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TONBRIDGE & MALLING
BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SERVICES

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22 October 2025

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 28TH OCTOBER, 2025

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the Tuesday, 28th October, 2025 meeting of the Council, the following recommendations of Cabinet that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No Item

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

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

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

Recommendations of Cabinet in respect of Risk Management.

Yours sincerely

DAMIAN ROBERTS
Chief Executive

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ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT 2024/25

Item CB 25/109 referred from Cabinet of 14 October 2025

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Audit Committee in respect of the Borough Council's overall arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources as set out in the Annual Auditors report prepared by Grant Thornton UK LLP.

Due regard was given to the views of the Committee and Cabinet was pleased to note that the external auditors had not identified any significant weaknesses in the Borough Council's arrangements, although a small number of improvement actions had been recommended.

On the grounds that the external auditor was satisfied that the Borough Council had made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, Cabinet

***RECOMMENDED:** That

- (1) the Auditor's Annual report (Annex 1) be recommended to Council for approval;
- (2) the key recommendations made in respect of the comments made be noted; and
- (3) the management comments to the 2024/25 value for money recommendations be noted and endorsed.

***Recommended to Council**

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RISK MANAGEMENT

Item CB 25/110 referred from Cabinet of 14 October 2025

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Audit Committee in respect of the risk management process and the Strategic Risk Register.

Due regard was given to the views of the Committee and Cabinet welcomed the work being undertaken within the Borough Council to champion risk management.

Attention was drawn to the 3 areas of risk categorised as RED as summarised below:

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

On the grounds that the identification, evaluation and cost-effective control of risks was essential in safeguarding the Borough Council's assets, employees, customers and the delivery of services to the local community, Cabinet

***RECOMMENDED:** That

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

***Recommended to Council**

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