

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

26 September 2006

Report of the Chairman of Policy and Best Value Committee

Part 1- Public

Matters For Decision

1 POLICY AND BEST VALUE COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT

To report on the activities of the Policy and Best Value Committee over the past year.

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution requires an annual report to be submitted on the activities of the Policy and Best Value Committee over the past year.
- 1.2 During the year, 5 meetings of the Committee have been held. Over that period, the Committee has dealt with a wide range of policy issues and has assisted the Cabinet with the development of new and revised strategies and plans. The Committee has given detailed consideration to 19 documents prior to their formal adoption by Cabinet and has dealt with the final reports from 2 Best Value Reviews.
- 1.3 With regard to Council strategies and plans, the committee has assisted the Cabinet by giving prior to consideration of these documents for capital and revenue expenditure, race equality, playing pitches, human resources, customer services, disability equality and anti-fraud policies.
- 1.4 In addition, the Committee has assessed the borough's second Community Strategy, reviewed the Council's improvement priorities and the annual Corporate Performance Plan. Members also considered draft versions of the three Development Plan documents that comprised the first tranche of the Local Development Framework prior to their adoption and presentation to the Secretary of State.
- 1.5 With regard to Best Value, a report on Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefit was reviewed by the Committee. The review addressed important themes and provided the foundations of an even more efficient and effective service with a focus on the customer. Later in the year, the Committee considered the Crime and Disorder Best Value Review which encompassed a wide range of issues including drug and alcohol abuse, young people, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, hotspots, the fear of crime, violent crime and mainstreaming.

1.6 **RECOMMENDATION**

1.7 That the above report BE NOTED

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

David Hughes
Chief Executive