

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

6 March 2008

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non Key Decision

1 PARISH CHARTER

To recommend adoption of a revised Parish Charter for Tonbridge and Malling

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The existing Parish Charter was drawn up in February 1998 and was entitled 'Securing Effective Borough/Parish Relationships in Tonbridge and Malling'. At the request of the Tonbridge and Malling Area Committee of the Kent Association of Local Councils, the Council was invited to update this document and bring forward a new version for adoption. A new draft was produced, based on an analysis of current best practice from within the county and beyond, and this was the subject of informal consultation with the Area Committee. A number of comments and suggested revisions were made to the initial draft and these revisions now form the basis of the revised charter presented to the Panel for adoption.

1.2 The Revised Charter

1.2.1 As can be seen from the draft appended as Annex 1 to this report, the Charter seeks to build on the existing 1998 version by setting out how effective working between the Borough Council and local parish and town councils will be achieved. It covers a number of joint undertakings in respect of consultation, service standards, local planning and development control, liaison arrangements, functions and resources and community planning. It is envisaged that the Charter, once adopted, will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it reflects best practice and addresses any new issues which might arise where a formal statement on joint working between the Borough and local councils is justified.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 The Parish Charter is not a legal document but represents an informal agreement between the Borough Council and local town and parish councils on joint working.

The Charter enables its signatories to be held to account should its provisions not be adhered to on either side.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 Addressed, where relevant within the draft Charter.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 None

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 That the revised Parish Charter, as set out at Annex 1 to this report, **BE ADOPTED.**

Background papers:

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Nil

David Hughes
Chief Executive