

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

5 February 2013

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Executive Non Key Decisions

1 THE REFORM OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND SUPPORT – SHOW US YOU CARE CAMPAIGN

To set out the key elements of the Campaign recently launched by the Local Government Association regarding proposals set out in the draft Care and Support Bill and the need to address the future funding implications for Local Government.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Local Government Association has recently launched a campaign to lobby Government over the impact of future social care funding and the impact it could have on the provision of other, important public services. The Show Us You Care Campaign is seeking greater recognition by the Government of the escalating costs of social care given that the national population aged 75+ is projected to increase by 64% by 2030. In the absence of increased Government funding support for local Councils to meet the future and growing demand for social care services, the ability of Local Government to fund other important local services such as education, transport and waste collection, will be severely impaired. Effectively, the increased costs of social care over the next 20 years could subsume the majority of public funding currently available to Local Government leaving little available for other local services.

1.1.2 The campaign is being led by the Leaders of Kent, Hampshire, and Buckinghamshire County Councils.

1.2 The Draft Care and Support Bill

1.2.1 The funding issues now of concern to the LGA are part of a wider reform of the social care system. The Draft Care and Support Bill, supported by the White Paper - Caring for the Future: Reforming care and support and a statement on social care funding reform (the Government response to the Dilnot Report) set out a number of proposals to change the way adult social care is operated and funded:

- A greater focus on prevention and early intervention
- Greater clarity about entitlements and improving access to information
- Simplification of the care and support system particularly with regard to eligibility
- Creating greater choice and the individual's control over budgets and personal care plans.

1.2.2 The Government has also stated its support for the recommendations made by the Dilnot Commission regarding the future funding of social care services including giving individuals financial protection by setting a 'cap' on how much an individual should be required to contribute to his or her social care costs. The Government has recently decided that this cap should be set at £75,000, contrary to the Dilnot recommendation that £35,000 cap was appropriate.

1.2.3 The Local Government Association supports the principles underlying the White Paper and Draft Bill, but its main concern remains the lack of any Government commitment to the development of a new funding model for social care. The Government has deferred any decision on this matter until the next Spending Review. It is on this point that local Council's are being ask to support the campaign of the LGA to help persuade Government to address this key future funding issue prior to that wider funding review.

1.3 The Campaign

1.3.1 Full details of the campaign are set out on the LGA paper attached as Annex 1 to this report. It is suggested that local Councils contribute to the campaign by issuing a formal statement of support and lobbying their local MPs on the funding issues. Given that the likely impact of increased social care costs will impact on all local Councils' not just those with social service responsibilities, it is suggested that the Borough Council expresses support for the LGA campaign and that our local MPs are made aware of this position.

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 None

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 As set out above.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 N/A

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

1.7.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.8 Recommendations

1.8.1 That the Borough Council expresses its formal **SUPPORT** for the Local Government Association's 'Show Us You Care Campaign' and that our local MPs **BE INFORMED** of this position.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive (Designate)

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 different groups in the community?	No	The campaign is seeking greater recognition of the future costs of social care services to ensure these needs can be fully met.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	Yes	As above
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.