

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

20 September 2010

Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters For Information

1 A21 TONBRIDGE TO PEMBURY DUALLING SCHEME

1.1 Correspondence with the Secretary of State

1.1.1 At the last meeting of the Board in June, it had just become public knowledge that the Public Inquiry into the proposed scheme to dual the Tonbridge to Pembury stretch of the A21 had been postponed.

1.1.2 The Board, through the Borough Council Cabinet requested that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the JTB write to the Secretary of State about the impact of the delay that this would cause. The minute reads:

- *The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Joint Transportation Board write to the Secretary of State to reinforce the view of the Board that the completion of the scheme is a critical strategic and local priority, particularly with regard to providing proper access to the new regional hospital, and that the Public Inquiry should proceed at the earliest possible date*

1.1.3 The letter and reply from the Department for Transport is attached at **Annex 1**. Clearly, the justification for the project will have to be restated forcefully once the results of the Comprehensive Spending Review are known at the end of October to ensure that the delay in holding the Inquiry does not translate into a slide in the construction programme from the anticipated start in early in 2012.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 None applicable.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 None for the Borough or County Council.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 Not applicable

Background papers:

contact: Mike McCulloch

Nil

Steve Humphrey
Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure