

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

19 November 2012

Report of the Director of Finance

Part 1- Public

Executive Non Key Decisions

1 IMPROVING LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY – CONSULTATION

A report advising Members of the latest consultation paper from CLG and seeking delegated authority to respond to the consultation in liaison with the Leader and the Cabinet Members for Finance and Innovation & Service Delivery.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 We have received, within the last week, a consultation paper from the Department for Communities and Local Government entitled “Improving Local Government Transparency”. A copy is attached at **[Annex 1]**.

1.1.2 The paper covers a number of issues including adding to the transparency data streams for:

- Parking Charges
- Councillor Allowances –(note that allowances and expenses are already covered by the current arrangement; this is for any other payments)
- Trade Union Facility Time
- Spending on Corporate credit cards

1.1.3 The paper also sets out detailed questions in respect of information to be shown about land and assets.

1.1.4 The consultation deadline is 20 December and a number of officers will need to be involved in the preparation of a response.

1.1.5 In view of the tight timescales involved, I suggest that a response is delegated to me in liaison with the Leader and the Cabinet Members for Finance and Innovation & Service Delivery.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 The Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency sets out key principles in creating greater transparency through the publication of public data.
- 1.2.2 The Code does not place or supersede the existing legal framework for access to public sector information.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 The recommendation in this paper carries no financial implications. However it is worth noting that the maintenance of the transparency data on the website does carry a cost through the use of existing staff resources.

1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 None.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.6 Policy Considerations

- 1.6.1 Customer Contact; Communications

1.7 Recommendations

- 1.7.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that delegated authority be given to the Director of Finance to respond to this consultation in liaison with the Leader and the Cabinet Members for Finance and Innovation & Service Delivery.

Background papers:

contact: Sharon Shelton

Nil

Sharon Shelton
Director of Finance

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against	No	This is a response to a consultation paper only.

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
different groups in the community?		
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	N/A	
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.