



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

15 December 2010

County Councillor Nick Chard
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste
Kent County Council
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

**Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's Response to the
Kent County Council's Draft Consultation Version of the Local Transport
Plan for Kent 2011-2016**

I attach a copy of the letter of December 8 that I received from the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's Chief Executive, Mr David Hughes, together with a copy of the Borough Council's response to the above draft Local Transport Plan as set out in the letter of November 25 from the Borough Council's Chief Engineer, Mr Mike McCulloch, to the Transport Policy Team at the County Council which has been approved by the elected Members of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

I have read the Borough Council's response in full and have noted, and entirely support, the Borough Council's constructive, but withering, critique of the fundamentally flawed methodology and the resultant flawed policy conclusions underpinning the Kent County Council's draft Local Transport Plan. I trust you will read the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's response in full yourself and would draw your attention in particular to what is said in:

- 1) Paragraph 1.3.9 where it is stated that the Kent County Council has

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completely ignored the Government's Guidance on Local Transport Plans requiring "highway authorities to work closely with district councils to coordinate and align the district produced Local Development Frameworks and the county council produced Local Transport Plans".

- 2) Paragraph 1.4.2 about only 4 Kent districts, one of which is Tonbridge and Malling, having an adopted Core Strategy in place whilst 8 have not and that it is neither reasoned nor fair to distribute transport funding based on what may be only theoretical development figures for the next 5 years for those districts that do not have an adopted Core Strategy in place.
- 3) Paragraph 1.4.4 onwards about the need to base LTP provision on actual development that has been achieved, or is definitely scheduled to proceed, within the 2011-2016 LTP period.

For all these reasons I strongly support the view of the Members of the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council that it is incorrect and unreasonable for the Kent County Council to be concentrating LTP funds only on the Kent Growth Areas and Growth Points.

I also entirely share the dismay and concern of the Members of the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council that the draft Kent County Council Local Transport Plan fails to contain any reference to the Medway Gap, West Malling Station, the dualling of the A21 from Tonbridge to Pembury, the Borough Green and Platt bypass and the Tonbridge Central Area Action Plan. These omissions are extremely detrimental and unhelpful to the efforts of Kent MPs like myself, who have been dealing, and continue to deal, with Ministers on such schemes.

In the light of the above, I strongly support the conclusion of the Members of the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council that it is "essential that the draft document be fundamentally reviewed" as far as the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is concerned

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From: The Rt Hon. Sir John Stanley, M P



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I look forward to receiving your response to the above points.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Tracey Crouch MP whose constituency covers the eastern part of the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's area.