

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

12 March 2013

Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 CONSULTATION ON THE SPEED LIMIT FOR HGV'S OVER 7.5 TONNES

Summary

The Board is invited to consider a recent consultation by the Department for Transport on the Speed Limit for HGV's over 7.5 tonnes.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Shortly before the end of the year the Department for Transport (DfT) launched a consultation, with a deadline of 1st February 2013, examining the speed limit for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) over 7.5 tonnes on single carriageway roads. This was an opportunity for the Borough Council to comment on current speed limits for HGVs, particularly in our area.

1.1.2 Whilst it's important to improve the conditions for economic growth which seems to be the main reason underpinning the consultation proposals, lower speed limits are in place for HGVs for good reason. Their size and weight means these vehicles take longer to stop and if they do crash it's more likely to be on a catastrophic scale. The submitted response has given due consideration to these and other issues.

1.2 Response to the Consultation

1.2.1 I have attached in **Annex 1** the response sent to the DfT on behalf of the Borough Council. The Board is asked to endorse this response and is invited to add any further comments which will be forwarded to the DfT.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 None for the Borough Council.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 None directly for the Borough Council.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 Not required.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report.

1.7 Policy Considerations

1.7.1 Community

1.8 Recommendations

1.8.1 That the Cabinet be recommended **TO ENDORSE** the response to the DfT.

The Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Mike O'Brien

Nil

Steve Humphrey

Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The decisions sought are entirely neutral in terms of equality.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	N/A	See previous response
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.