

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 January 2013

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 SCRUTINY REVIEWS – UPDATE

To provide an update on the reviews currently being undertaken by the Committee.

1.1 The Reviews

1.1.1 As Members will be aware, it was decided at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 September 2012 that two review groups would be established to progress reviews of parking enforcement and value for money matters. The intention was to report recommendations from the two review groups to this meeting. In the event, both groups decided that further work was needed to investigate some issues in greater depth. This means that recommendations from the review groups will now be reported to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th June 2013.

1.2 Review of Parking Enforcement

1.2.1 The review group met on 13th December 2012 to consider an initial report from the Director of Planning, Transportation and Leisure. A wide range of issues related to the parking service were discussed. The review group indicated that further information was required on the overall costs of the parking service and, in particular, the costs associated with the on-street car parking service as this was found to be making a financial loss. It was therefore agreed that a further meeting of the review group would be held to consider that additional information and to explore how those losses might best be minimised.

1.3 Review of Value for Money Issues

1.3.1 The review group gave consideration to two specific value for money issues: the printing of external documents and adopted council mileage rates. The review group felt that any review of mileage rates would best be deferred pending the outcome of Joint National Council negotiations on this matter. For matters such as mileage rates, the Borough Council's contracts of employment continued to be linked to NJC agreed terms and conditions. Any future revision to this approach

would be a matter for General Purposes Committee to consider in consultation with Unison and the Joint Employees Consultative Committee (JECC).

- 1.3.2 The review group also investigated the benefits and costs associated with externally printed documents and focused on Here and Now and the Council's Leisure Guide. The review group felt there was scope to review both publications with a view to seeking to reduce the costs of their production and to make information more up to date and available to a wider audience. It was suggested that more innovative forms of communication could be explored, including news 'apps' for smart phones, council inserts in other publications, such as the Downs Mail, and more information being made available in community outlets including the community news boards operated by some local supermarkets. A further meeting of the review group will be arranged to discuss the issue further and to investigate some costed options for change.

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Background papers:

Nil

David Hughes
Chief Executive