

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

27 June 2005

Report of the Director of Planning & Transportation

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Council

1 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL ESTABLISHMENT PROPOSALS – PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT

Summary

This report follows consideration by the Planning & Transportation Advisory Board of the latest round of Planning Delivery Grant allocation and puts forward establishment proposals to strengthen key areas of service delivery in Development Control and enforcement.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Members will be aware that at the Planning & Transportation Advisory Board meeting of 23 May, I reported on our success in securing an increased amount of Planning Delivery Grant for 2005/06. I also indicated how it is proposed to utilise the funds to maintain and enhance our performance both in terms of speed and in the quality of decision-making in development control and also to support other corporate projects that are allied to the planning system.

1.1.2 A copy of that report is attached as **Annex 1**.

1.1.3 One of the key areas of expenditure is aimed at staff resources in order to sustain performance in mainstream development control and specifically to provide much needed management capacity to direct the day-to-day enforcement service. Members will see the establishment of three new permanent posts is proposed:

- An Enforcement Manager (M8)
- A Senior Development Control Planner (M9)
- A Scanning Clerk (Scale 1/2)

1.1.4 The Enforcement Manager and the Senior Planner posts are proposed to be funded from PDG for an initial three years. It is anticipated that there will be further tranches of possible funding from subsequent years of PDG. As a result

there will be some years before the full (or indeed part) cost of these posts would fall on base budget establishment costs.

- 1.1.5 The post of Scanning Clerk would be an increase in the establishment but is fully funded within the current budget for Development Control which carries funds to allow for scanning planning applications to the Website. In practice this will be a 1FT equivalent provision within the overall provision of clerical and technical support staffing in Development Control.
- 1.1.6 The Planning & Transportation Board endorsed the recommendations and Cabinet will consider these decisions on 22 June.

1.2 Recommendation

- 1.2.1 The posts of Enforcement Manager, Senior Development Control Planner and Scanning Clerk as described in recommendations of the Planning & Transport Board of 23 May **BE ESTABLISHED**.

Background papers:

contact: Steve Humphrey

Nil

File ref: B18

Steve Humphrey
Director of Planning & Transportation