

Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board (AHWB)

Partner Quarterly Update for the Ashford Borough Council – Quarter 4: January to March 2017

<p>What's going on in our world</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Belgic Court – The construction of this new housing scheme has been completed. It is a supported housing development for vulnerable young people who are between 16-25 years that require housing-related support to achieve independent living. The scheme consists of eight one bedroom flats, one of which is a disabled adapted property.• Syrian Refugees – An exclusive interview was set up with the Kentish Express and a Syrian refugee family, receiving a positive two-page spread in the paper.• Ashford Illicit Tobacco Roadshow - Promoted the roadshow which took place in February in support of Trading Standards, KCC Public Health and Community Wardens.• Ashford International Station signalling upgrade - £10.5m has now been secured for this project. This will see the retention and potential expansion of international rail services, cementing our links on the European high speed rail network and enabling the next generation of Eurostar trains to continue to stop at Ashford. Aim is to deliver by spring 2018. It is anticipated the project will lead to the creation of 1,000 jobs.• Elwick Place Development – Council approved funding to construct a mixed-use leisure development incorporating cinema, hotel, food and beverage establishments, car park and retail use in Elwick Road. Work likely to start mid 2017.• Commercial Quarter (CQ 38) – Construction started in January. The first phase of the Commercial Quarter will see 80,500 sq ft of exceptional and adaptable office space developed, along with retail and restaurants on the ground floor and additional car parking and landscaping. In total, 590,000 sq ft of office space and 150 homes will be delivered within the quarter, with the emphasis on quality and job creation. For more information about Ashford's priority regeneration projects and many success stories visit www.ashfordfor.com.• Repton Connect (the new Community Centre) – Works commenced in November 2016 and the building offering an activity/meeting space, large field, a multi use games and a car park should be open winter 2017/18.• Bridgefield Park (Kingsnorth) – Play facilities and amenities for the new park in Kingsnorth. Planning application for play facilities and amenities was approved in February 2017. There will be an archaeological study taking place on the site from April 2017 and the land transfer will be required to be agreed to enable construction for completion in late Summer 2017.• Chilmington – the s106 Agreement has been signed and the planning permission issued. Work is on-going with a Phase 1 master planning workshop delivered in September 2016 which explored a range of elements including housing layout, highways, the district centre design, landscaping, and proposed positioning of phase 1 community facilities. The report from the workshop is available to stakeholders and partners. The Council is working with the CCG to look at opportunities for early health provision as part of the CCG's Estates Strategy. Internally the Council is shifting focus towards the delivery of Chilmington and worked with KCC to develop a Working Protocol (under the District Deal) to enable officers to collaborate effectively and efficiently in a way that befits the quality and sustainability agenda at Chilmington. A draft community development strategy has been produced which will hopefully be adopted in April 2017 and work to set up the Community Management Organisation (who will operate and own the community facilities) is well underway. Discharge of
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	<p>planning conditions and reserved matters applications are ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashford College - is on schedule to open to students in September 2017. Phase 1A likely to commence in summer 2017 with a 12-month build programme. • M20 Junction10a - Examination in public commenced on 2 December and will run for 6 months. A decision on the Development Consent Order needed to build the junction will be made by December 2017 at the latest. CLG has agreed to forward fund developer contributions element of funding agreement to forward fund with repayment to HCA. • Designer Outlet Centre Extension - planning permission issued and s106 agreement reached. Amendments to the design being considered. • Ashford Voice – See latest edition of the council’s newsletter via http://www.ashford.gov.uk/search/text-content/ashford-voice-2nd-birthday-edition-out-now-wednesday-13th-march-475. Note HWB members can use our monthly ‘e-zine’ for their own news. • Ashford International Model Railway Education Centre (AIMREC) – Planning permission granted and Cabinet recommendation to Council to provide a secured loan to AIMREC. Work on securing land continues. • Kestrel Park - open space in Kingsnorth is due to finish in Spring 2017. • Conningbrook Lakes – Clarion housing group completes deal to build 300 high-quality new homes.
<p>Success stories since last AHWB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farrow Court - Ashford’s first fully dementia-friendly housing scheme has scooped an award at the 2016 Kent Design and Development Awards. Phase 2 remains on target for a summer 2017 completion • Danemore sheltered housing scheme - has now been handed over to contractors to demolish and rebuild. Estimated completion is early summer 2018. • Domestic Abuse – Council agreed to continue funding for domestic abuse work and made the post of Domestic Abuse Service Coordinator. Report to Cabinet highlighted increasing demand for services and highlighted that the Ashford One Stop Shop is one of the busiest in the county. Receiving 50 to 60 referrals each quarter. • Domestic Abuse - £100k DCLG grant received to support victims of domestic abuse by providing refuge facilities. Project to be delivered with housing and domestic abuse agencies.
<p>What we are focusing on for the next quarter <u>specific to the key projects</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Weight & Smoking – ONEYOU Health Shop opened in the Town Centre. See separate update. • Active Everyday (activities for the over 60’s) – The calendar can be downloaded via the following link http://www.ashford.gov.uk/active-everyday. • Victoria Park redevelopment - A first stage Heritage Lottery Fund ‘Parks for People’ application, total cost of £4m for the refurbishment of the park has been submitted; a decision will be made in mid June. • Conningbrook Lakes - programme of events to be scheduled and promoted. A range of measures to improve the quality of water at Conningbrook Lakes Country Park has been approved. • Community Toilet Scheme & demolition of Vicarage Lane toilet –Vicarage Lane toilet has now been demolished. Alternative facilities are available through the community toilet scheme which has more disabled and able bodied provisions across the town, they are open longer, seven days a week and monitored for damage and cleanliness by business operators. The scheme is also independently monitored by council staff who are also endeavouring to recruit new members on to the scheme. Note that this includes toilets within the Gateway which include facilities for those with profound and multiple learning disabilities and their carers. Further details via http://www.ashford.gov.uk/community-toilet-scheme

<p>Anything else relevant to AHWB priorities NOT mentioned above</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syrian refugees - Home Secretary Amber Rudd visited Ashford in March where she met Syrian refugees families. The visit received considerable media attention including a feature in Grazia. • Local Plan – The Council’s draft Local Plan was issued for public consultation on the 15 June. More than 2800 representations were received. Note there are revised requirements for housing, a further 1,250 dwellings, required as a result of the revised household projections over the period to 2030. Proposed revisions to the draft Plan are due to be considered by the Cabinet in June / July with a 6 week public consultation period to follow. More details at http://www.ashford.gov.uk/local-plan-2030. . • Development Update – Latest newsletter highlights the unprecedented levels of inward investment. Focus on the major projects that now being delivered. Available at http://www.ashford.gov.uk/development-update. • Workplace Wellness Week – annual week for ABC employees at the end of April focusing on physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. More work planned on this throughout the year with a particular focus on mental health in line with our sickness absence trends.
<p>Strategic challenges & risks including horizon scanning?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Kent – Exploratory work was completed across the five East Kent Authorities (Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet) to see if there is scope to work more closely together including the potential for a merger. A business case was commissioned, however, in February 2017 Ashford council decided not to pursue a merger and withdrew from the process. Further details available with the Cabinet paper available via the council’s website.
<p>Any thing else the Board needs to know</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STP - Presentation given to cabinet on the 9th February on the STP by Matthew Kershaw, the Chief Executive of East Kent Hospitals Trust and by Dr Navin Kumta, Chairman of the CCG. Provided an opportunity members of the council to discussion the latest developments, explore the plans and focus and understand the opportunities and implications for Ashford. Members were specifically recommended to engage with the networks and the transformation work. • Stagecoach – investment of £2.8 million in 30 new Mercedes minibuses for Ashford. The minibuses are fitted with ‘Euro 6’ specification low-noise engines – representing the latest in clean engine technology. The service was launched in February. • Child Exploitation - Ashford taxi drivers learnt how to look out for signs of child exploitation after the council organised a series of free training sessions. • Ashford’s Create Music Festival – This year’s event is on Saturday 22nd July 2017 from 12noon until 9pm. Opportunity for stakeholders to promote their services. Organisers are also hosting a range of additional events under the banner “Create Platform” around the Borough. • Ashford International Station – £10.5m secured for the signalling upgrade. Will see retention and potential expansion of international rail services. • Air Quality Strategy – Evidence being drawn together of council activity relevant to improving air quality, from energy efficient boiler upgrades in housing stock, electric car charging, planning policy, procurement procedures, to cycle to work schemes for staff. This work has highlighted a number of positive areas in which the Council contribute to air quality which can go unseen. As expected, it also highlighted possible areas for improvement, many of which require resources or funding. A task and finish group, drawing on Overview and Scrutiny Committee membership, has been set up to progress this work and develop a draft strategy. • Smog early warning scheme - A scheme, involving texts, emails and automated phone calls, could be created to alert people across the UK with asthma, heart conditions or lung disease to stay indoors when air pollution is about to surge. The proposal for the scheme, similar to the existing one for flood alerts. Defra met recently with officials from Asthma UK, Age UK, the British Heart

	<p>Foundation and other groups to discuss warning systems that could be included in a new air quality strategy to be published in April.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ashford named 12th best commuter town for London - in an article in Kent News.
Signed & dated	Sheila Davison – 10 th April 2017