

By: Graeme Brown / Jenny Dixon: Kent Forum Team

To: KCT Board

Date of Meeting: 4 March 2011

Subject: Updates on:

1. Vision for Kent
2. Partnership Architecture

Classification: For Information Only

Summary of Paper:

This paper is for information. It updates KCT on the latest developments on the preparation of Kent's new Vision for Kent (the county sustainable community strategy) and of changes to the partnership architecture with particular explanation of the roles of the Kent Forum, Kent Joint Chiefs, Ambition Boards and Locality Boards.

KCT Board are asked to:

Note the contents of this report. In particular:

- note that the 'Change for Children' meeting on 1 April will be discussing these topics and offers an opportunity for comment;
- formal consultation on the Vision for Kent is anticipated to run late spring / early summer when comments will be encouraged from a variety of partners, agencies, service providers and individuals;

Meanwhile, members of the Board are welcome to make comments directly to the authors by e mail or telephone.

1. Introduction & Background

There has been continual engagement with the KCT Board, the Change for Children Team and senior officers representing the Children's Trust on the development of the Vision for Kent. This has ensured synergy between the development of the Vision and the development of the Children and Young Peoples' Plan. A pre consultation draft of the revised Vision was circulated at the Kent Partnership conference in November, at which many KCT Board members were present.

KCT received a presentation at their meeting on 15 Dec which set out the changes to the partnership architecture. This included discussion on the role and membership of the Kent Forum, Kent Joint Chiefs, Ambition Boards and Locality Boards. The observations of KCT are shown in the minutes of that meeting. This highlighted a risk that rationalising partnerships could weaken the essential contribution other partners make. It was also emphasised that the issues facing children and young people will be of interest to all three Ambition Boards.

2. Latest developments

Vision for Kent

The new Vision for Kent has been under development since around July 2010. The client for this was the Kent Partnership and the Kent Partnership Planning Group steered its development. (The planning Group comprised the Chairman of the Kent Partnership and the four Chairs of the Working groups, including the Children's Trust). Under the new partnership arrangements the client role is transferred to the Kent Forum.

As a reminder, the Vision for Kent is structured around three Countywide Ambitions:

- To grow the economy
- To tackle disadvantage
- To put citizens in control

Members of the Kent Forum are currently being given an opportunity to comment on the working draft, and we are meeting with some District Council Leaders and Chief Executives over the coming weeks to incorporate their perspectives. An updated draft of the new Vision for Kent will be taken to the Kent Forum meeting on 25 March. At this meeting, the Forum will be asked to approve the draft for a 12-week formal consultation period which will start in mid-April and end in early July.

During this proposed consultation period the Change for Children Group will meet on 1 April. The majority of this meeting is being dedicated to a workshop to discuss both the Vision for Kent and new partnership arrangements. This workshop aims to gather the views and feedback of Change for Children members on how well both the draft Vision and the new partnership arrangements meet the needs of Kent's children and young people. Feedback will form part of the formal consultation responses and used to inform the final version.

More broadly the consultation exercise will seek views from partners, agencies, service providers and individual members of the public. The Change for Children Group will be asked to advise on the best way to secure good

consultation with young people, for example through the Kent Youth County Council and from service providers, including schools.

An Equality Impact Assessment is also being carried out.

Following consultation, the draft will be updated and a final version will be presented to the Kent Forum for adoption.

Partnership Architecture

There have been developments on the partnership architecture since the presentation to the Children’s Trust on 15 December. This has included detailed papers on Ambition Boards and Locality Boards to the Kent Forum on 28 January. These developments are summarised in the most recent draft of the architecture diagram (appendix 1) and a summary showing the role and representation of each in a table (appendix 2).

The attention of the Children’s Trust is drawn to following connections:

Body	Children’s Trust connection
<p>Kent Forum The Forum has overall responsibility for co-ordinating and agreeing shared priorities and progress. The Forum comprises Leaders of the County Council, twelve District Councils and the Chairman of the Kent Fire and Rescue Authority.</p>	<p>Ensure that the Kent Forum is briefed on Children Trust priorities and, for example, approves the Children and Young People’s Plan. The members of the Forum are key to Children’s Trust issues at both county and local levels.</p>
<p>Joint Kent Chiefs The Joint Kent Chiefs will facilitate decision making by Leaders in their roles on the Forum, as chairs of Locality Boards and as Chairs or members of Ambition Boards. It comprises the Chief Executives of the twelve District authorities, the Managing Director of KCC, the Chief Fire Officer, the Chief Constable and the CEO of the Kent PCT.</p>	<p>As with the Forum, ensure that the Joint Kent Chiefs is well briefed on Children Trust issues. Where appropriate Joint Kent Chiefs will invite Children’s Trust representatives to meetings to discuss specific papers / issues.</p>
<p>Ambition Boards To oversee and become responsible for the delivery of the Countywide Ambitions across Kent. They will absorb, oversee or otherwise manage</p>	<p>There is a need to reduce the number, cost and bureaucracy of partnerships. The Children’s Trust will be expected to discuss with the Ambition Boards</p>

<p>the work of the existing partnerships. Boards comprise local authority Leaders and Chief Executives (see appendix 2).</p>	<p>the best possible future partnership arrangements that will deliver the outcomes but in the most efficient way. This will include how Children’s Trust issues are considered by Ambition Boards.</p>
<p>Locality Boards To advise county and district councils on the public service priorities and service delivery for the Locality and improve local accountability to residents for public services. Locality Boards could absorb, oversee or otherwise manage the work of existing locality partnerships. Board comprise County Council and District Council Members</p>	<p>The synergy and link between Locality Boards and Local Children’s Trusts will be critical. Lessons learnt from the establishment of Local Children’s Trust Boards will be useful to Locality Boards as they start to form under the new partnership arrangements. This will include how the Children’s Trust issues are considered by Locality Boards.</p>

The Change for Children meeting on 1 April will also be considering these changes and provides a further opportunity to establish the links between the new partnership arrangements and the Children’s Trust.

3. The KCT Board and/or KCT Executive Commissioning Group are asked to:

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- note that the ‘Change for Children’ meeting on 1 April will be discussing these topics and offers an opportunity for comment;
- formal consultation on the Vision for Kent is anticipated to run late spring / early summer when comments will be encouraged from a variety of partners, agencies, service providers and individuals;

Meanwhile, Members of the Board are welcome to make comments directly to the authors by e mail or telephone.

Name of Authors / Job Title of Authors:

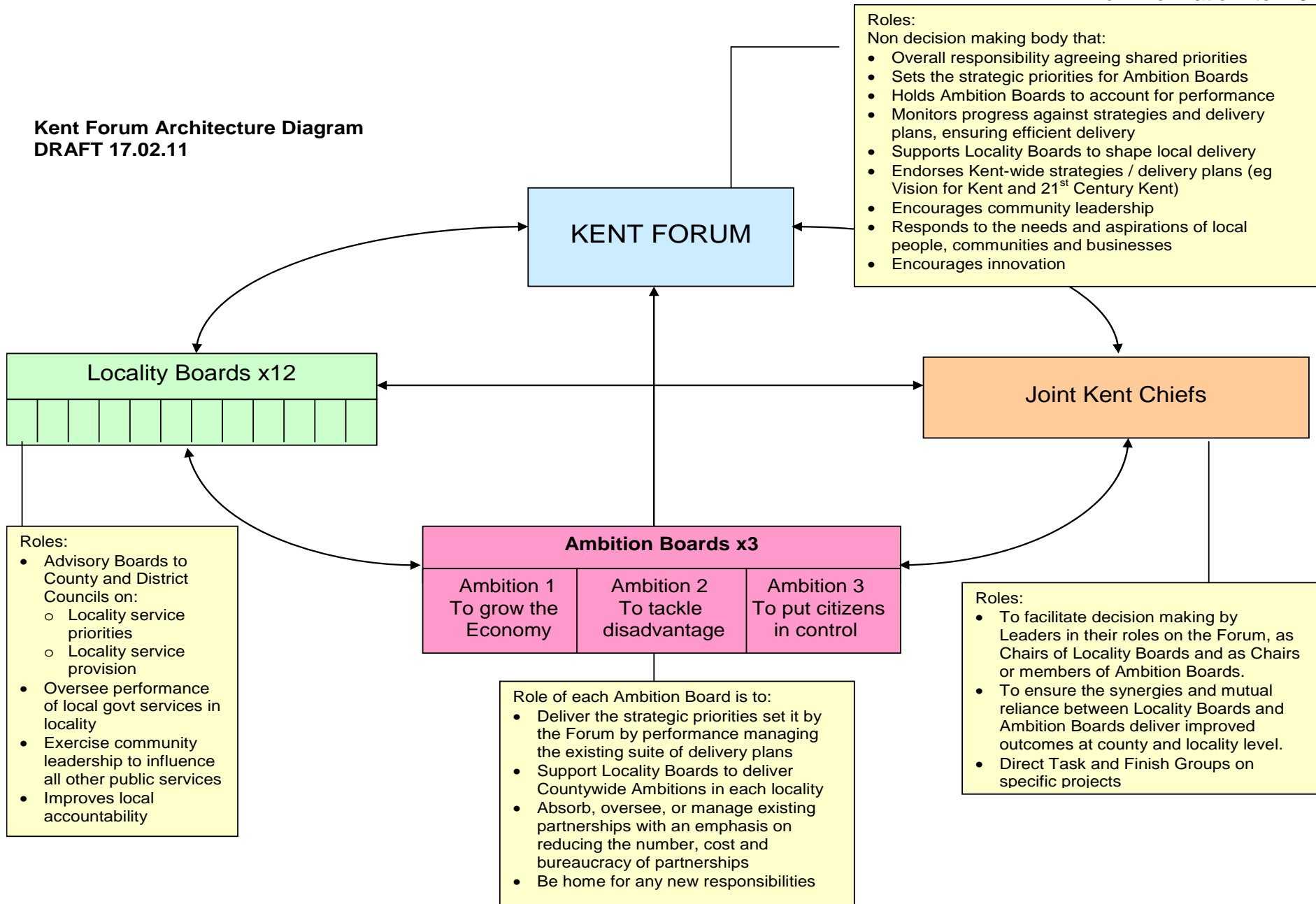
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**Kent Forum Architecture Diagram
DRAFT 17.02.11**



Appendix 2

Kent Forum architecture

Name of Board	Role	Representation
Kent Forum	<p>Overall responsibility for co-ordinating and agreeing shared priorities and progress, encouraging community leadership, and supporting new initiatives.</p> <p>The Kent Forum assumes the responsibilities of the Kent Leaders Group and the Kent Partnership</p>	<p>Democratically elected Leaders -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders of the 12 District/Borough/City Councils, • Leader of KCC, • Chairman of the Kent Fire and Rescue Authority. <p>Other partners will be asked to attend meetings for relevant agenda items.</p>
Joint Kent Chief Executives	<p>To use the collective expertise, knowledge and resources of the Chief Executives and other staff to pro-actively support the Leaders so that they have the right information at the right time to enable good judgement and decision making.</p> <p>Assumes the responsibilities of the Kent and Medway Chief Executives and the Public Service Board.</p>	<p>The Joint Chief Executives with continue with the membership of the existing CEOs Group ie:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEOs District/Borough/City councils, • Managing Director of KCC • Chief Fire Officer • Chief Constable • CEOs PCTs <p>As with the Forum other partners will be asked to attend meetings for relevant agenda items.</p>
<p>Ambition Boards</p> <p>One for each Countywide Ambition</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To grow the economy 2. To tackle disadvantage 3. To put people in control 	<p>To oversee and become responsible for the delivery of the Countywide Ambitions across Kent. They will absorb, oversee or otherwise manage the work of the existing Kent Partnership Working Groups.</p> <p>They will be accountable to the Kent Forum and managed through the Joint Kent Chief Executives.</p>	<p>Initially the 'core' of each Board will comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four¹ District Council Leaders (or the Chairman of the Fire Authority) • three District Council Chief Executives (or the Chief Fire Officer) • one KCC Cabinet Member • one KCC Chief Officer. <p>The core group will then</p>

¹ The Kent Forum, 28.01.11, agreed for four District Council Leaders to sit on each Ambition Board. It was originally proposed for there to be three.

		<p>determine the broader composition of the Board, driven by the business needs of that Ambition. We would expect this to comprise senior representation of key agencies such as police, health, probation and the private and voluntary/community sectors.</p>
<p>Locality Boards</p> <p>12 Boards - one for each locality based upon District Council boundaries</p>	<p>Locality Boards can be seen as the locality equivalent of the Kent Forum.</p> <p>They will advise county and district councils on the public service priorities and service delivery for the Locality, improve local accountability to residents for public services and pilot place-based commissioning and other delivery models.</p> <p>Locality Boards could absorb, oversee or otherwise manage the work of existing locality partnerships including Community Safety Partnerships, Local Children’s Trust Boards, Health and Wellbeing Boards etc.</p>	<p>Core membership of each Locality Board will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Councillors with divisions in that Locality • An equivalent number of District Council Members to achieve parity. <p>This membership could be broadened to include representatives from relevant agencies, guided by local priorities. This could include representatives from health (including GP consortia representatives), police, fire, job centre plus, town and parish councillors, and representatives of the voluntary and community and business sectors.</p>