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OUR VISION FOR THE BOROUGH



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Our Vision



4.1 Providing a vision for the Local Plan and setting objectives for delivering the vision is a fundamental part of plan-making as it sets the framework upon which the policies and proposals detailed within the Plan are established.

4.2 Our draft vision for the Local Plan is provided overleaf and our objectives are provided in Figure 4.1.





Our Vision - A borough that works for everyone



Climate Change

4.3 By 2042 the borough will be more resilient to the impacts of climate change through high quality, efficient, well-located, low-carbon development. New developments will have taken a long-term view towards effective management of climate impacts, including flooding and hot weather, making use of nature-based solutions such as SUDS, green and blue infrastructure, design and materials including circular economy principles: to provide resilient, thriving, beautiful places to live, learn, work and play.



Local Character

4.4 The design of new and refurbished buildings will respect our diverse local character and heritage and will have become examples of high-quality design for West Kent. The widely rural nature of the borough, with its network of small towns and villages, will have been sustained with valued open spaces and landscapes enhanced, supporting local nature recovery and biodiversity net gain.



Homes for all

4.5 Sustainable communities will have been supported through focussing housing delivery on the borough's urban locations, whilst maintaining the viability of smaller settlements with appropriately sized growth. Housing delivery will be prioritised to ensure that previously developed land is utilised, whilst it is acknowledged that this alone will not provide sufficient land to meet identified housing and employment needs. The borough's residents will benefit from a more diverse housing supply to meet all types of need and affordability, together with the social, digital and physical infrastructure needed to support them. Existing accessibility and inequality challenges will have been addressed through the provision of new quality homes, appropriate infrastructure and facilities.



Our Economy

4.6 The vibrancy and attractiveness of Tonbridge town centre will have been enhanced as a destination and a place to enjoy for local people and visitors. New developments will have delivered the regeneration of the Angel Centre and adjacent sites, East of the High Street, with a new leisure, retail and employment offer, alongside new homes. Growth and investment opportunities in the logistics sector will have been supported, providing new employment opportunities for residents. This growth alongside the heritage offer and access to green spaces and the wider countryside, will be attracting new visitors to the borough. New employment opportunities will be extended across the borough at key sustainable locations.



Infrastructure Improvements

4.7 Transport and infrastructure improvements alongside initiatives to reduce the need to travel and the provision of active and sustainable travel choices will have enhanced community health and well-being and contributed towards reduced harmful emissions.

Figure 4.1: To deliver our vision, the Council has identified a number of objectives:

