

**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 A21 TONBRIDGE TO PEMBURY DUALLING**

**Summary**

**The Department for Transport has announced the resumption of the statutory planning process for this long awaited proposed scheme.**

**1.1 Background**

- 1.1.1 The Department for Transport, through the Highways Agency, has recently announced the resumption of the statutory planning process for this proposed scheme.
- 1.1.2 Due to the time since publication of the proposals in 2009 the Agency has published an updated Revised Environmental Statement, a copy of which we have just received.
- 1.1.3 This is very welcome news for all those campaigning to have the statutory process confirmed by Government as it provides another positive step forward towards the delivery of these much-needed improvements.
- 1.1.4 The public notice is reproduced in **Annex 1**.
- 1.1.5 The Borough Council is a statutory consultee and has the opportunity to comment on the detail of the proposals. Initial discussions have been had with colleagues at Kent County Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to ensure that we have a coordinated approach to any involvement in the public inquiry
- 1.1.6 It is important that my team engage with the officials from the Highways Agency and we have taken steps to do this. The actual matters for examination of the Public Inquiry will be technically based and for the most part will be for the Highways Agency to deal with as promoters of the scheme. However, it is important that support is given to the project, in principle and in detail, by others in order to assist the inspector. In order to do this I am seeking a mandate to make appropriate representations.

## 1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 None for the Borough Council.

## 1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 None for the Borough Council.

## 1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 Not required.

## 1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

## 1.6 Policy Considerations

1.6.1 Community

## 1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 That a mandate **BE GIVEN** to Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation, to make representations to the DfT on the A21 Dualling Public Inquiry and coordinate these as far as practicable with the County Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

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?	N/A	

<b>Screening for equality impacts:</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Explanation of impacts</b>
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	N/A	
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.*