfields, for instance, suffered a spate of broken windows around the Christmas period. Work had already begun to identify local youths causing anti-social behaviour in the area and to address the ease with which the paved area in front of the café can be misused by young people playing football. An environmental visual audit (EVA) was undertaken by the Council's Community Safety officer and as a result TCHG Foundation has kindly offered to fund a CCTV system to cover vulnerable areas.

However, this did not prevent a local resident, with responsibility for the café, from calling for an anti-social behaviour case review via the community trigger (ASB & Crime Act 2014) following three occasions when windows were broken.

The trigger application raised an issue with police incident recording whereby the resident was not identified as a repeat victim. This gap had already been identified and a process was put in place to address it around the time we received the application. This was communicated to the resident.

Following a successful trigger application the threshold for a case review is met if one or more agencies have failed to respond in a way that seeks to address the issues reported upon. On this occasion a plan was already in place for police, Council and the Housing Association to address these

issues, as outlined above. In consultation with police colleagues, considering the actions very recently undertaken, we felt the threshold for a case review had not been met. This was communicated to the applicant with an assurance that the situation is, nevertheless, an 'open case' and regular contact will be maintained.

Elsewhere, two or three individuals continue to ride noisy motorcycles around neighbourhoods causing multiple complaints as they move from neighbourhood to neighbourhood, Sherwood and High Brooms being a particular hotspot, for example. Work is ongoing to identify and effectively, penalise the riders with the threat of impounding their machines; which occasionally are legal and roadworthy but noisy.

In the town centre, rough sleeping replaced aggressive begging as an issue of concern. One persistent individual drew particular attention from Estates, Parking and the CSU as they moved from place to place throughout the summer. We were granted a two-year Criminal Behaviour Order on the individual preventing a recurrence, but not without first enduring some impact on resources and even some local media attention.

Rough sleeping in car parks has on occasion drawn attention from individuals known to prey on vulnerable people resulting in violent exchanges and criminal damage to vehicles or Council property. The Winter Shelter, which encourages and supports users in addressing underlying issues and finding somewhere to live, is a positive approach to this complex subject.

Crescent Road and Great Hall car parks, in particular, attracted gatherings of youths during the autumn and early winter. Cannabis use was evident but new psychoactive substance paraphernalia was much less seen. CSP-funded Kenward Trust youth outreach workers spoke with many young people during the year in the car parks and town centre parks during the summer months. They report good engagement with young people, which is encouraging, but expect the trend of gathering in groups in various places throughout the town to continue; likely with the aid and ease of social media.

While we will continue to support individuals who engage with services to address underlying issues that put themselves at risk or result in anti-social behaviour some of these issues can be better addressed by stronger enforcement through provisions made available under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

For instance, we may choose to designate an area, such as a park or car park, and apply prohibitions to that area, such as no rough sleeping, no begging or no loitering. This civil power will provide a proportionate response that can be used flexibly to address anti-social behaviour without unfairly punishing those whose needs must also be met by other supporting agencies.

We expect to go open the topic to six-weeks of public consultation during the summer months.

Actions and recommendations for 2017/18

Priority 1: Domestic abuse

Action	Primary agency/agencies	Measure
Provide DA support services to men and women at all levels of risk. Encourage early reporting by promoting the helpline and available services. Provide workshops/training aimed at awareness raising and prevention.	DAVSS	Number of referrals. Number of high, medium and standard risk referrals dealt with. Number/types of training provided.
Prioritise and refer all high risk cases to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), and regularly assess volatility of risk levels in all other cases and refer to MARAC as necessary.	DAVSS, Kent Police, West Kent MARAC Co-ordinator	Number of cases referred to/supported at MARAC number of repeat cases.
Refer women to the freedom programme for domestic abuse awareness and support.	DAVSS, DA Forum	Number of programmes run.
Provide support to perpetrators of domestic abuse to change their behaviour through the Community Domestic Abuse Programme (CDAP).	Kent CDAP	Number of men supported through CDAP.
Provide support to victims of sexual abuse through the independent sexual violence advisor.	Family Matters	Number of victims supported.
Evaluate the efficacy of a One Stop Shop to support victims of domestic abuse by signposting to DAVSS, MARAC and Freedom Programme.	DA Forum	Decision made on efficacy of One Stop Shop in Tunbridge Wells. Number of clients attending.
Provide the sanctuary scheme to victims of DA, securing properties to allow them to remain in their own home.	TWBC Housing	Number of properties secured.

Other recommendations

- Work with others to ensure the West Kent service directory is kept updated.
- Raise awareness of DA with partners and continue to ensure signposting information is current.
- Place greater focus on young people and healthy relationships.
- Work to increase numbers attending CDAP and Freedom programmes.
- Promote and attend DA Forum to take forward joint initiatives and ownership of CSP targets for DA.
- Consider the domestic abuse programme ("sexual respect") for young people in secondary schools.

Overall target: To reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse incidents.

Specific target: To see a reduction in the number of repeat cases of domestic abuse.

Priority 2: Road safety

Action	Primary agency/agencies	Measure
Education in schools and community groups to include Licence to Kill campaign.	KFRS KCC Wardens KCC Road Safety Team	Projects completed and feedback provided.
Work with KCC road safety to promote messages locally.	CSU	Number of campaigns supported.
Involve Tunbridge Wells students in innovative new Road Safety Centre at Rochester. CSU to support efforts to engage schools.	KFRS, CSU	Number of sessions held. Sessions held and feedback received.
Provide support for the '20's plenty' campaign group and the installation of 20pmh zones around schools.	TWBC, CSU	Representation and input to '20's plenty' meetings.
During Road Safety Week: Provide safety message to primary school children Organise activity with partners to tackle all road users.	CSU KFRS	Number of presentations/activities.
Organise two restorative justice road checks.	KFRS, Kent Police	Road checks held and drivers engaged with.

Other recommendations

- Continue to expand Community Speed Watch by identifying a cohort of volunteers within high-profile wards or a group who would be willing to work across the borough at speeding hotspots
- Direct KCC Warden public-engagement opportunity on road safety topics, particularly around schools
- Link with national and local campaigns including Road Safety Week
- Continue to target top road casualty sites in Tunbridge Wells
- Investigate the 'Good Egg Guide' for implementation/delivery in Tunbridge Wells (child casualties)
- Investigate and promote 'Beep Beep Day' for implementation in Tunbridge Wells (child casualties)

Overall target: Increase road safety for all road users and contribute to KCC's 2020 target to reduce killed and seriously injured casualties.

Specific target: To see a reduction in child casualties of road traffic collisions.

Priority 3: Substance misuse and alcohol abuse (including in the night-time economy)

Action	Primary agency/agencies	Measure
To deploy substance misuse workers to hotspots within the borough to carry out 1:1 and group work with adults and young people.	CGL, Kenward Trust	Number of individuals engaged with.
Carry out targeted work for those identified with substance-related offending/ASB.	CGL	Individuals engaged through group and one-to-one work.
Provide drug and alcohol misuse services for 10-17 year olds including 1:1 work, group work within schools (including RiskIt), Kent Youth Drug Intervention Programme (KYDIS) and family work.	Addaction, Kent Police	Number of young people worked with through 1:1s and early help. Number of referrals to KYDIS.
Deliver Drug Use Screening Tool (DUST) training to professionals.	Addaction	Number of professionals trained.
Support the Winter Shelter, in particular those NFAs with needs around substance misuse and offending.	Churches for Tunbridge Wells, TWBC, CSU	Number of offenders and individuals with substance misuse issues using shelter and number with positive outcomes.
Enforce the Town Centre Alcohol Control Zone.	TWBC, Kent Police	Number of dispersals issued by police and monitored by CCTV.
Replace Alcohol Control Zones with Public Spaces Protection Orders with an additional prohibition related to new psychoactive substances.	TWBC, CSU	Prohibitions in place. Number of enforcements made.
Ensure frontline officers access IBA training (Identification and Brief Advice to Reduce Risky Drinking).	PHE	Number of professionals trained.
Exclude individuals convicted of violence offences from Pubwatch members' licensed premises.	Safe Town Partnership (STP), CCTV, Kent Police	Number of exclusions in force.
Use Safe Town radios to prevent and detect violent crime, by sharing intelligence between licensees/retailers, CCTV control room and police.	STP, TWBC CCTV, Kent Police	Pubwatch instigated incidents monitored by CCTV.
Use CCTV to assist with detecting violent crime.	TWBC, Kent Police	Violent offences monitored.
Provide a positive presence in the night time economy.	Street Pastors	Number of people engaged. Number of ambulances called. Number of police call outs and statements given.
Tackle criminal gangs that target Tunbridge Wells borough.	Kent Police	Number of arrests and prosecutions of gang members. Reduction in ASB linked to gang drug dealing.
Provide licensing training to staff around responsibilities when serving alcohol, including: making sure they adhere to the licensing act, under-age sales, legal highs and drug use.	Kent Police, STP	Number of training sessions offered by Kent Police.

Other recommendations

- Work with others to collate and publish West Kent Substance Misuse directory of services
- Promote Alcohol Awareness week
- Use of social media to get information to all residents across the borough with a focus on young people
- Detached work in areas highlighted by CSU for Kenward Trust substance misuse outreach team
- Police, Wardens and PCSOs to continue to gather intelligence on underage and proxy sales
- Encourage frontline professionals to promote the Know Your Score online evaluation tool for alcohol consumption for over-18

Specific target: To engage youths caught with small amounts of illegal substances to engage with support services.

Priority 4: Vulnerable victims (CSE, modern slavery, 'Prevent' and gangs)

Action	Proposed primary agency* / Other agencies	Outcome/measure
Scope agency knowledge and awareness of issues, reporting routes and safeguarding lead.	Community Safety Team* (CST), statutory partners, key agencies	An understanding of agency needs/gaps and relevant contacts established with key agencies.
Identify education and awareness training already in place.	CST*, statutory partners and key agencies	Awareness of current used resources and levels of staff take-up across partner agencies.
Identify the availability of online and classroom-based awareness and education training programmes.	CST*, police, KSCB	Awareness of available resources for agency staff and the public, including young people.
Identify multi-agency staff appropriate for awareness training.	CST*, local agencies	Staff roles and numbers collated for rolling training programmes.
Focus awareness campaigns around Counter Terrorism Awareness Week (Nov), National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day (March) and Anti-Slavery Day (Oct).	CST*, police, key agencies	Many agencies focus positive messages and promote broader awareness of these issues during these times.
Acquire promotional materials to support campaigns, action days/weeks and other agency engagement opportunities.	CST*, police, KCC	The CSU already has a variety of posters and leaflets that cover some of these themes. Others will be sought.
Drive to raise awareness in schools, pupil referral units and other training providers (e.g. Horizon Project).	CST, EH, KCC, key agencies	Embedding awareness training at schools and other educational establishments will ensure positive messages reach those who may be at greater risk or vulnerability.
Collate national and regional action plans.	CST*	To feed into local action plans.
Ensure agencies link in with Vulnerability Board to raise awareness of victims and suspected perpetrators, addresses (and CSE hotspots).	CST*, police	Ensure victims' needs are addressed and perpetrator/location information is shared in a multi-agency environment to help reduce further risk.
Form a direct link with LA Safeguarding Board and CSP.	CST*	For oversight of LA safeguarding aspects of local action plans.
Meet with representatives of key agencies to formulate the above into rolling Action Plans, based around the government's model of: PURSUE, PROTECT, PREVENT and PREPARE. Subjects to be covered under these categories will be drawn from national action plans and supplemented by outcomes from Task and Finish groups.	CST*, statutory and key agencies	Task and Finish groups to establish actions plans for the key themes of Prevent, CSE, Modern slavery and London gang-based activity in Tunbridge Wells.
Regular attendance at county or regional meetings.	CST*, police*, key agencies	To feed into the national picture, pick up best practice from around Kent and to seek support for local action plans and ongoing work.
Consider a West Kent approach to these thematic areas.	West Kent Community Safety Managers	To improve work streams and make better use of finite resources.

Specific target: To ensure the local authority and partner agencies comply with statutory requirements and offer support to vulnerable individuals in helping to address and reduce the risks associated with these themes

PRIORITY 1: DOMESTIC ABUSE				
Action	Primary agency/agencies	PCC	TWBC	Notes
Provide DA support services to men and women at all levels of risk. Encourage early reporting by promoting the helpline and available services. Provide workshops/training aimed at awareness raising and prevention	DAVSS	£10,000	£6,000	For DAVSS.
Prioritise and refer all high risk cases to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), and regularly assess volatility of risk levels in all other cases and refer to MARAC as necessary	DAVSS, Kent Police, West Kent MARAC Co-ordinator, Social Care Services	£2,000		For DAVSS
Refer women to the freedom programme for domestic abuse awareness and support	DAVSS	£1,000	£1,000	For DAVSS
Provide support to perpetrators of domestic abuse to change their behaviour through the Community Domestic Abuse Programme (CDAP)	Kent CDAP	£2,000		For CDAP
Provide support to victims of sexual abuse through the independent sexual violence advisor	Family Matters	£2,000		For Family Matters
Provide support to victims of domestic abuse through the One Stop Shop signposting to DAVSS, MARAC and Freedom Programme	West Kent Refuge		£500	For One Stop Shop marketing, venue, ad hoc needs.
Provide the sanctuary scheme to victims of DA, securing properties to allow them to remain in their own home	TWBC Housing			Funded by TWBC Housing (£2000)
		£17,000	£7,500	

PRIORITY 2: ROAD SAFETY				
Action	Primary agency/agencies	PCC	TWBC	Notes
Education in schools and community groups to include Licence to Kill, and pedestrian and cycle safety	KFRS, KCC Wardens			Funded by KFRS and KCC
Work with KCC road safety to promote messages locally	CSU			Funded by TWBC
Involve Tunbridge Wells students in innovative new Road Safety Centre at Rochester (when completed)	KFRS			Funded by KFRS
Expand Speed Watch by identifying a cohort of volunteers within high-profile wards	Kent Police, CSU			
Provide support for the '20 is plenty' campaign group and the installation of 20pmh zones around schools	TWBC, CSU			
During Road Safety Week: Provide safety message to primary school children Organise activity with partners to tackle all road users	CSU, KFRS		£1,000	Allocated for RSW activities (Dave Allen)
Organise two restorative justice road checks	KFRS, Kent Police			
		£0	£1,000	

PRIORITY 3: SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND ALCOHOL ABUSE IN THE NTE					
Action	Primary agency/agencies	PCC	TWBC	Other	Notes / Other spend
To deploy Substance Misuse workers to hotspots within the borough to carry out 1:1 and group work with adults and young people.	CGL, Kenward Trust	£4,200		£1,300	For Kenward Trust (£270 x 20) Supported by Project Funding
To deploy the Street Cruiser to areas identified with drug use and anti-social behaviour supporting Kenward Outreach where possible.	Young People's Bus Service	£2000		£1,200	For YPBS (£80 x 40) Supported by Project Funding
Run targeted high-visibility operations in locations noted for drug misuse (inc. NPS) or at times/dates associated with excessive alcohol intake.	Kent Police, SIA-registered security team.	£1,284		£1,000	For town centre SIA patrols Supported by Project Funding
Targeted work for those identified with substance-related offending.	CGL				Funded by CGL
Provide drug and alcohol misuse services for 10-17 year olds including one to one work, group work within schools (including Riskit) early intervention, Kent Youth Drug Intervention Programme (KYDIS) and family work.	KCA, Kent Police				Funded by KCC
Deliver Drug Use Screening Tool (DUST) training to professionals.	KCA				Funded by KCC
Support the Winter Shelter, in particular those NFAs with needs around substance misuse and offending.	Churches for Tunbridge Wells, TWBC, CSU	£2,000		£1,000	For Winter Shelter Supported by Project Funding
Hold 'Safety in Action' week for local schools.	Project Salus		£1,000		For Project Salus
Exclude individuals convicted of violence offences from Pubwatch members' licensed premises.	Safe Town Partnership (STP), CCTV, Kent Police				
Use Safe Town radios to prevent and detect violent crime, by sharing intelligence between licensees/retailers, CCTV Ops and police.	STP, TWBC CCTV, Kent Police				
Use CCTV to prevent and detect violent crime.	TWBC, Kent Police				
Provide a positive presence in the night time economy.	Street Pastors	£2,000	£500		For Street Pastors training
Tackle criminal gangs that target Tunbridge Wells borough.	Kent Police				
Provide licensing training to staff around responsibilities when serving alcohol, including: making sure they adhere to the licensing act , under-age sales, legal highs and drug use.	Kent Police, STP				Funded by Kent Police
		£11,484	£1,500	£4,300	
		PCC	TWBC	Other	
Total Funding Allocated:		£28,484	£10,000	£4,300	

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Strategic Assessment 2016/17

Produced by Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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CSP Sign-off date: 9th February 2017

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Introduction

The 2016/17 Strategic Assessment produced for the Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Partnership (CSP) puts in place priority themes for the 2017/18 Partnership Plan.

Legislation

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police, and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation, the responsible authorities (commonly referred to now as Community Safety Partnerships), were required to carry out three yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies.

The Responsible Authorities are: Kent Police; County & District Councils; Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), Kent Fire & Rescue Service, National Probation Service (Kent), Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company

The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced scrutiny arrangements in the form of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, as well as introducing several amendments to the 1998 Act including the addition of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and substance misuse within the remit of the CSP strategies. Reducing reoffending was subsequently added by the Policing and Crime Act 2009. The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 set out further revisions to the 1998 Act.

The aim of this strategic assessment

The data provided by partners and the analysis of this data enables the strategic partners to set clear priorities for the coming year, thereby addressing the requirement within the National Standards for CSPs that Partnership Plans be intelligence driven.

Part 1 analyses police and partner data for last year's priorities covering the period October 2015 - September 2016. For some crime types more recent data is available and this been indicated as necessary.

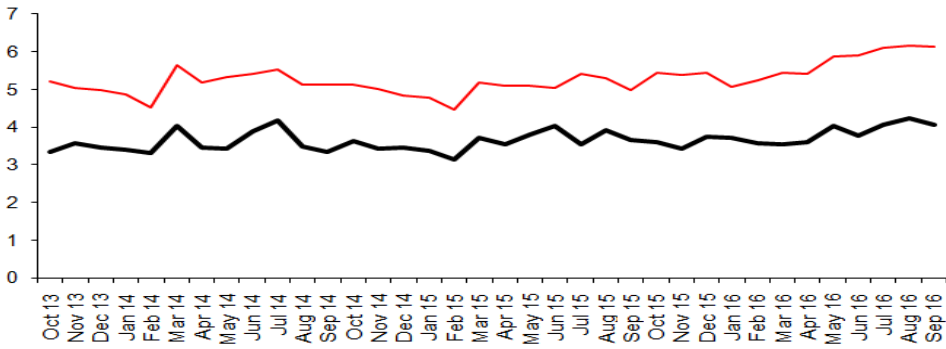
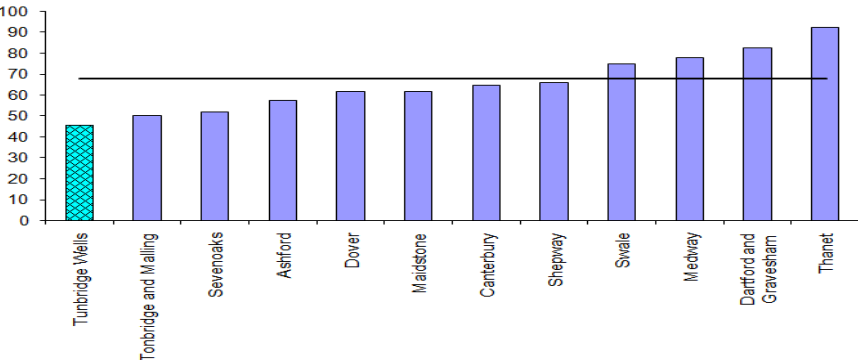
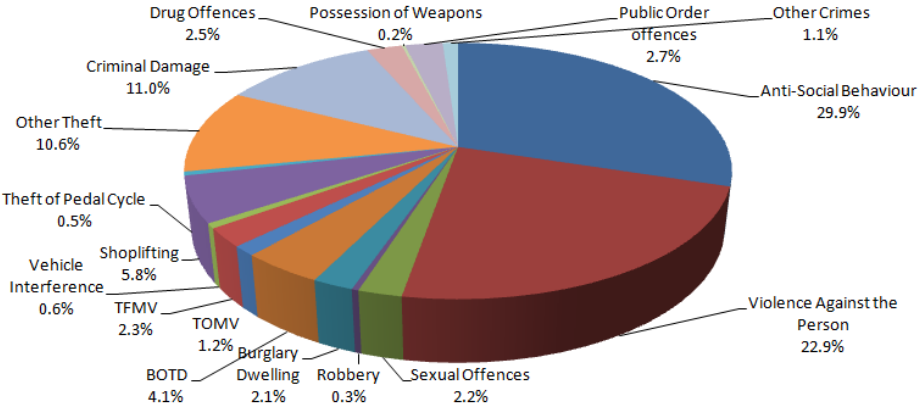
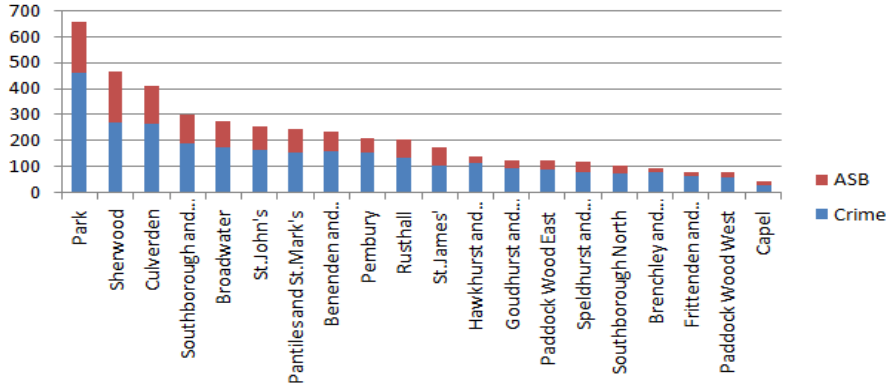
Additionally, Part 1 contains the outcomes of a risk-based assessment piloted by the CSU this year. MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) has been used to analyse familiar crime types, current priorities and other thematic areas such as child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, gangs and organised crime.

Part 2 draws some conclusions from the data and recommends the priorities for the partnership for the coming financial year.

Part 3 contains some contextual information.

Part 1 - Analysis

All recorded crime 2015/16

Current figures for the 12-month period October 2015 – September 2016, unless stated	
Level of Crime	5,285 (previous period 5,040)
Peer Comparison	Best out of 12 Kent areas (lowest by volume)
Annual Change	An increase of 245 crimes (4.7%) - The smallest increase in 12 Kent areas
3-Year trend <i>October 2013 to September 2016</i> Per 1000 residents Red line - Kent average Black line - Tunbridge Wells	
Kent comparison <i>October 2015 to September 2016</i> Per 1000 residents	
Proportionality ASB 2253 (29.88%) VAP 1723 (22.85%) Criminal Damage 826 (10.95%) Other Theft 801 (10.62%) Shoplifting 436 (5.78%) BOTD 311 (4.12%) Public Order offences 201 (2.67%) Drug Offences 189 (2.51%) TFMV 177 (2.35%) Sexual Offences 165 (2.19%) Burglary Dwelling 155 (2.06%)	
Top 3 wards for crime and anti-social behaviour (April-November 2016) Park 653 Sherwood 466 Culverden 410	

Tunbridge Wells had the lowest overall crime rate in Kent in 2015/16.

All recorded crime increased by 4.7% over the preceding 12-month reporting period. The increase of 245 crimes is the lowest in Kent numerically and per-1000-residents, maintaining our position as the safest borough in Kent.

Crimes per 1000 residents	
Tunbridge Wells	45.466
Tonbridge	50.233
Sevenoaks	51.863

The overall crime picture for the past three years has shown rates of crime and anti-social behaviour to be fairly steady, though with a slight upward trend. This trend follows the Kent district average as can be seen on the previous page. We're also well below the Kent average which reflects our position as the safest local authority area.

Crime / Disorder Type	Recorded Offences/Incidents				County Position
	This year	Last Year	Change	Direction	
All crime	5285	5040	4.7%	↑	1
Victim-based crime	4797	4626	3.7%	↑	1
ASB Incidents	2253	2236	0.8%	↑	3
Burglary dwelling	155	240	-35.4%	↓	1
Burglary other	311	358	-13.1%	↓	4
Criminal damage	826	748	10.4%	↑	1
Domestic abuse incidents *	916	983	7.3%	↑	3
DA repeat victims *	337	403	19.6%	↑	2
DA repeat victims % *	37%	41%	4%	↑	
Drug offences	189	212	-10.8%	↓	9
Robbery	26	53	-50.9%	↓	2
Sexual offences	165	125	32.0%	↑	3
Shoplifting	436	527	-17.3%	↓	2
Theft from a motor vehicle	177	202	-12.4%	↓	1
Theft of motor vehicle	93	90	3.3%	↑	1
Theft of pedal cycle	37	56	-33.9%	↓	1

* Comparing Apr-Nov 2015 to Apr-Nov 2016

Noticeable in this data are:

- No discernible increase in anti-social behaviour (steady over the longer term).
- Good reduction in burglaries of a dwelling, less so burglary of outbuildings etc.
- Low in Kent but domestic abuse and repeat incidents continue to rise.
- Clear reduction in robbery offences.
- Sharp rise in sexual offences (from May 2016) - now above Kent average.
- Reduction in drug offences (but possession offences only down 3 to 162 – 11th).
- Vehicle crime is low in comparison with other Kent districts (3-year downward trend).

Further details and analysis of priority crimes are detailed in the following sections.

Priority 1: Domestic abuse ↑

Current figures refer to the 12-month period from October 2015 – September 2016

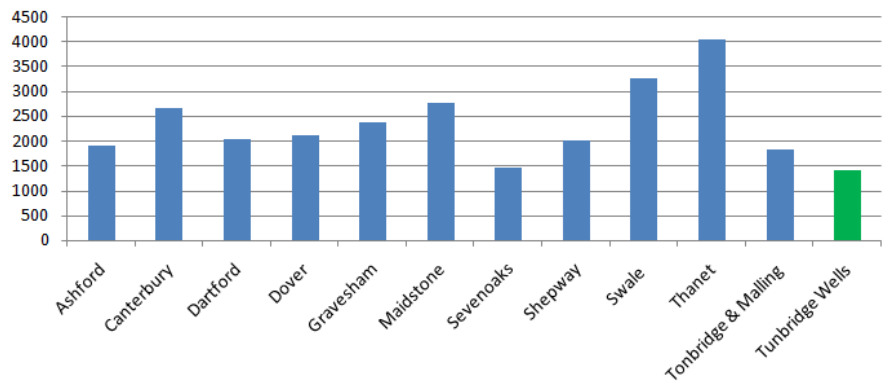
Level of Crime **1,403 crimes (last year 1,319)**

Peer Comparison **Lowest out of 12 Kent areas**

Annual Change **Increase of 84 crimes (+6.4%)**

Kent comparison

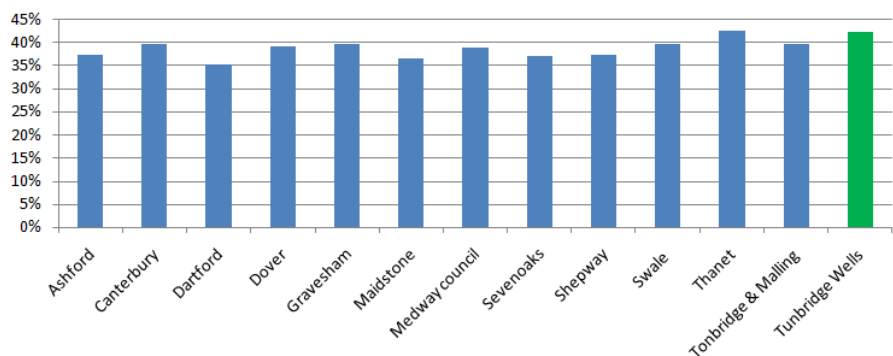
Tunbridge Wells' total of 1403 is an increase of 84 incidents (6%) over the same period last year.



Repeat victims

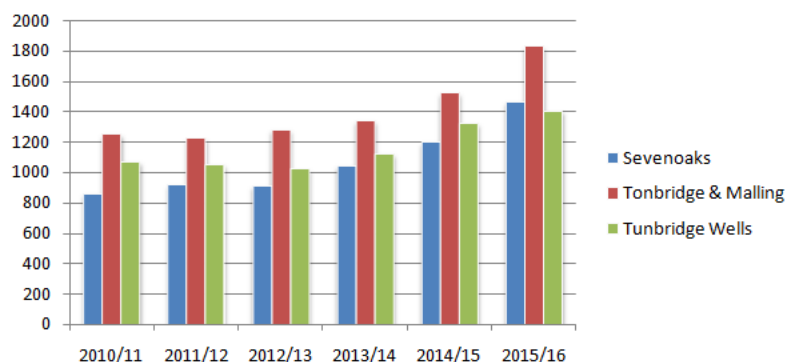
Percentage of monthly repeat victims averaged over the period.

Tunbridge Wells average of 42% is higher than the Kent Police average of 39%.



West Kent

Six year comparison of domestic abuse incidents.



The Government defines domestic abuse as 'Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.' This includes coercive and controlling behaviour, harassment and can include assault. Research shows domestic abuse has clear links with alcohol and, to a lesser extent, drug use.

During the 12 months from October 2015 to September 2016, there were 1,403 recorded incidents of domestic abuse reported to Kent Police within the borough. This is an increase of 6% against 17% previously. There were 589 recorded repeat victims of domestic abuse

during the same period. All districts in Kent experienced an increase in recorded domestic abuse offences over the period.

While we have the lowest recorded crimes per-1000 residents, a 6% rise continues a trend of similar increases over the past three years; the three preceding years showed a steady decrease. Similar increases have been recorded across all Kent districts.

Figures for the period October 2015 to September 2016 show repeat domestic abuse offences account for 42% of all reported domestic abuse crimes in Tunbridge Wells.

Adjusted data made available for the period April to November 2015 enables a comparison with the same period in 2016. For these two 8-month periods the repeat rate was 37% in 2015 and 41% in 2016. The Kent district average for both periods is 38%.

Funded outcomes

Provider	Funding
Domestic Abuse Volunteers and Support Service (DAVSS)	£18,000

Service: Provide domestic abuse support services to men and women at all levels of risk. Encourage early reporting by promoting the helpline and available services. Provide workshops and training to raise awareness and promote prevention.

Outcomes: DAVSS received 195 referrals in Q1 - Q3 of which 71 were graded high risk and 124 standard or medium risk.

Service: Prioritise and refer all high risk cases to a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), and regularly assess volatility of risk levels in all other cases, escalating to MARAC where necessary.

Outcomes: 74 cases were referred to MARAC of which 19 were repeat cases.

Service: Refer women to the Freedom Programme for DA awareness and support.

Outcomes: During Q1 five Tunbridge Wells' residents undertook 29 sessions between them at Edenbridge and 2 residents undertook 13 sessions between them at Sevenoaks. In Q2 five residents participated in the DAVSS Freedom Programme in Tonbridge. The next Freedom Programme began in January 2017.

Provider	Funding
Community Domestic Abuse Programme (CDAP)	£2,000

Service: Provide support to perpetrators of domestic abuse to change their behaviour through the Community Domestic Abuse Programme (CDAP)

Outcomes: 7 men attended the CDAP programme in Q1 - Q3.

Appendix C

Provider	Funding
Family Matters	£2,000

Service: Provide support to victims of sexual abuse through the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor.

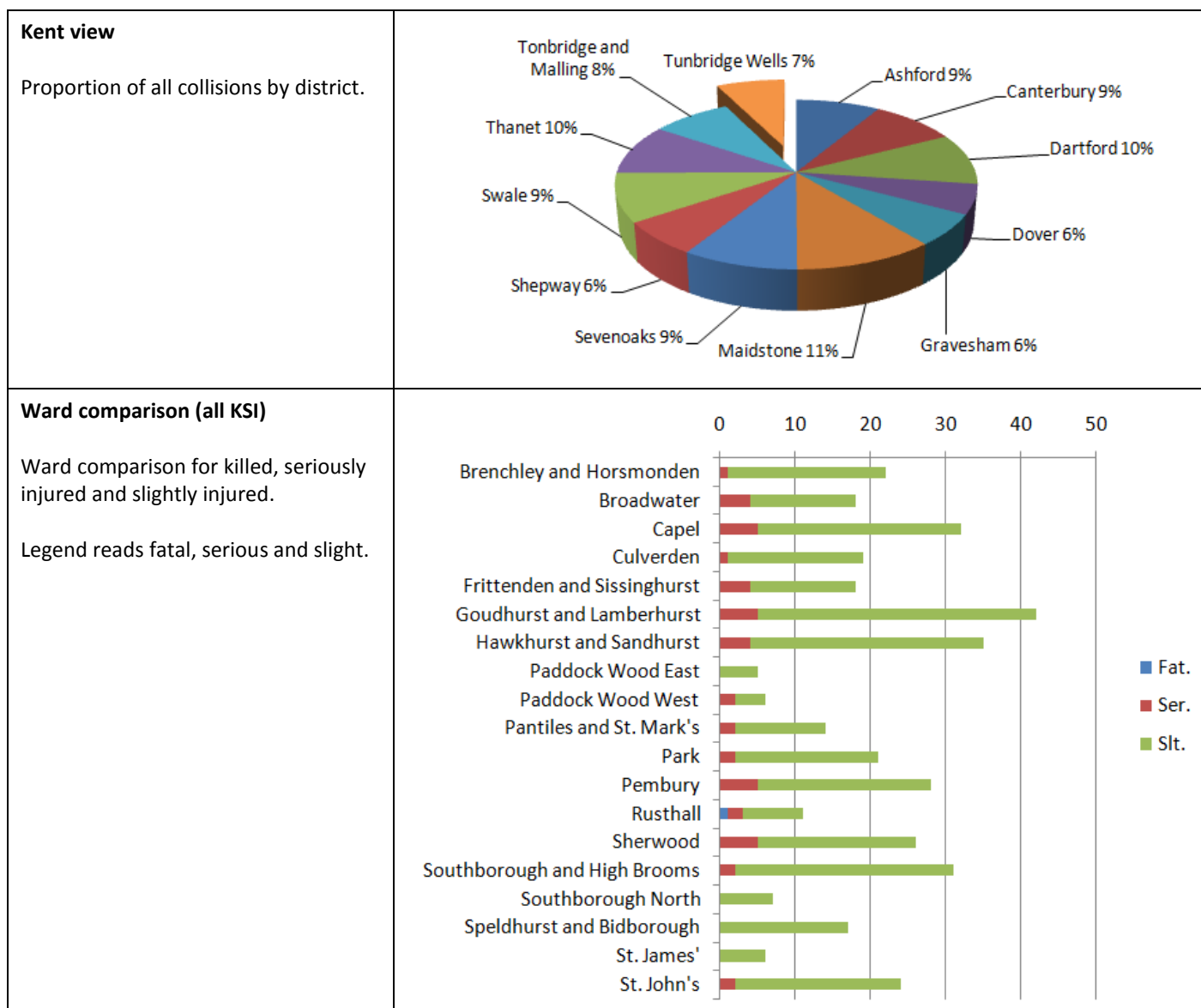
Outcomes: 7 victims of domestic abuse were supported during the first two quarters of 2016.

Provider	Funding
West Kent Refuge	£1,500 (unspent)

Service: Provide support to victims of domestic abuse through the One Stop Shop signposting attendees to DAVSS, MARAC and Freedom Programme.

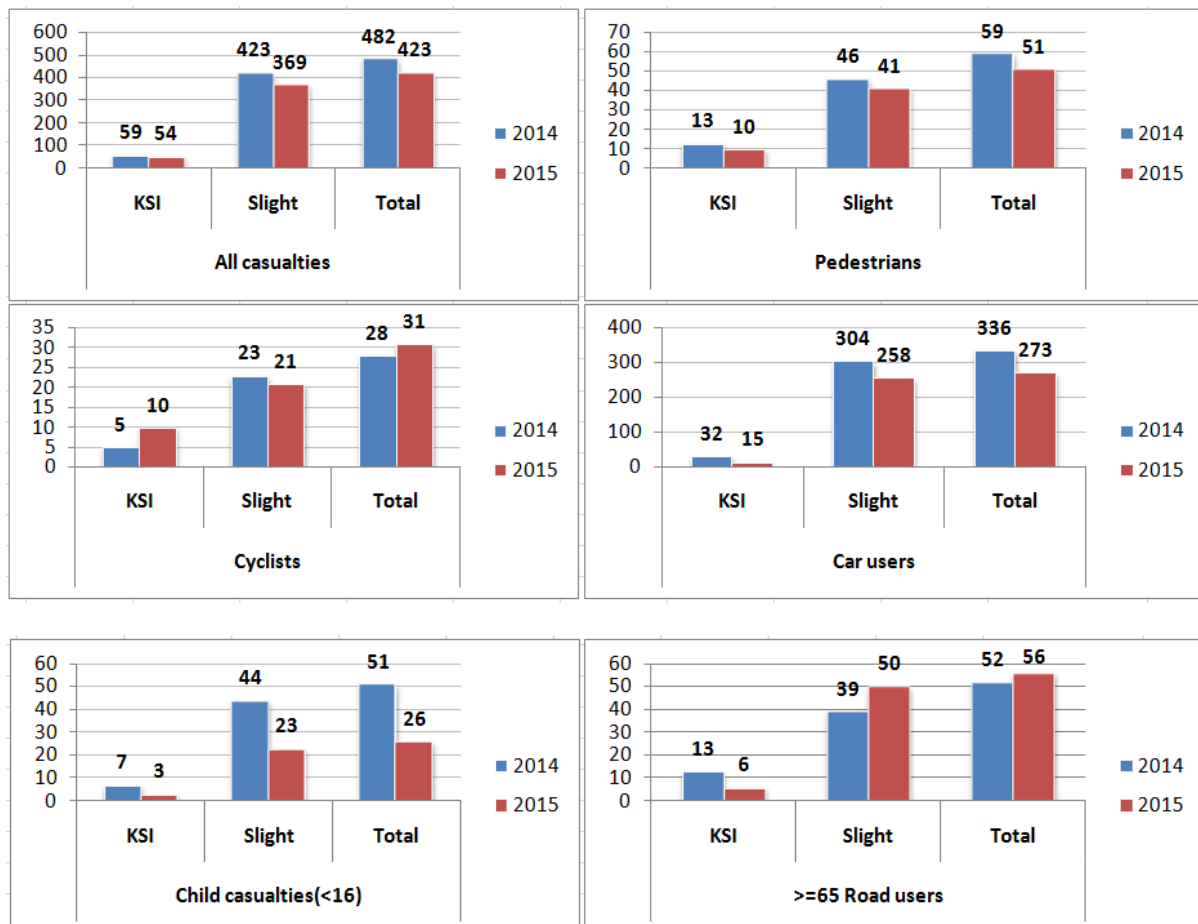
Outcomes: The funds were allocated to West Kent Refuge as a lead agency but the One Stop Shop (OSS) is a multi-agency endeavour that requires substantial long-term partner commitment. There is no OSS at present in Tunbridge Wells but residents do travel to the OSS in Tonbridge. The Domestic Abuse Forum has picked this up as an area of focus and a report on the efficacy of an OSS in Tunbridge Wells will be tabled at a future CSP meeting.

Appendix C



Appendix C

Data from 2015 (the latest available) has seen a 12% reduction in all casualties (482 to 423). That's 59 fewer casualties this period, following an increase of 41 during the previous period. This compares well with a Kent-wide reduction of 7%. The total number of KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) casualties fell to 54 and there were further reductions in slightly injured casualties. There was a welcome reduction in child casualties. There is a notable increase in cyclists' KSI which doubled to ten incidents in 2015. Casualties for other specific road users are shown in the tables below.



Tunbridge Wells recorded an increase in all casualties during the years 2012 and 2013 and the figure for 2014 (482) placed us above the 2004-2008 average of 463. The reductions seen in 2015 brings us back within that baseline. KSI casualties also increased during those two years, but Tunbridge Wells is still below the 2004-2008 average (70). The reductions in child KSI and slight injuries to 3 and 23 respectively also brings us within the 2004-2008 average of 3 and 35.

The 12 months to December 2015 saw a reduction in the number of casualties injured on Kent's roads (including Highways England roads, excluding Medway roads) compared to 2014. The long-term trend for KSI casualties in Kent is down. The number of KSIs recorded in 2015 is 50% less than those recorded in 1994. That said, this is the first year since 2011 that Kent has recorded not-insignificant reductions across the spectrum of road user categories.

Kent's long term KSI figures follow a similar trend to national figures. The Department for Transport have suggested that underlying causes for this recent increase in KSIs could include an improving climate and an increase in economic growth leading to more journeys being made.

Research by the Department for Transport (Reported road casualties in Great Britain, 2015) suggests nationally there has been no clear trend in the number of fatalities since around 2011, with the evidence pointing towards Britain being in a period when the fatality numbers are fairly stable and most of the changes relate to random variation.

In 2015, there were 22,144 seriously injured casualties in reported road traffic accidents. This is the second lowest year behind 2013 and 2.9% lower than the 22,807 serious injuries in 2014. The Department for Transport report calls this decrease "statistically significant" suggesting "it is more likely than not that the drop reflects genuine changes on British roads."

Funded outcomes

Provider	Funding
Kent Police, TWBC's Community Safety team	£4,000

Service: Expand Community Speed Watch by identifying a cohort of volunteers within high-profile wards.

Outcomes: The CSP purchased two Speed Indication Devices to enable better access for more Community Speed Watch events. New schemes are being encouraged through engagement with local councillors.

Provider	Funding
Dave Allen, TWBC Community Safety Team	£700

Service: The Captain Safety Show runs in November and is offered to primary schools for children KS1 and KS2.

Outcome: Held in November at the Assembly Hall Theatre for urban schools and Goudhurst School for rural pupils. Around 800 children attended from across the borough.

Priority 3: Violent crime

Current figures refer to the 12-month period from October 2015 – September 2016

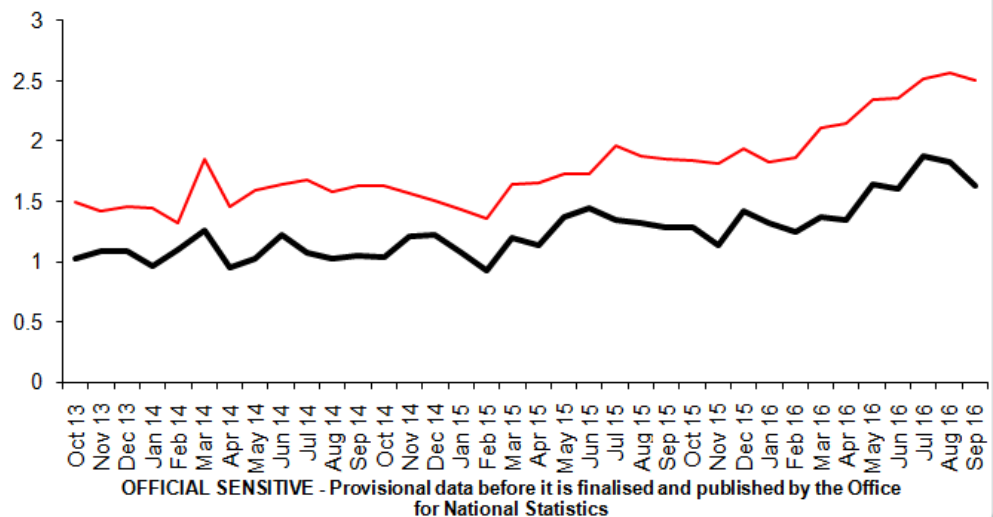
Level of Crime	1,914 crimes (last year 1,605)
Peer Comparison	2nd best out of 12 Kent areas - smallest numeric increase, second lowest % increase
Annual Change	Up 309 (19%)

General trend

Violent crimes per 1000 residents.

Red Line: Kent Average

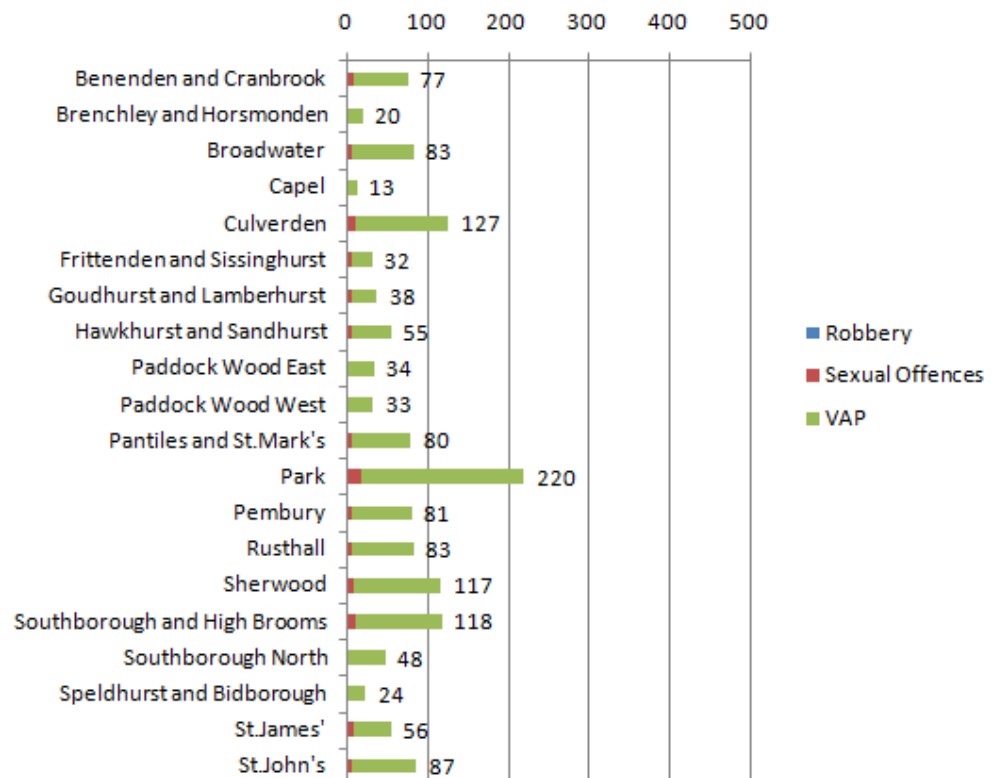
Black line: Tunbridge Wells



Ward comparison

April to November 2016

Culverden 127
Park 220
Southborough & High Brooms 118
Sherwood 117



Violent crime includes *violence against the person, robbery, and sexual offences*. During the period October 2015 to September 2016, there were 14.6 recorded violent crimes per 1,000 population, an increase of 13% (195 offences) on the previous year. This represents 1,696 recorded crimes.

Tunbridge Wells has the second lowest rate of violent crime in the county (after Sevenoaks).

The categories of domestic abuse and NTE (night-time economy) are mutually exclusive with domestic abuse taking primacy (so a domestic abuse offence occurring during the NTE is recorded under domestic abuse). Offences classified as hate crime may also appear under domestic abuse or NTE.

Park, Culverden, Sherwood and Southborough & High Brooms are the top 4 wards for violence against the person (VAP) offences in Tunbridge Wells district between April and November 2016.

Analysis of these four wards was undertaken last year. A summary of VAP subcategories showed domestic abuse to account for one third of all incidents in Culverden and Southborough and High Brooms. Domestic abuse accounted for 20% of VAP in Park and 40% in Sherwood. NTE (night time economy) offences accounted for one third of VAP in Park and Culverden.

A small number of known residential addresses, NTE venues and roads typically account for a high proportion of all offences.

Funded outcomes

Provider	Funding
Street Pastors Tunbridge Wells	£4,000

Service: Provide a positive presence in the night time economy.

Outcomes: During Q1-Q3 street pastors engaged with over 1800 people during weekend evenings (Thurs-Sat) and into the early hours of the morning. As well as providing advice and, in some cases, comfort to late night revellers, street pastors helped people keep safe by calling for an ambulance on 8 occasions and the police 16 times. They enlisted the help of CCTV Operators on 18 occasions using the two 2-way radios provided free of charge by the Safe Town Partnership.

Priority 3: Violent crime – robbery ↓ (and hate crime)

Current figures refer to the 12-month period from October 2015 – September 2016

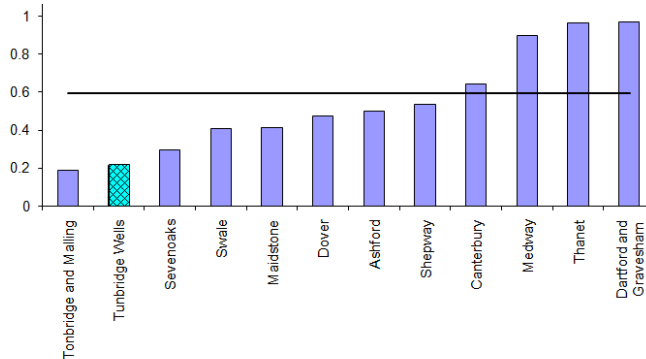
Level of Crime **25 crimes (last year 53)**

Peer Comparison **2nd best out of 12 Kent areas (previously 5th)**

Annual Change **Down 28 (53%)**

Kent comparison

Crimes per 1000 residents.



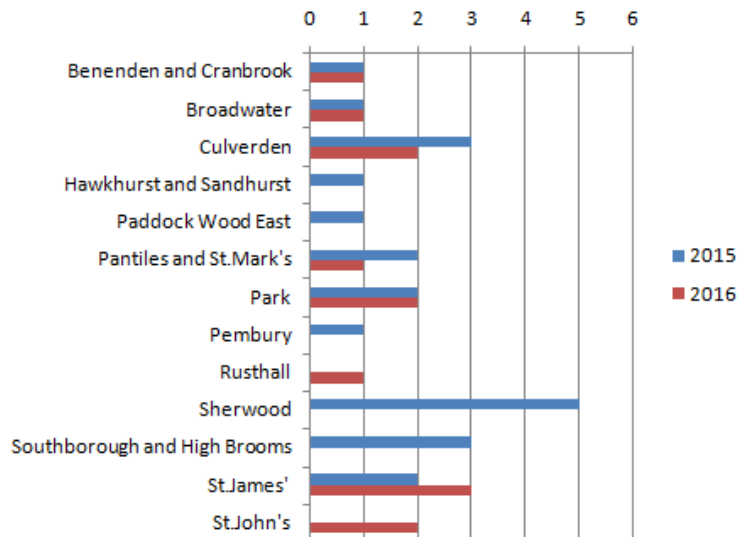
OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Provisional data before it is finalised and published by the Office for National Statistics

Ward comparison

April to September 2016

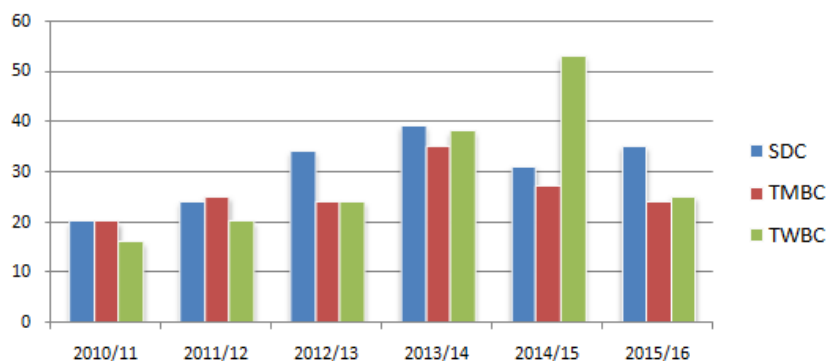
During the previous reporting period there were 5 robberies in Sherwood and 3 in Southborough & High Brooms. This period there were none in either ward.

Wards not shown had no incidents.



West Kent comparison

What may have been perceived last year as an upward trend for Tunbridge Wells may turn out to be a spike as incidents return to more average long-term levels.



Tunbridge Wells has the second lowest rate of robberies in the county.

The number of robberies halved during this period, which is encouraging. Robbery of personal property dropped from 43 to 19. Robbery of business property, such as a bank or travel agency, reduced from 10 to 6.

Hate Crime

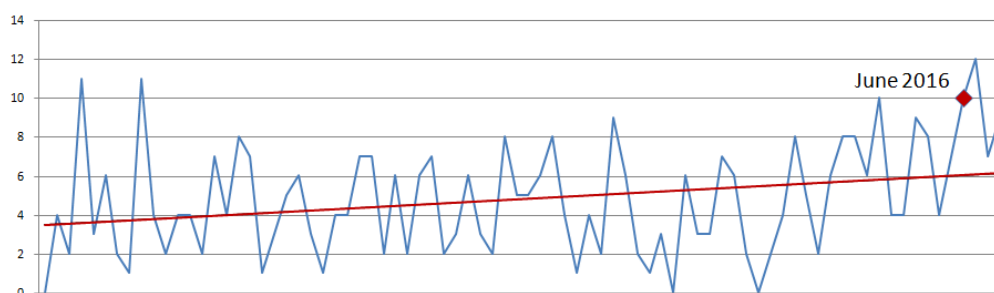
Race-based hate crime became a hot topic last year as the country saw an increase in hate related incidents around the time of the EU Referendum and for some weeks beyond.

In July a motion was submitted to Full Council regarding hate crime. The motion stated that we - Tunbridge Wells Borough Council - condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally, and offered the reassurance that the council would work to ensure local bodies and programmes have support and resources needed to fight and prevent racism.

Police data for the four weeks prior to and following the EU referendum showed a marked increase in hate crime across Kent (109 reports during the period before the vote, 172 following the vote). Tunbridge Wells showed an increase in race-based hate crime from 4 to 9 during this period. Religious-based hate crime remained steady at 2 offences prior to and following the 23 June vote.

Nationally there was an increase of 19% in recorded hate crime in 2016 over the previous year. The number of race hate crimes increased by 15% over the same period, while religious hate crime increased by 34%.

The graph below shows all hate crime reports from January 2010 to October 2016. In August of last year police recorded 12 offences (10 in July), the highest monthly figure in six years.



HATE CRIME REPORTS JANUARY 2010 TO OCTOBER 2016

The trend line reveals a slow and slight incline over a near six-year period. It remains to be seen if this upward trend continues as we move towards exiting the EU.

Kent Police's Community Liaison Officer (CLO) is based in the CSU and reviews all hate crimes within the borough putting into place suitable interventions, signposting and making referrals where appropriate. In the first three quarters of 2016/17 the CLO assisted with or managed 102 cases where hate was either a primary or secondary element.

Inherent challenges in recording hate crimes is outlined in an Office of National Statistics report of 2016. It cautions the use of statistics as it's possible for a hate crime offence to have more than one motivating factor, affecting the way it is categorised. Another factor cited in the report is improved compliance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) which may result in short-term movements.

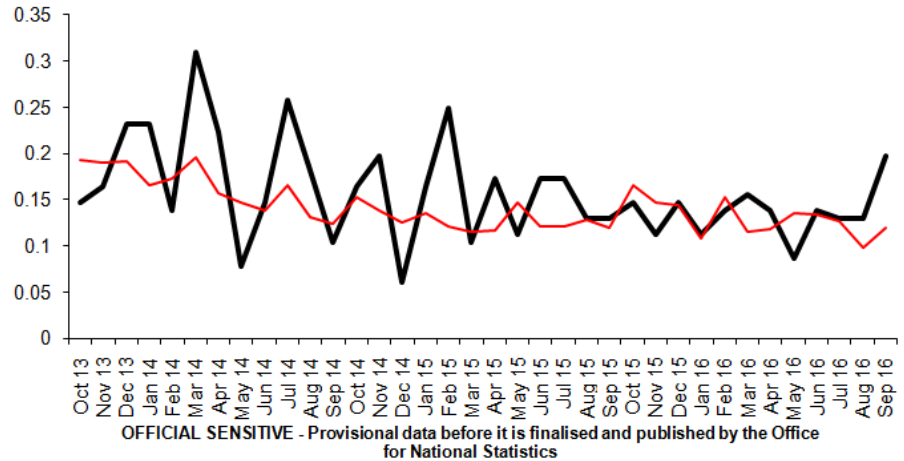
Priority 4: Alcohol and substance misuse ↓

Current figures refer to the 12-month period from October 2015 – September 2016

Drug Offences	189 incidents (last year 212)
Peer Comparison	Ninth out of 12 Kent areas (previously 11th)
Annual Change	Down 23 (11%) compared to last year

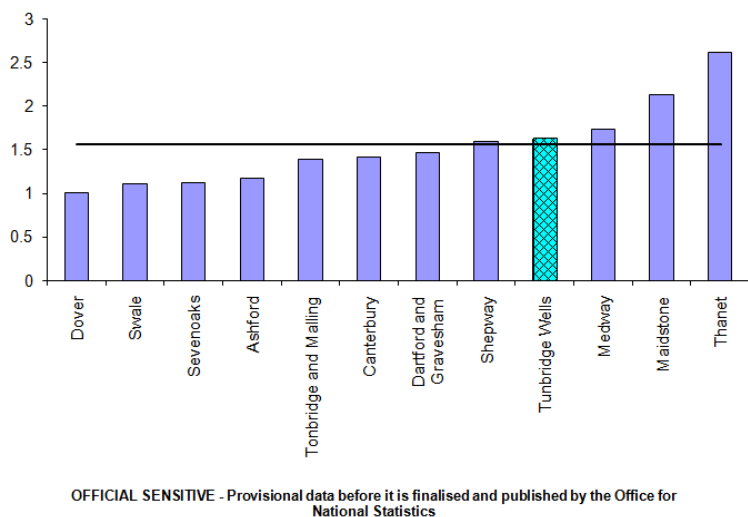
3-year trend

Red Line: Kent Average
Black line: Tunbridge Wells



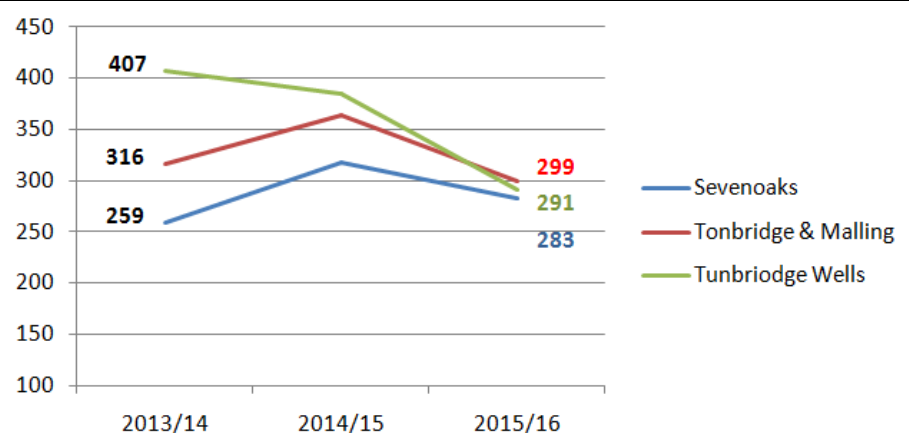
Kent comparison

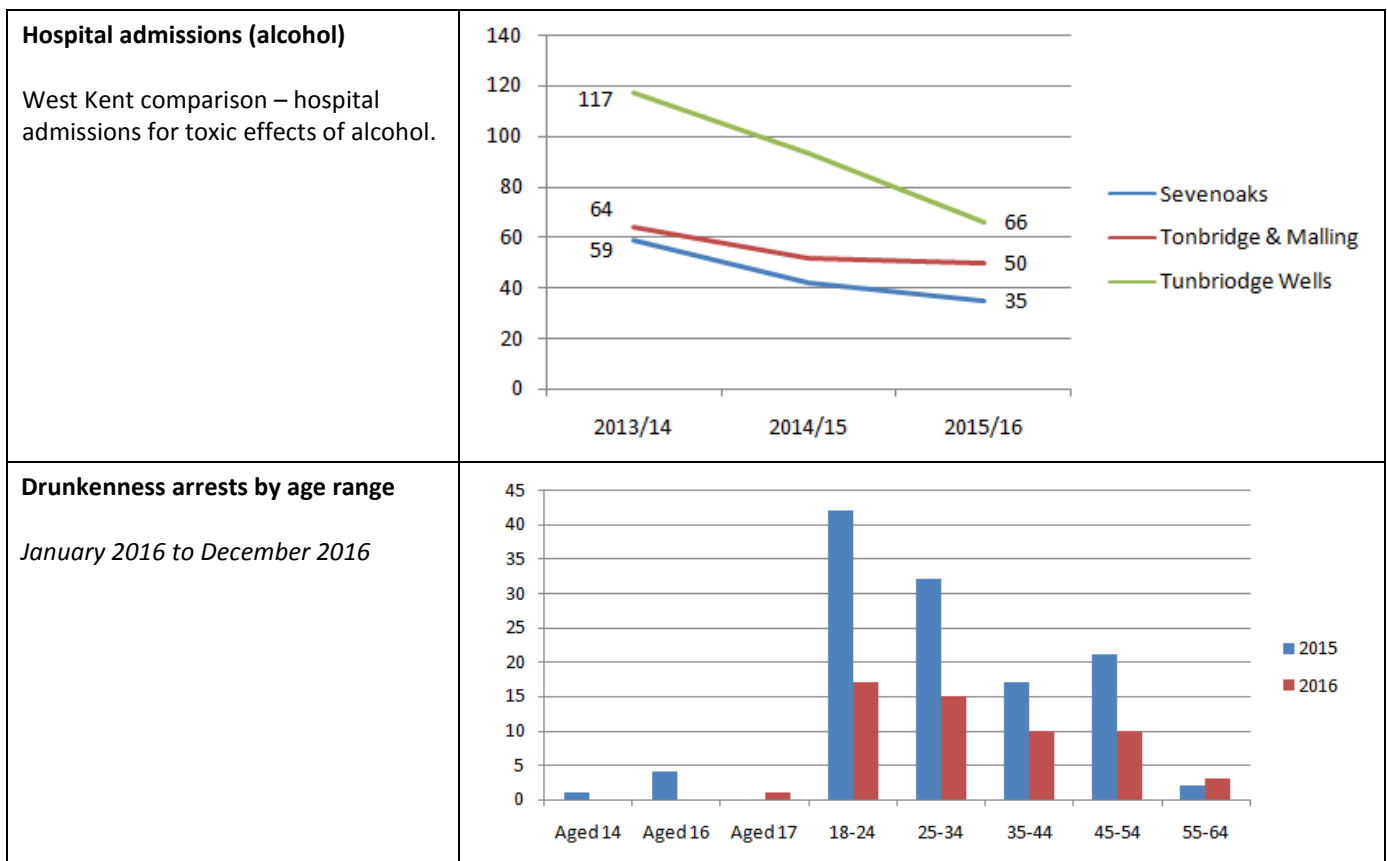
Drug Offences per 1000 residents



Hospital admissions (substance)

Mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance misuse





Arrests for drug offences

Between October 2015 and September 2016, there were 1.6 recorded drug offences per 1,000 population in Tunbridge Wells, equal to the Kent district average.

After two consecutive annual reductions Tunbridge Wells is now 9th out of 12 Kent districts.

Possession of drugs offences were down by just 3 to 162, which is slightly above the Kent average but 11th out of 12 Kent districts. This does represent an improvement over the longer term. The past eighteen months have seen none of the regular and significant spikes of the eighteen months preceding.

There was an appreciable reduction in drug trafficking offences during the period, down from 47 to 27. The reduction was evident during the six months prior to this period, showing a stable reduction over an 18-month period. During the previous 18 months Tunbridge Wells regularly sat above the monthly Kent district averages. We are now 3rd in Kent.

Arrests for drunkenness

Arrests for drunkenness fell from 119 in 2015 to 56 in 2016. 44 of these arrests culminated from 25 incidents in and around Tunbridge Wells town centre. There were 55 such incidents in around the town centre in 2015 resulting in 103 arrests.

There were two each in Sherwood and Southborough and High Brooms and three in St John's. There were single incidents in Cranbrook, Culverden, Pembury, Broadwater (Ramslye) and St James.

These figures represent an improvement in both residential and night time economy areas.

Hospital admissions for toxic effects of alcohol

Encouragingly, during 2016 hospital admissions due to the effects of alcohol (and psychoactive substance) continued to fall.

In the 2014/15 period Pembury had the highest number of hospital admissions due to the toxic effects of alcohol in any one quarter (8). Elsewhere no ward had more than four admissions in any one quarter. Data for 2015/16 shows no ward had more than four admissions per quarter, in many cases much less than four, and a marked improvement in overall numbers, down from 93 to 66. While it's not possible to provide numbers per ward due to NHS confidentiality guidance, the totals for each quarter at the foot of the tables below would suggest very low numbers for those wards where incidents are indicated.

Alcohol-specific hospital admissions for people aged under 18 was less than 5 in 2015/16.

	Oct - Dec 15	Jan - Mar 16	Apr - Jun 16	Jul - Sep 16
Benenden & Cranbrook	•	•	•	
Brenchley & Horsmonden				
Broadwater		•	•	•
Capel				
Culverden	•	•	•	•
Frittenden & Sissinghurst	•	•		
Goudhurst & Lamberhurst	•	•		•
Hawkhurst & Sandhurst			•	
Paddock Wood East			•	
Paddock Wood West			•	•
Pantiles & St Mark's	•	•		
Park	•	•		
Pembury	•		•	
Rusthall			•	•
St James'	•	•	•	•
St John's	•	•	•	•
Sherwood		•	•	•
Southborough & High Brooms			•	•
Southborough North	•			
Speldhurst & Bidborough	•			•
	16	17	17	16

Hospital admissions due to psychoactive substance misuse

There was a significant reduction in hospital admissions for substances this year with a reduction of 94 admissions. Despite the confidentiality restrictions it's clear that Pantiles and St Marks, Sherwood and Pembury all have higher overall admissions.

Drug-specific hospital admissions for people aged under 18 was 7 in 2015/16.

	Oct - Dec 15	Jan - Mar 16	Apr - Jun 16	Jul - Sep 16
Benenden & Cranbrook	•		7	5
Brenchley & Horsmonden	•	5	•	•
Broadwater	•	•	•	11
Capel	•	•	•	•
Culverden	6	•	5	11
Frittenden & Sissinghurst	•	•		
Goudhurst & Lamberhurst	•		5	5
Hawkhurst & Sandhurst	•	5	•	•
Paddock Wood East	•		•	•
Paddock Wood West		•	•	•
Pantiles & St Mark's	20	12	7	•
Park	•	•		7
Pembury	14	8	5	•
Rusthall	•	•	5	•
St James'	•	•	•	•
St John's	•	•	•	•
Sherwood	7	5	7	10
Southborough & High Brooms	•	7	9	•
Southborough North	•	•		•
Speldhurst & Bidborough	•	•		•
	73	64	68	86

Funded outcomes

Provider	Funding
Kenward Trust	£5,500

Service: To deploy substance misuse workers to hotspots within the borough to carry out 1:1 and group work with adults and young people.

Outcomes: During the first half of 2016/17 Kenward Trust delivered outreach work to over 700 young people in car parks, recreation grounds and other open spaces in and around the town centre.

Provider	Funding
Young People's Bus Service (YPBS)	£3,500

Service: To deploy the Street Cruiser youth bus to areas identified with drug use and associated anti-social behaviour, supporting Kenward Trust outreach where possible.

Outcomes: The bus parks between Calverley Grounds and Great Hall car park on Friday evenings from 5-7pm attracting 13-27 young people. YPBS provide two staff while KCC provide 2-3 youth workers to engage with young people who enjoy video games and music entertainment and soft refreshments.

Appendix C

Provider	Funding
Churches Together Winter Shelter, TWBC	£3,000

Service: Support the Winter Shelter, in particular those who attend who are NFAs and have needs around substance misuse and offending to support their habit.

Outcomes: Seven people (six men, one woman) who were NFA and guests of the winter shelter had issues around substance misuse (drugs and/or alcohol) and were signposted to CRI for help and support.

Provider	Funding
Kent Police	£3284

Service: Run targeted high visibility police operations in locations highlighted for drug use in repeat locations.

Outcome: Extra police officers were resourced for some key dates, including Thursday 18th August 2016 (1800-0200 hrs) to coincide with the release of A-level results and Thursday 25th August 2016 (1400-2200 hrs) to coincide with release of GCSE results

Introduction to MoRiLE

This year, working with KCC, Tunbridge Wells and five other CSP's carried out a risk assessment analysis of key crimes and themes using an analytic tool developed by West Midlands Police in 2014. In 2017 up to 50 agencies across the country will be using it for their strategic assessments.

MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) assesses crimes that primarily are analysed by volume, population and location to further identify and prioritise levels of threat, harm and risk. The focus remains on the victim but additional scoring methods assess community, financial and environmental impact, as well as an organisation's capacity and capability to respond. The framework ultimately generates a ranking from scores that measure harm and risk.

The chosen themes were decided by consensus between the six areas involved in the pilot. Feedback will be collated and analysed by KCC's Community Safety team and if the system proves successful it likely will be used for subsequent strategic assessments. We will then have better control over the themes and crime types we choose to assess.

In January members of the CSP, including the joint chairs, met to assess the impact, in some cases the relative impact, of various crime types and themes on an individual, the community and organisations that are tasked to respond or subsequently manage the issue. We calculated the frequency of events, the volume of incidents and assigned a value to our confidence in the accuracy of the data. The final variables we input into the MoRiLE dashboard evaluated an organisation's ability to respond to, or manage, the issues.

The MoRiLE documentation provides this guidance for assessing the scores:

If the CSP Score is low this indicates the skills and staff needed within the CSP are in place to mitigate the risk and this may already be 'business as usual'. If the CSP Score is high then this could suggest a gap exists (i.e. resources knowledge, training) or the theme is not a current focus. It is important to consider the Risk Score as well as the Overall Rank when creating the final priorities so that they are relevant to the contribution or impact the CSP can make to the theme.

The table below has been sorted by Overall Rank which the Risk Score closely follows. Last year's priorities are highlighted.

Theme	Total Harm	Risk	CSP Score	Overall Rank
Mental health	4	225	8	1800
Road safety	2	121	7	484
Prevent	12	224	0	134.4
Domestic abuse	4	124	1	74.4
CSE	4	120	1	72
Gangs	8	77	1	46.2
Substance misuse	4	60	2	45
ASB	2	60	0	36
OCGs	2	52.5	0	31.5
Hate crime	4	44	0	26.4
Violent crime	4	42	0	25.2
Deliberate fires	1	38.5	0	23.1
Modern slavery	2	24	0	14.4
Burglary	1	17.5	1	10.5
Shoplifting	1	15	1	9
Theft	2	15	0	9
Criminal Damage	1	14	0	8.4
Vehicle crime	1	12	0	7.2

Repeated for convenience: *If the CSP Score is low this indicates the skills and staff needed within the CSP are in place to mitigate the risk and this may already be 'business as usual'. If the CSP Score is high then this could suggest a gap exists (i.e. resources knowledge, training) or the theme is not a current focus. It is important to consider the Risk Score as well as the Overall Rank when creating the final priorities so that they are relevant to the contribution or impact the CSP can make to the theme.*

Overview of MoRiLE themes

Mental health

Mental health as a thematic area of vulnerability is a factor in many incidents and issues of concern that daily are brought to the CSU for the attention of the borough council, police, health services, housing associations, fire service and other partners. A person's poor mental health, particularly when coupled with alcohol or substance misuse, is a key influence in the risk of an individual becoming a victim of crime or exploitation. In other cases poor mental health is the underlying cause for a person becoming an offender of many of the other crime types that we report on. It was no surprise that mental health scored highest for Risk, CSP Score and Overall Rank.

Prevent

Prevent is about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism. However, to properly score the theme it was necessary to input details pertaining to an 'event', or frequency of events. While we were guided to not consider extreme cases or

situations in any of the thematic areas the impact of even a modest terrorist or extremist event is likely to have a high and widespread impact.

Such an event could cause widespread harm but the low likelihood and small volume contributes to a Risk Score close to that of the more frequently occurring mental health thematic.

Having the police as partners within the CSP might imply, as the guidance above suggests, that, with a CSP Score of 0, we have the expertise to manage an event so it's very much 'business as usual'. However, the responsibility for safeguarding and public awareness is shared by many agencies. This made Prevent difficult to score and produced results that may not capture the breadth of this critically important issue.

Road safety

Road safety has been a priority for the CSP for many years. We saw a welcome reduction in casualties last year which ensures a low frequency score here. Of the 423 recorded casualties 369 were graded slight, leading to a low Harm Score. Of those casualties 19% were children or aged over-65, and 70% of all incidents involved a motor vehicle. These factors led to higher economic scores for the individual(s) involved, relevant organisations (NHS, Insurance, Highways, employers, etc) and the community (in this case the location of the collision).

Police run targeted operations routinely in areas of need and work closely with Community Speed Watch groups. Annually, the borough council fund and organise one youth engagement event and fund another. Combined, they engage over one thousand children in age-appropriate road safety awareness.

In February 2017 areas of St John's ward will be 20 mph zones, '20 is Plenty'.

The high CSP Score likely reflects more on our limited ability to influence the prevention of collisions over the long term than it does lack of knowledge or training. Changing behaviour is widely accepted as key to reducing collisions. By educating drivers and soon-to-be-drivers, and engineering neighbourhood roads to better emphasise a shared space, such as may result from introducing 20 mph roads, our ability to positively influence collisions statistics may improve.

Domestic abuse

For this thematic area the high Harm score for the individual, and the financial and organisational costs were offset by slightly lower scores for public expectation and community impact. These factors and the availability of high quality domestic abuse services for both victims and perpetrators in Tunbridge Wells contribute to a low CSP Score.

Domestic abuse is a regular priority for the CSP and most of the necessary services are provided by DAVSS, a domestic abuse charity which relies on the several CSPs for funding and attracts other funding through this association.

Kent County Council services for domestic abuse were recently valued and offered to CSPs as a commissioned service. Tunbridge Wells chose not to take up this offer fully and instead worked with Sevenoaks CSP and Tonbridge and Malling CSP to approach DAVSS from a West Kent perspective, as part of a wider devolution project, for one key element of DA provision. We are aiming for a single contract (with some necessary variations) and a single SLA.

Child sexual exploitation, gangs, organised crime groups, modern slavery

There are elements of these thematic areas that can only be addressed through a robust framework of data sharing and partnership working. They are complex and dynamic and disruption of business, with judicious use of partner agency legislation, is a policing strategy that has proven effective.

There are many similarities in how criminals engage in activities related to these crimes, and how people are coerced into becoming involved. There are also similarities in how they are currently being disrupted and how further close working through the partnership can help.

There are brief summaries of the intelligence picture below and further discussion in the following section.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

The current definition of CSE is:

‘Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse. It occurs where anyone under the age of 18 is persuaded, coerced or forced into sexual activity in exchange for, amongst other things, money, drugs/alcohol, gifts, affection or status. Consent is irrelevant, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and may occur online.’

A recent snapshot from the Kent Serious and Organised Crime Local Profile (“the Local Profile”) for Tunbridge Wells identified 2 CSE crimes recorded in Tunbridge Wells and 12 children at risk (1 female).

The average age of CSE victims of reported crimes in Kent is 15 and defined as White British.

The average age of a charged CSE offender in Kent is 19 (ages ranges between 16 and 32). 1 in 5 CSE offenders are female.

Gangs

The Home Office defines a gang as having one or more characteristics that enable its members to be identified as a group by others. This is a purposefully flexible definition and it is recognised that there needs to be a multi-agency approach to tackle the issue.

One of the main issues for Kent is the use of “county lines” by London street gangs to extend their drug dealing into locations outside their home areas. To achieve this vulnerable people are often exploited; either to secure operating bases or to be used as runners.

Vulnerable females (in particular) are at potential risk of CSE. Gang association in girls was also found to be linked to substance misuse, poor mental health and domestic abuse.

A further snapshot from the Local Profile identifies 3 London street gangs linked to the borough and a further 7 local drug networks have suspected links to these or other London gangs.

Organised Crime Groups

Organised crime can be defined as serious crime planned, coordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often, but not always, financial gain. Organised criminals working together for a particular criminal activity or activities are called an organised crime group (OCG).

There are 5 OCGs with a recorded impact in the Tunbridge Wells area. The most common crime types associated with these groups is organised theft. There are groups that also have an impact on other local authority areas and in some cases other counties.

Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery is where an individual is forced to work or is being exploited for the gain of others. It can include victims that have been brought from overseas, and vulnerable people in the UK, being forced to illegally work against their will in many different sectors, including brothels, cannabis farms, nail bars and agriculture. can include child trafficking, forced labour, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and domestic servitude.

Car washes, nail bars are often linked to human trafficking via intelligence gathering.

Across all agencies there were 88 referrals in Kent in 2015 to The National Referral Mechanism (NRM), placing Kent in 8th place across the forces of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Greater public awareness of the NRM may make it easier for victims to find assistance if it is needed.

Part 2 - Conclusion

This strategic assessment (SA) sets out the priorities that the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) should focus on for the financial year and determines what service should be funded to address those priorities. The SA has evolved over time to further identify emerging trends and other quality of life issues at an increasingly local level.

Summary

The MoRiLE framework complements the familiar process of applying local knowledge to the statistical analysis of long term trends and incident distribution/frequency by measuring the harm and risk associated with victims and offenders of our common crime types. Importantly, at a time of limited resources, the framework also attempts to weigh these risks against an organisation's capacity and capability to respond.

Applying the same methodology to strands and themes that include a high degree of vulnerability such as mental health, Prevent and child sexual exploitation (CSE) can assist in directing services and delivering support to those who need it most, and in many cases to those who drive much of our business.

It should be noted that the themes selected for this pilot are not new and efforts to address them is daily business for some partners. Neither is the list exhaustive. Other vulnerabilities such as identity theft, doorstep scams and a growing range of exploitative online activities are regularly, if infrequently, flagged for CSU attention.

Much of the work to support partners in addressing these themes will likely be around improved awareness, education, data sharing and safeguarding. Again, this will be daily business for many agencies, but the activities associated with many of these themes are ever-changing and likely require a rolling programmes of awareness raising and continued improvements in partnership working, data sharing and safeguarding.

This work is already underway with the streamlining of partnership meetings and agendas that are now theme-based and person-specific, which has already improved data sharing between key agencies. Awareness programs for some themes, both classroom-based and online, are becoming increasingly available.

The top ten scores for both Risk and Overall Rank contain four of the priorities most often chosen by the CSP.

The top two CSP scores, Prevent (8) and road safety (7), may suggest gaps exist or there is a limit to the influence partners can have. Likely, more wrap-around work can be done for the Prevent strand while road safety continues to be a concern and a risk.

Prevent, domestic abuse, road safety and mental health are the top four thematic areas for both Risk and Overall Rank; road safety and

Theme	
Mental health	
Prevent	
Domestic abuse	
Road safety	
CSE	
Gangs	
Substance misuse	
Anti-social Behaviour	
OCGs	
Hate crime	

domestic abuse being long-established CSP priorities.

The Overall Rank for mental health far exceeds that of any other category. It has the highest risk factor and the highest CSP Score. Much partnership work has gone into tackling issues of poor mental health. In 2016 TWBC Health, CSP and Troubled Families jointly funded a Primary Mental Health worker to address mental health issues for young people by taking referrals from schools and the Sherwood Partnership. There is scope to extend this resource in 2017 and we will continue to work in partnership with the West Kent Health and Wellbeing Board. There is currently a strong emphasis on addressing mental health problems in the context of long-term physical conditions due to their significant personal, societal and economic impact. The Police and Crime Commissioner recently announced a funding pot will be made available for initiatives to address mental health issues. It would be difficult not to consider this a focus for the CSP.

Domestic abuse remains a priority for the CSP and is identified as a theme that lends itself to cross-borough working, with many services working across the districts of Sevenoaks and Tonbridge & Malling, as well as Tunbridge Wells. Most victim services in West Kent are provided by the charity DAVSS.

Sexual offences are up 32% from 125 to 165 over the period, including a 36% rise in incidents graded *serious*. September 2016 saw 26 recorded sexual offences over 13, 16 and 15 for the preceding three months. The average for the 12 months prior to September is 11.5 offences. Ward data for April to November 2016 shows a sharp rise in incidents in Park ward with other significant rises in Hawkhurst, Cranbrook and St James.

Alcohol abuse and substance misuse are key themes that stand alone as issues of personal wellbeing but they're also a factor in several other thematic areas. Though we improved overall for drug offences we are 11th for possession offences. Reports of groups of young people 'hanging around' open spaces in the town centre and some neighbourhoods often include cannabis use. Reports to the CSU of the use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) have lessened significantly.

Hate crime, particularly race or religious, may be worthy of additional attention over the next twelve months as the UK heads towards exiting the EU.

While pockets of anti-social behaviour continue to disrupt the lives of some residents the number of reported incidents has remained fairly steady over the past three years. This reflects well on the emphasis placed upon this theme, as daily business, by community safety partners despite losing significant numbers of frontline offices, such as KCC Wardens and PCSOs. ASB will remain a focus for the CSP and we hope this year to better position ourselves to use more recent legislation (such as Public Spaces Protection Orders and Community Protection Notices).

Recommended priorities

Domestic abuse

- Review current monitoring
- Maintain level of funding

Road safety

- Review current monitoring and funding
- Additional funding for the 20 is Plenty remit
- Funding

Alcohol and substance misuse

- Review current monitoring
- Consider funding additional services towards targeted health-related education and personal risk awareness.

Vulnerable victims

- Thematic areas, such as CSE and Prevent, require high levels of partnership engagement. These themes, and others, would likely benefit from rolling action plans. The CSP may consider monitoring, and where necessary influencing, victim-related aspects of each action plan at quarterly meetings.

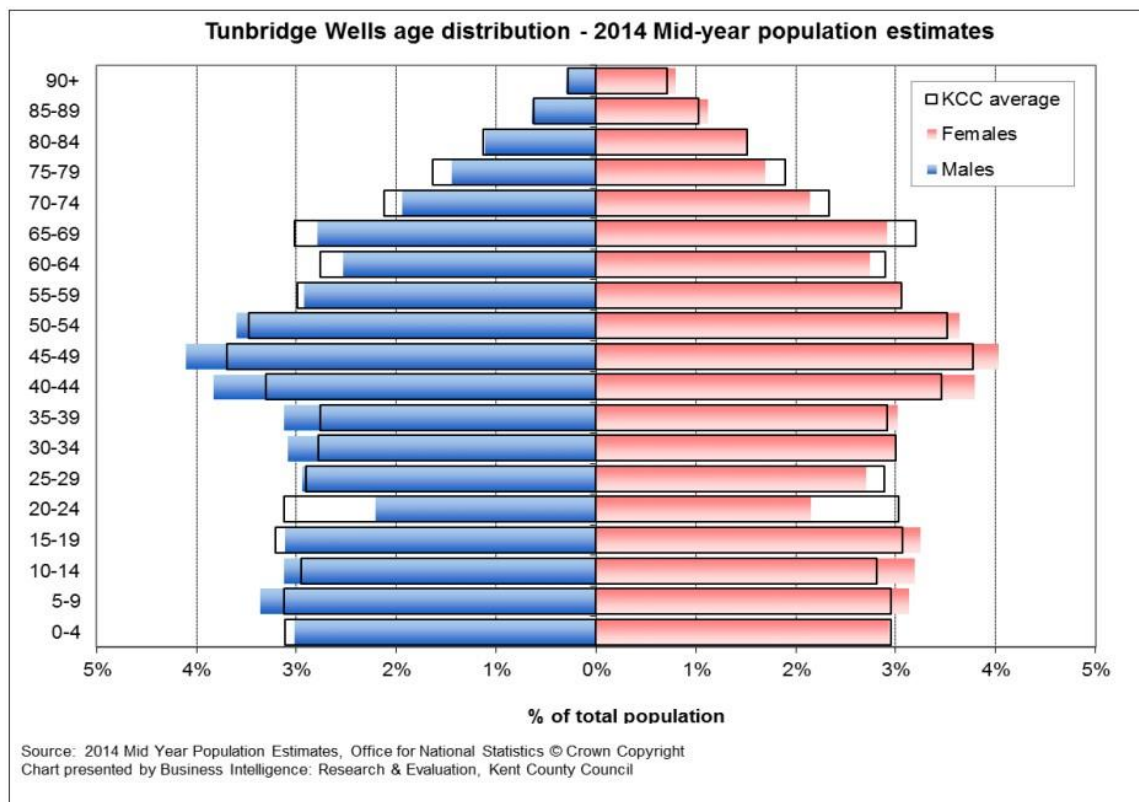
Part 3 - Context

Population profile

The latest population figures from the 2015 mid-year population estimates show that there are 116,200 people living in Tunbridge Wells Borough. This population size ranks Tunbridge Wells as the 8th most populous local authority area in Kent.

63% of Tunbridge Wells' population live in urban areas with the remaining 37% living in the surrounding rural area and settlements.

Tunbridge Wells has a younger age profile compared to the county average, with a greater proportion of 0-19 year olds than the average for the KCC area; though with significantly fewer residents in the 20-24 range. Tunbridge Wells also has a higher proportion of middle-aged residents, aged between 30-54 years, compared to the county average.



Further population information:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/Facts-and-figures-about-Kent/population-and-census>

Ethnic Profile

94.9% of Tunbridge Wells' population is of white ethnic origin with the remaining 5.1% being classified as of Black Minority Ethnic (BME) origin. The proportion of Tunbridge Wells' population classified as BME is lower than the county average of 6.3%.

The largest ethnic group in Tunbridge Wells is White British, with 89.6% of residents from this ethnic origin. Within the BME population, the largest ethnic groups are Asian/Asian British (2.6%).

Further ethnicity information:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/Facts-and-figures-about-Kent/equality-and-diversity-data>

Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation provides a measure of deprivation at both borough and sub-borough (Lower Super Output Area) level, relative to other areas in England.

The table below presents the national and county rank of Tunbridge Wells based on the 2015 Index (IMD2015) and also shows how the rankings have changed since 2010.

*A minus change in rank illustrates that a district has moved down the rankings and is therefore now less deprived relative to other areas in England. A positive change in rank illustrates an area is more deprived in ID2015 than ID2010 relative to other areas

Authority	IMD2010			IMD2015		Change in rank* 2010 to 2015	
	IMD2010 national rank (out of 326)	Kent Rank (out of 12)		IMD2015 national rank (out of 326)	Kent Rank (out of 12)	National position	Kent position
Thanet	49	1		28	1	21	0
Swale	99	3		77	2	22	1
Shepway	97	2		113	3	-16	-1
Gravesham	142	5		124	4	18	1
Dover	127	4		126	5	1	-1
Dartford	175	7		170	6	5	1
Ashford	198	8		176	7	22	1
Canterbury	166	6		183	8	-17	-2
Maidstone	217	9		198	9	19	0
Sevenoaks	276	12		268	10	8	2
Tonbridge & Malling	268	11		274	11	-6	0
Tunbridge Wells	249	10		282	12	-33	-2

* A minus change in rank illustrates that a district has moved down the rankings and is therefore now less deprived relative to other areas in England.

Source: The English Indices of Deprivation 2010 and 2015, Communities and Local Government

In 2015 Tunbridge Wells Borough was ranked as the least deprived district in Kent (ranked 12 out of 12 areas). Nationally, Tunbridge Wells ranks 282nd out of 326 local authority areas in England.

Levels of deprivation vary across the Borough with parts of Tunbridge Wells within England's top 20% deprived of areas and yet other parts are within England's least 20% deprived of areas.

Kent has 902 Lower Super Output Areas, 51 (6%) fall within the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in England in the IMD2015. Tunbridge Wells does not have any LSOAs ranked within the top 10% most deprived in England.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/Facts-and-figures-about-Kent/deprivation-and-poverty>

Unemployment

Tunbridge Wells' unemployment rate as measured in October 2016 stood at 0.8%. This is considerably lower than both the county average of 1.6% and the national average of 1.8%.

In September 2016 there were 565 unemployed people in Tunbridge Wells which is 1.7% lower (10 fewer people) than August 2016 but 28.4% higher (125 more unemployed people) than September 2015.

Unemployment rates vary across the borough. The lowest unemployment is in Frittenden and Sissinghurst where 0.3% of the working age population was recorded as being unemployed in September 2016. The highest rate is in Broadwater ward where 1.9% of the working age population are unemployed.

In November 2015 the highest rates of unemployment were in Sherwood and Broadwater wards where, respectively, 1.2% (50) and 1.5% (40) of the working age population were unemployed.

As with last year, Tunbridge Wells has the lowest youth unemployment (those aged 18-24) in the county.

Source: http://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0018/8145/Mid-year-population-estimates-ward-level-population.pdf

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Full Council

26 April 2017

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

Yes

Appointment of Deputy Mayor 2017/18

Final Decision-Maker	Full Council
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Jukes, Leader of the Council
Lead Director	Lee Colyer, Director of Finance, Policy and Development
Head of Service	Jane Clarke, Head of Policy & Governance
Lead Officer/Report Author	Mike McGeary, Democratic Services Officer
Classification	Non-exempt
Wards affected	All

This report makes the following recommendations to the final decision-maker:

That Councillor Horwood be appointed as Deputy Mayor for 2017/18.

This report relates to the following Five Year Plan Key Objectives:

- A Confident Borough – This decision supports the Council's commitment to ensure that the authority is well-managed, open, transparent and accountable.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Council	26 April 2017

Appointment of Deputy Mayor 2017/18

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out a recommendation in respect of the appointment of a Deputy Mayor for 2017/18.
-

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council is required each year to appoint a Deputy Mayor for the following municipal year.
- 2.2 After the decision taken at tonight's meeting, the Deputy Mayor will formally take up their position at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 24 May 2017.
-

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 The appointment of a Deputy Mayor is a requirement of the Borough Council's Constitution. There is, therefore, no alternative option.
-

4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That Councillor Horwood be appointed as the Deputy Mayor for 2017/18, in accordance with the Borough Council's Constitution.
-

5. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- 5.1 Consultation, in its usual form, is not considered appropriate or necessary for this issue.
-

6. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 6.1 This decision will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The formal appointment will be taken up at the Annual Meeting of the Council, which takes place on Wednesday 24 May at 10am.
-

7. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off (name of officer and date)
Legal including Human Rights Act	The requirement to appoint a Deputy Mayor from amongst the membership of the Council is set out under Section 5 of the Local Government Act 1972, and within the Council's Constitution.	Estelle Culligan, Interim Head of Legal Partnership 3 April 2017
Finance and other resources	There are no specific finance issues to address.	Jane Fineman, Head of Finance and Procurement 5 April 2017
Staffing establishment	There are no specific staffing issues to address.	Nicky Carter, Head of Human Resources 4 April 2017
Risk management	There are no specific risk management issues to address.	Report author
Environment and sustainability	There are no specific environmental issues to address.	Report author
Community safety	There are no specific community safety issues to address.	Report author
Health and Safety	There are no specific health and safety issues to address.	Report author
Health and wellbeing	There are no specific health and wellbeing issues to address.	Report author
Equalities	The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no apparent equality impact on end users.	Sarah Lavallie, West Kent Equalities Officer 4 April 2017

8. REPORT APPENDICES

None

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report made to the Full Council, dated 20 April 2016.

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