

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**24 September 2012**

**Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters For Information**

**1 BOROUGH TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

**Summary**

**This report brings together a range of currently important transportation matters in the Borough.**

**1.1 Rail**

1.1.1 At the time of going to print we are finalising our response to the Department for Transport's consultation with stakeholders on the new South Eastern Rail Franchise, which is due to begin in April 2014. The response will build upon the Rail 'manifesto' sent to the Department of Transport in advance. We have liaised with adjacent authorities and the Tonbridge Line Commuters to share concerns/ ideas and to ensure we provide a comprehensive response.

1.1.2 TMBC's response will be reported to the Planning and Transportation Advisory Board in November.

**1.2 West Malling Station Forecourt Remodelling Scheme**

1.2.1 Following the Board's endorsement of the preferred Concept Design option for West Malling Station Forecourt in March, the Detailed Design stage has progressed on schedule with an expected completion date of October. It is anticipated that the final design will be presented to the JTB and other key stakeholders in December. The scheme will then be handed over to Southeastern to procure a Design and Build Contractor, with on-site construction scheduled to commence during late spring/early summer 2013.

**1.3 Access to Pembury Hospital**

1.3.1 When Pembury Hospital was granted planning permission a planning condition was attached that sought the provision of bus services for 5 years. The NHS Trust now consider that this condition is unreasonable in economic viability terms as the bus services to the more remote areas (such as Borough Green, West Malling and Hadlow) could not be provided with considerable ongoing subsidy. An application to remove this condition and replace it with a Section 106 legal

agreement to support some bus services and the voluntary transport sector was considered at a Tunbridge Wells BC Joint Eastern and Western Planning Committee on the 3rd September. At the meeting Tunbridge Wells Members resolved to grant planning permission to remove the condition and replace it with a legal agreement. We have sought clarification from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council as to the actual terms of the agreement; there is an allocated amount of £2.1 million over a three year period but it still not been resolved as to how much of this fund the voluntary transport sector would get. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has advised us that they are still in negotiations as to the final amounts for each sector.

#### **1.4 Tonbridge Transport Strategy**

1.4.1 This is discussed in detail elsewhere in these papers.

#### **1.5 A21 Dualling**

1.5.1 In May, the Roads Minister Mike Penning announced that funding would be provided to develop the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling scheme, to ensure a stream of future Highways Agency major infrastructure improvements will be maintained, contributing to future economic growth, and supporting Government's National Infrastructure Plan. By developing the scheme now, it will be in a good position to be considered for delivery in the early years of the next spending review period (post 2015).

1.5.2 It is important to note that by advancing this scheme through its development phase does not guarantee its construction; this decision will be taken at the next spending review.

1.5.3 Following this we learnt that the public inquiry required to facilitate the Dualling Scheme will be postponed until after the outcome of the Government Spending Review is known in the autumn. **Refer to Annex 1.**

#### **1.6 Parking Matters**

1.6.1 This is discussed in detail elsewhere in these papers.

#### **1.7 Legal Implications**

1.7.1 None.

#### **1.8 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.8.1 None directly for the Borough Council.

#### **1.9 Risk Assessment**

1.9.1 Not required.

Background papers:

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Nil

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