

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES ADVISORY BOARD

26 July 2011

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

To update the board on the switchover to digital TV and the implications for local residents

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Tonbridge and Malling falls within the Meridian TV region which will switch from analogue to digital TV at different times in 2012, beginning on 8 February 2012. Currently television signals can be received via an aerial, satellite, cable or broadband connection. Switchover will affect any TV that receives its signal from an aerial. Before switchover, local relay transmitters are only able to transmit an analogue TV signal. After switchover, for the first time, all transmitters including local relay transmitters will transmit a digital signal and increase the number of channels available from around 5 to around 15 and if you are watching a main transmitter you will receive more than 40 channels.

1.1.2 A representative of Digital UK will be attending the meeting to give a short presentation and to show a DVD about the switch over.

1.2 The role of the Borough Council

1.2.1 As part of the DigitalUK help scheme campaign a checklist for local government has been produced and is attached as Annex 1 to this report. Whilst some of the actions are aimed at upper tier authorities or those with their own housing stock, there are still some useful suggestions that may help residents. Whilst principally a matter for Digital UK, Local Councils can also help in raising awareness of switchover, its benefits and implications and making sure partners have access to information and support.

1.2.2 Switchover Help Scheme information can be provided to residents via the Here and Now magazine, Parish Partnership Panel and Tonbridge Forum. In addition to this, links to information can be set up on our website and information can be made available at our Kings Hill reception and Tonbridge Gateway.

- 1.2.3 The switch over is most likely to affect older residents in the Borough. It is suggested that the Tonbridge and Malling Seniors' Forum (TAMS) be invited to consider how it could assist in raising awareness of the planned changes.
- 1.2.4 There have been reports of switchover rogue traders, where older customers have been sold "new improved" aerials, when in fact their existing aerial was adequate or better than the new replacement. It is suggested that this matter be referred to the Community Safety Partnership and Trading Standards to work in partnership to ensure that members of the public are not victims of such fraud.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 As above with regard to rogue traders.

Background papers:

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Nil

David Hughes
Chief executive