

Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board (AHWB)

Agenda Item No.7(d)

Ashford Borough Council Partner Quarterly Update

Update from	Ashford Borough Council
Quarter concerned	October to December 2014
What's going on in our world	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance. The council is planning its budget for 2015-16. Despite improving economic data, the fiscal environment remains tough, with further reductions in government grant likely. We are planning for the revenue support grant to have been removed by government completely by 2018-19. Inflationary pressures alone mean that the council needs to find an additional £650,000 just to stand still each year. The council has stated its ambition to seek to be independent of government grant by 2018-19 financial year, or as soon after as possible. Initiatives such as the council's property acquisition strategy, securing additional revenue streams, and innovations such as the creation of two companies wholly owned by the council, are helping to bridge what would otherwise have been gaps in budget.• Junction10a again progressing with submission by the Highway Authority through the Development Consent Order process in Autumn 2015, aiming to complete the scheme by late 2018.• Jasmin Vardimon International Dance Academy – Funding now in place for initial stage of the project. Council leading the business case and project viability assessment.• Elwick Place plans progressing to mixed retail, leisure, office and residential (estimated 600 jobs). Proposals being developed for hotel, cinema, additional car parking and 153 dwelling. Planning application expected in next few months.• Designer Outlet Expansion (phased extension to double floor space). Planning application submitted. The application proposes demolishing part of the existing Designer Outlet Centre and building an extension comprising of retail shops and restaurants, as well as a re-configured car park, public realm improvements, landscape and highway works and other associated enhancements.• Ashford College (£25m campus for 1,000 students) progressing with revised design produced by Hadlow College. Phase 1 construction by end 2016. Ongoing support from the council for this important project.• International Station spurs (finding signalling solutions to enable future interoperability for all international service providers). Key to retaining Eurostar and other services in Ashford. Programme management and governance group established.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chilmington Green (development based on Garden City principles (1000 jobs and 5,750 houses) resolution to grant planning permission given. Subject to a s106 agreement which has yet to be completed. Many Reserved Matter applications likely so final layout and numbers will not be known for many years. ● Commercial Quarter (55,000 sq m commercial office floor space plus 150 homes). Agent appointed & architects working on design and layout. ● Public realm works on the Commercial Quarter (between Dover Place and Station) have been granted planning permission. Work likely to start in February ● Ashford International Model Railway Exhibition Centre. Proposals continue to be developed. Presentation to council members took place in December. ● Marsh Million. Growth fund designed to help increase economic prosperity in the rural parts of the area, available not only to small businesses but voluntary and community groups, charities, social enterprises and education organisations. The EPS offers grants between £10,000-£100,000 for projects looking to grow and diversify the Romney Marsh economy. ● TENT1 planning permission granted 28 October. Will see an additional 249 homes in Tenterden. Includes new access and open space. Agreement will provide 87 affordable homes, contributions towards additional school, healthcare, sports and leisure facilities plus additional car parking at the leisure centre. ● Community Trigger – new measures introduced from October 2014 for those experiencing Anti-social Behaviour. Gives victims/communities the right to request a review of action taken. Involves ABC, CCG & Police on the review panel. Info at http://www.ashford.gov.uk/community-trigger. ● Conningbrook Lakes Country Park has moved a step closer following the signing of agreements between the Brett Group and the Council. Land now effectively handed over to the council to begin preliminary works. Aim to open the park to the public and water sports clubs summer2015. ● Spin Studio. A dedicated studio to be developed in the Stour Centre. Should be open by April 2015. ● Repton Park Community Centre. Planning application anticipated in spring 2015. ● Spearpoint sports facilities. Pursuing Sports Council funding and planning permission granted for new pavilion, s106 monies from the council. ● Singleton Village Hall. Extension under construction. ● New Repton Park including active play (zip wire etc. opening shortly.
Success stories since	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Self Harm Project – aimed at improving mental wellbeing for

<p>last AHWB</p>	<p>young people. Key elements were a training programme for front line professionals and curriculum sessions and activities at HOUSE. The Project has been completed and the report is under review for possible further funding from KCC Public Health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia Kent Action Alliance – 273 staff have now attended a dementia friends session. Really positive feedback with already 28% reporting they have used the knowledge since training session. • Domestic Abuse – New One Stop Shop & Freedom Coordinator appointment made. Funding provided to ensure an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor is available to working across the borough. • Christchurch House – Council’s short-stay accommodation for people who find themselves homeless is now open. • Little Hill Extra Care Scheme – this Council site was gifted to KCC in June this year as part of the Excellent Homes for All PFI project. When complete in April 2016 it will offer 41 extra care apartments at affordable rents. This Project will also deliver 12 units of move-on (short-term) accommodation at St. Stephens Walk in Ashford to help people acquire the skills to live independently. The scheme will be operational in September 2015. • Housing Developments – Access the full programme at http://www.ashford.gov.uk/developments-coming-soon • Infrastructure health projects – Meeting between Council, CCG & NHS Area Team/Property Progress to discuss the Local Plan and health infrastructure requirements. Focus on Chilmington Green and Ivy Court/East Cross. • Play area opposite John Wesley school being constructed (all s106 monies). • Ashford Supporting Families programme has seen 66% of 198 families either in full time work or back in education and not committing ASB/crime.
<p>What we are focusing on for the next quarter <u>specific to the key projects</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia - Detailed discussions continue with ABC, Social Services and Age UK about the arrangements for making the Day Centre at the new Farrow Court facility a centre of excellence. The discussions include aiming to deliver services seven days a week with a specific focus on dementia clients at weekends. • Healthy weight – Focus of October Board meeting. The Board agreed with the proposal of an action plan being written. A task and finish group will be meeting in the New Year. Local projects are under review and a new emphasis on this work and a potential new project being supported with additional links to the Stanhope Hub project. • Farrow Court – building work continues on site with 33 dwellings in phase 1 due for completion by early June 2015 including communal. Once phase 1 is complete phases 2 and

	<p>3 will commence with anticipated completion of these in late 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness – Ashford Homelessness Strategy Review and Refresh Stakeholder Event took place in November. Five rough sleepers found in the Ashford area on the night of the 11th November i.e. the national survey night. • Community network (Stanhope) – Project brief defined and key local partners engaged in project development. Discussions with KCC Public Health, Ashford BC, Ashford Supporting Families and CCG re funding to take place in early January for a pilot period of an initial six months. This pilot period includes the need for a project coordinator. Start date of project will be defined as soon as funding agreed.
Anything else relevant to AHWB priorities NOT mentioned above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify funding to enable the Ashford walk to school project to continue. • Need to identify funding to continue the self harm project.
Strategic challenges & risks including horizon scanning?	Kent Health & Sustainability Conference 2014 - Issues highlighted by the conference. Need to consider how better to join the two complimentary agendas within Ashford. Also need to consider if greater focus is needed on air quality in light of the impact this has on health.
Any thing else the Board needs to know	Free Training. Sevenoaks Mind are providing a free two day mental health first aid course on the 23 and 24 April at the council. There are six external places on offer. The training is being funded by KCC. If anyone is interested contact tracey.butler@ashford.gov.uk .
Signed & dated	Sheila Davison – 8 January 2014