

Vision 2026 Priorities

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Prosperous	<p>By 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Tunbridge Wells will be the best town centre in the South East to live, work and visit, supported by thriving centres of Paddock Wood, Southborough and Cranbrook • The borough more generally will have enhanced its natural and built assets while planning for and accomodating future growth • The borough will have capitalised on the new PFI hospital at Pembury by using it as a hub to boost the health-based economy of the wider area • The borough will have used its designation as a Regional Hub to increase investment in infrastructure, such as roads and public transport • We will have increased local employment opportunities for our residents • We will ensure that people have access to training and educational opportunities to improve their skills whilst seeking employment or to aid their employment. In particular we will work with partners to develop the learning environment and prepare a flexible workforce for future opportunities.
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tunbridge Wells will remain a beautiful place to live, work and relax • We will have transformed the vacant, derelict and run-down sites that currently spoil some of the town centres • The historic built environment that provides a powerful sense of identity will be maintained in good order and enhanced through high quality redevelopment of existing poorly built assets, set within an immaculate and distinctive public domain • The superb countryside in the borough should conform to the highest standards of sustainable resource conservation to minimise energy use, carbon footprint, fuel poverty and water consumption • The borough will have locally derived renewable energy sources to reduce CO₂ emissions including biomass, ground and air sources energy, together with wind and solar sources where compatible with other environmental considerations • The citizens of the borough will continue to enjoy easy access to open space for recreation, including parks and play areas and the countryside • The need to travel to work within and outside the borough will be reduced by increased opportunities to work from home, and encouragement of green travel plans amongst business and public sector employers • The quantity of waste generated by citizens of the borough will significantly decline supported by less packaging, and more recycling and composting activity
Healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents of areas of the borough that currently experience poor health will have improved to the level of the best today. Health for the population as a whole will substantially exceed national, regional and county averages • The community will be active with very high levels of participation in physical and cultural activities • The housing market in the borough will provide a range of high quality homes meeting the housing needs of all residents with a range of tenures including affordable homes which provide real housing options for local people • The housing conditions of the borough's most vulnerable residents will have significantly improved through targeted support • Residents will enjoy improved home energy efficiency, which will positively benefit both them (through reduced fuel costs and improved living conditions) and the environment through reduced carbon emissions • Our older population will be active and there will be increased opportunities to take part in recreational and physical activities
Confident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The borough will continue to have some of the lowest levels of crime in the South East and, as a result, communities will feel safe • Young people will have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities and be able to influence decision-making • A thriving community pride culture will have developed with high levels of volunteering and public involvement • Tunbridge Wells will be a cohesive borough – a place borough where people with different backgrounds, faiths and beliefs and where different generations will get on well together • The borough will be a place of opportunity – with high levels of educational attainment and skills, ease of access to a range of good quality employment and opportunities for independent living • Families and in particular young people will be supported to achieve their full potential