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TONBRIDGE & MALLING
BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SERVICES

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8 October 2025

Dear Councillor

CABINET - TUESDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, 2025 – SUPPLEMENT (1)

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the Tuesday, 14th October, 2025 meeting of the Cabinet, the following recommendations that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No Item

5. **Annual Audit Report 2024/25 (Pages 3 - 4)**

Consideration of recommendations of the Audit Committee in respect of the Auditor's Annual Report.

6. **Risk Management (Pages 5 - 6)**

Recommendations of the Audit Committee in respect of Risk Management.

Yours sincerely

DAMIAN ROBERTS
Chief Executive

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ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

Item AU 25/41 referred from Audit Committee of 29 September 2025

The report of the Management Team introduced the Auditor's Annual Report (attached at Annex 1) prepared by Grant Thornton UK LLP in respect of the Borough Council's overall arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources. In introducing the report, a brief outline of the national context was provided.

Grant Thornton had not identified any significant weaknesses in the Council's arrangements to improve economy, efficiency and effectiveness. An improvement recommendation was made in respect of the response to the Internal Audit recommendation on the Agile Software implementation and the response of management was detailed in paragraph 5.5 of the report.

RECOMMENDED*: That

- (1) the Auditor's Annual Report (attached at Annex 1) for 2024/25 be approved;
- (2) the key recommendations made in respect of the comments made, be noted;
- (3) the management comments to the 2024/25 value for money recommendations be noted and endorsed; and
- (4) any specific recommendations be made to Cabinet and/or Full Council as the Committee feels appropriate considering the Annual Report.

***Recommended to Council**

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RISK MANAGEMENT

Item AU 25/43 referred from Audit Committee of 29 September 2025

The report of Management Team provided an update on the risk management process and the Strategic Risk Register (SRR). An update in respect of the work being undertaken within the Council to champion risk management was also provided.

In July 2025, there were 3 risks categorised as RED as summarised below and these remained RED.

- Achievement of Savings and Transformation Strategy
- Failure to agree a Local Plan
- Managed exit from the Agile System

Reference was made to the risk in respect of 'Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation', which remained as AMBER at this stage, although it was recognised that the ongoing risk assessment would be informed by the work underway regarding the submissions from the Kent authorities with the assistance of an appointed strategic partner.

A schedule of ongoing risks and risks identified by Service Management Teams and Management Team since the last report to the Committee in July 2025 was attached at Annex 2 to the report.

As part of the arrangements in place to ensure risk management maintained a high profile within the Council, the Risk Management Strategy (attached at Annex 3) and accompanying guidance (attached at Annex 4) were subject to annual review. Following changes to the guidance and consideration by the Risk Champions Group, a new format of the risk matrix was proposed and attached at Annex 5, and if approved by Council would be used for reporting from January 2026.

During discussion, Members challenged the AMBER risk rating for 'Carbon Neutral 2030 Aspiration' despite various works having been carried out and the success of grant applications, however it was likely that the risk would remain AMBER due to a reduction in future grant funding.

RECOMMENDED*: That

- (1) the updates to the Strategy Risk Register since the last iteration with particular emphasis on those risks categorised as RED as shown in Annexes 1 and 1a, be noted;
- (2) the service risks identified in Annex 2, be noted; and
- (3) the Risk Management Strategy and accompanying Risk Management Guidance, subject to any amendments required, be reviewed and adopted by Full Council.

***Recommended to Cabinet**

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