

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

25 February 2008

**Report of the Director of Planning Transport and Leisure
and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation**

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 TONBRIDGE – REDHILL SERVICES: CONSULTATION

Summary

An officer level response has been sent to a consultation on service changes on the Tonbridge to Redhill line being carried out by Southern. The Board is invited to consider the response and suggest any further comment it might wish to add.

1.1 The Consultation

1.1.1 Southern is considering the Brighton Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy and changes to be introduced from December 2008. The part of the Strategy most pertinent for this Borough concerns the Tonbridge – Redhill proposals, as described at **Annex 1**.

1.1.2 Overall the proposals represent a considerable worsening in the quality of the off-peak service and an officer level response deploring this was dispatched to Southern by the due date of 31 January [see **Annex 2**]. We reserved the right clearly in that response to follow up with any comments that Members of this Board might wish to add. This matter has only come to our attention via our good liaison with the Tonbridge Line Committee group and rather surprisingly, to say the least, none of the local authorities have been consulted.

1.1.3 Copies of the letter which highlights the key concerns for people of our Borough have been circulated to neighbouring Councils and to SEERA, given the extent to which the proposals appear to fly in the face of regional transportation policy.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 None.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 None.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 The risk of such proposals going ahead would be a serious diminution of rail services effecting business and convenience travelling from the Borough.

Background papers:

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Nil

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