

Vision For Kent - One Year On

It is now over a year since the countywide Sustainable Community Strategy "Vision for Kent" (V4K) was published in April 2006. During this year the first steps on the 20-year journey for a better future for the people of Kent have been made.

So, what progress has the Kent Partnership made in turning the vision into reality? Here is a snapshot of the progress that has been achieved this year.

Priorities for Action

Our priorities for action in the first year of V4K included:

- Continuing to work towards achieving the 18 outcomes in the **Kent Agreement** - the delivery plan for the vision
- Launching **Towards 2010** - KCC's commitment to delivering 63 aspirational targets based on the V4K themes
- Establishing the **Kent Partnership Support Group** - a multi-agency officer group to oversee the delivery and implementation of the Vision for Kent and Kent Agreement

Future Challenges For Kent

The Kent Partnership has prioritised 3 of the 7 cross cutting V4K **Future Challenges** for action. These are issues which all partners need to work together in partnership to tackle over the next 20 years.

Here are just a few of the examples of action that has been taken in 2006-2007:

Engaging Communities

Kent Police are working closely with partners to roll out Neighbourhood Management. A pilot area in Tonbridge & Malling has held **PACT** (Partners & Community Together) community walkabouts and workshops to take action with residents to improve the quality of life in their neighbourhood.



An Ageing Population

KCC and the VCS have worked together on the **Brighter Futures** project, giving older people the support and help they need to enable them to live independently in their own homes for longer. This includes an information & advice line, befriending & problem solving service and exercise classes that provide the opportunity to meet new friends whilst keeping mobile.

Environmental & Climatic Change

The Kent Partnership agreed to take forward the recommendation from the Climate Change Select Committee to produce a **Climate Change Action Plan** to encourage partners to work together to tackle the challenges and opportunities of this major issue.



Progress on the 8 Themes



A "suite of plans" support the 8 V4K Themes, setting out the detail of how the aspirations of Kent partners will be delivered. This year the links between the V4K and activity all across the county have been established to join up our thinking on how we can all help achieve our shared goals. Detailed activity mapping for each theme is available on request - here are some of the highlights this year:

Economic Success

The **Kent Economic Board** has been established as a working group of the Kent Partnership. It will take forward work on the new **Kent Prospects** - the Economic Development & Regeneration Framework - and other aspirations in this theme



Learning For Everyone

The **Kent Children & Young People's Plan** and Towards 2010 targets published this year on vocational learning and apprenticeships are supported by the Kent Partnership, especially via **Kent Works**



Improved Health & Wellbeing

A new version of KCC's **Active Lives** has set out a fresh vision for adult health and social care services, which will help set the direction of travel for this theme. The new **Healthier Communities Group** was established to oversee progress on this theme.

Environmental Excellence

A new progress report on the **Kent Environment Strategy** was launched at the **Kent Environment Conference** - highlighting our progress in this theme

Stronger & Safer Communities

A new **Kent Partners Compact** is being drafted on behalf of the Kent Partnership, setting out a new agreement for partnership working between the public and voluntary & community sector



Enjoying Life

The **Kent 2012 Strategy** will ensure that the people of Kent can benefit from the opportunities of the coming Olympics. The **Charlton Athletic Positive Futures** programme has engaged 3102 young people per week in sporting activities with wider messages of respect and self-confidence.



Keeping Kent Moving

The new **Local Transport Plan** launched this year will ensure the aspirations in this theme are delivered via its variety of policies on accessibility, public transport and congestion.

High Quality Homes

The **Kent and Medway Structure Plan**, produced jointly by Kent County Council and Medway Council, was adopted in July 2006 and provides for development and change in the county up to 2021.

We want to hear about the things you and your organisation are doing to help make the Vision for Kent a reality.

If you have a project or initiative you think we should know about please contact elizabeth.sanderson@kent.gov.uk or 01622 221323

Looking Forward

Whilst acknowledging recent successes, the Kent Partnership remains committed to taking forward the aspirational challenges in the V4K. So what is next for the Vision for Kent in 2007-2008?



The Kent Agreement

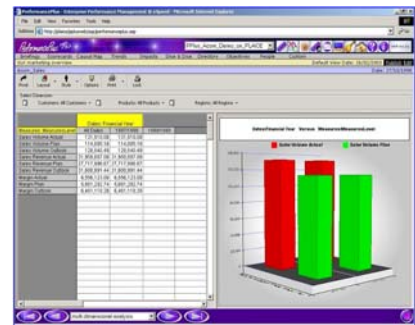
2007-2008 will be the third and final year of the current Kent Agreement - the countywide LAA and delivery plan for the V4K. Quarterly monitoring reports will continue to track progress throughout the year as all partners work hard to achieve the £21million Performance Reward Grant at stake.

Kent Agreement 2

Work is already underway to prepare for the next Kent Agreement, which will run from 2008-2011. The outcomes of CSR 07, which will provide 35 targets, plus 18 DfES targets to report to central government will heavily influence the new LAA. However it will also reflect local priorities, based on shared aspirations of our partners, and with the V4K at the heart of the new agreement. Despite the recent announcements of setbacks in the timescale for LAA's across the county, Kent intends to stay ahead of the game by pressing ahead with preparations throughout 2007.

Performance Monitoring & Management

The Kent Partnership will soon have access to new performance monitoring software, which will help to track progress and collate monitoring reports electronically. The system will create a new look for Kent Agreement monitoring reports and V4K activity mapping. It will help the partnership respond to the performance management challenges set out in the Local Government White Paper.



Further Information

Contact Us

The Kent Partnership team will be happy to help with any queries. You can find out more by contacting:

The Kent Partnership website is a one-stop-shop for information on the Vision for Kent and other partner activity.

www.kentpartnership.org.uk/vision-for-kent.asp

Liz Sanderson is the Community Planning Officer in the Kent Partnership team, and will be able to assist you with Vision for Kent enquiries:

Email: elizabeth.sanderson@kent.gov.uk

Tel: 01622 221323

Post: Room G69
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ