

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL



EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Chief Executive

Julie Beilby BSc (Hons) MBA

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NB - This agenda contains proposals, recommendations and options. These do not represent Council policy or decisions until they have received proper consideration through the full decision making process.

Contact: Committee Services
committee.services@tmbc.gov.uk

30 January 2019

To: MEMBERS OF THE PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL
(Copies to all Members of the Council)

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel to be held in the Civic Suite, Gibson Building, Kings Hill, West Malling on Thursday, 7th February, 2019 commencing at 7.30 pm

Yours faithfully

JULIE BEILBY

Chief Executive

A G E N D A

Part 1 - Public

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes

5 - 6

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel held on 15 November 2018

3. Update on action identified in the last Minutes
4. Local Elections - Guidance for Parish and Town Councils
5. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
6. Preparations for Brexit

7 - 12

The Head of Kent County Council Resilience and Emergency Planning and Kent Resilience Forum Brexit Co-ordinator (Fiona Gaffney) will be present to update on current preparations.

The following document(s) are attached for information:

- *Report of Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 22 January*

7. Kent Police Services Update

Representatives of Kent Police to be present to address crime prevention issues, including those raised by the Panel.

8. Kent County Council Services Update
9. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Services Update

To include updates on:

- *Waste Services Contract*
- *Public Conveniences Review and Consultation*
- *Submission of Local Plan*

DISTRIBUTION

Borough Council Representatives

Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman)
Cllr M A Coffin (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Mrs J A Anderson
Cllr Mrs S M Barker
Cllr R P Betts
Cllr T I B Cannon
Cllr R W Dalton
Cllr D Lettington
Cllr B J Luker
Cllr D Markham
Cllr R V Roud
Cllr T B Shaw
Cllr B W Walker

Parish and Town Council Representatives

Addington
Aylesford
Birling
Borough Green
Burham
Ditton
East Malling and Larkfield
East Peckham
Hadlow
Hildenborough
Ightham
Kings Hill
Leybourne
Mereworth
Offham
Platt
Plaxtol
Ryarsh
Shipbourne
Snodland
Stansted
Trottscliffe
Wateringbury
West Malling
West Peckham
Wouldham
Wrotham

County Councillors

Trudy Dean, Malling Central
Matthew Balfour, Malling Rural East
Sarah Hohler, Malling North
Peter Homewood, Malling Rural North East
Harry Rayner, Malling West

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TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

Thursday, 15th November, 2018

Present: Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman), Cllr M A Coffin (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs J A Anderson, Cllr R P Betts, Cllr B J Luker and Cllr T B Shaw.

Together with representatives of Addington, Aylesford, Birling, Borough Green, Burham, East Malling and Larkfield, Hadlow, Ightham, Platt, Plaxtol, Shipbourne, Trottiscliffe and Wouldham Parish Councils and County Councillor Mrs S Hohler.

Councillor H S Rogers was also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs S M Barker, T I B Cannon, R W Dalton, D Lettington and R V Roud and from Ditton and Watringbury Parish Councils.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

PPP 18/22 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PPP 18/23 UPDATE ON ACTION IDENTIFIED IN THE LAST MINUTES

There were no items identified in the last Minutes which required an update.

PPP 18/24 POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW

The Elections Manager, Daune Ashdown, gave a brief update on the Polling District Review which had commenced on 1 October and would end on 21 December 2018. She advised that details of the review had been circulated to all the Parish/Town Clerks and asked that any responses and comments be submitted as soon as possible.

PPP 18/25 NEW WASTE CONTRACT

The Waste Contract Officer, Alison Sollis, advised that the Waste Services Contract had been awarded to Urbaser Ltd and that it would come into effect from 1 March 2019, with the collection service starting on 30 September 2019. Particular reference was made to the new weekly food waste collections, new fortnightly mixed recycling

collections, the 'opt in' fortnightly garden waste collections and the additional collections for batteries, textiles and waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). Details of the communications/publicity campaign for the new contract were provided and the assistance of the parish/town councils sought to publicise this as widely as possible across the Borough. It was noted that a copy of the presentation would be attached to the Minutes.

PPP 18/26 UPDATE ON M20 SMART MOTORWAY WORKS

Ms P Black (Stakeholder Manager, Kent Highways), Mr K Kampanila (Project Manager, Highways England), Mr G Woods (Project Manager, Jacobs) and Mr S Mack (Project Director, Kier) provided a joint presentation on the M20 Smart Motorway works. It was noted that a copy of the presentation would be attached to the Minutes.

PPP 18/27 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS

A detailed response to the questions raised by the Kent Association of Local Councils regarding Air Quality Management Areas had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that a copy of the response would be attached to the Minutes.

PPP 18/28 KENT POLICE SERVICES UPDATE

In the absence of a representative of Kent Police the report of Inspector Kerry Rothwell, circulated at the meeting, was noted. It was also noted that a copy of the report would be attached to the Minutes.

PPP 18/29 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

In the absence of the Kent County Council Community Liaison Officer, County Councillor Mrs Sarah Hohler provided updates on a number of County initiatives and consultations.

PPP 18/30 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

The Chairman, in his role as Leader of the Council, presented an update on the review of provision of public conveniences, the condition of Wouldham River Wall, future management of Leybourne Lakes Country Park, Christmas Bin Collections and the approach adopted in respect of road closures for events.

The meeting ended at 9.26 pm

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22 January 2019

Report of the Management Team

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet – Council Decision

1 BREXIT PREPAREDNESS

To set out a range of initiatives to ensure the Borough Council is prepared to maintain business continuity in the light of possible disruption related to Brexit issues.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 This report focuses on the need for the Council to be prepared for any disruption to our services related to Brexit and sets out a number of proposed actions to deal with such issues. Government has indicated that six months of disruption might occur following Brexit and that all relevant agencies should be planning for that eventuality.

1.1.2 The key concern for Tonbridge and Malling will be the likely major traffic congestion affecting the M20/A20/M26 corridor and surrounding roads should there be severe delays at Kent ports. Plans are in place (Operation Fennel) to deal with this scenario but the success of such plans have yet to be fully tested. We therefore need to plan for such problems which could have a major impact on staff travel to and from work and other key road-related Council services such as waste collection.

1.2 The Kent Resilience Forum

1.2.1 The Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) is made up of representatives from the 'blue light services' and other agencies including Local Authorities, the NHS, KCC and the EA are all defined as category 1 responders in the Civil Contingencies Act.

1.2.2 The KRF has been responsible for the management and production of all current draft Brexit related plans (Operation Fennel). As a Borough we have been engaged in the shaping of these plans through Kent wide strategic and tactical meetings that have been held on a monthly basis.

- 1.2.3 The KRF have established a number of Brexit focused co-ordination groups and sub groups. These groups are focussed on work streams on; traffic management, community resilience, environment and waste, health and social care, business continuity, business resilience, command and control, media and communication and finance and data.
- 1.2.4 The KRF has recently produced a 'Partner Pack' relating to a no-deal scenario and which includes a detailed checklist to help agencies prepare for potential adverse impacts and risks to business continuity. We will be using this checklist to ensure that all possible adverse issues which might arise are addressed.

1.3 Proposed Actions

- 1.3.1 We believe the following matters will need to be addressed:

(a) The need for remote working for staff

We are planning for prospect of most staff to be given full remote access to relevant Council IT systems to enable them to work from home when needed. We have made a bid to the Brexit Contingency Fund (managed by Kent County Council) for funding to purchase a further 100 laptops for officer use along with appropriate licences and funding to assist with the resourcing of this hardware.

(b) Waste Collection Services

Due to likely traffic congestion to the north of the Borough, waste collection services might be disrupted with an impact on service delivery. It is also foreseeable that there may also be difficulties with access to KCC waste transfer stations which could further exacerbate the disposal of household waste. Discussions with the Council's new contractor are being progressed with a view to mitigating any major disruption to the service.

(c) Leisure Facilities

The Council has a management agreement with the Leisure Trust to manage the main leisure facilities. Significant disruption to the road network particularly in the north of the Borough could impact on usage of Larkfield Leisure Centre. Income generation could therefore be affected and could impact the ability of the Trust to meet their financial targets.

(d) Other Council Key Services

Grounds Maintenance – possible delays to some cutting services but not considered critical.

Street Cleansing – given the potential traffic congestion, street cleansing may well be interrupted or deferred to tackle 'hot spot locations'

Tonbridge Cemetery – low number of burials, not considered critical.

Environmental Health - Food officers may need to be involved with imported food issues if a trade deal is not secured. There has been some speculation that officers may be needed at Dover Port to assist, although this is just speculation at this stage. The Food Standards Agency are launching more imported food training for officers early this year so depending on what's agreed we could, as an inland authority be asked to take on more duties. Borough wise, officers could be asked to condemn consignments of food that need to be destroyed, if goods have been held up and are out of temperature control when they arrive in the borough.

(e) Council Meetings

There may be difficulties for Members and key staff to attend council meetings due to congestion. There are a range of possible options:

- Cancel meetings at short notice: need to ensure alerts are provided
- Absence of Quorum on the night of the meeting – adjourn meeting or use emergency arrangements (see below)
- Relocate meetings to other, more accessible premises or having daytime meetings at times of least traffic congestion
- Invoke urgency provisions to allow decisions to be taken and reported subsequently. It is suggested as a contingency that the Council amends the Constitution as soon as possible to deal with decision making 'during a period of serious and/or unexpected disruption'
- Reduce the number of meetings to the minimum required for the exercise of Council business.

(f) Elections

It is possible that there could be disruption to the Local Government elections scheduled for the 2nd May. If the UK voted to stay within the EU, further elections would also take place on 23 May 2019. To counter any disruption, we will be preparing election paperwork in house rather than externally, and we will be assessing where polling station staff and others supporting the elections reside to seek to ensure they attend polling stations near to where they live. We will also consult with neighbouring districts to share staff on a mutual basis where, for example, staff living in the Borough but working at other districts could undertake roles for TMBC and vice-versa. We will also seek to further promote the take up of postal voting to seek to reduce the numbers of voters attending stations.

(g) Communications and Call Handling

Our Media Team are already attending OP Fennel meetings linked to the Kent Resilience Forum. Following the Brexit decision, we anticipate a significant increase in calls/enquiries from residents and local businesses on a wide range of issues particularly if high levels of traffic congestion arise locally. We will seek

to ensure that resources from each of the Council's service teams are in place to deal with this increase, working remotely as and when required. We will monitor the level of calls to our switchboard and visits to our offices at Kings Hill and Tonbridge and will seek to ensure sufficient staff resources are available to deal with those needing help and support. We will also issue regular updates to all Members regarding any issues that arise over the next 6 months period.

(h) Key Additional Resources

In addition to the funding bid relating to the purchase of additional laptops, we believe it to be prudent to seek additional support funding from the Brexit Contingency Programme Fund to help strengthen our staff resources in three areas:

- extra staff time to ensure we are able provide mutual support to key agencies as and when requested;
- additional out of hours resources to help deal with any incidents that arise outside of normal working hours; and,
- a temporary extension of hours worked by the Council's Emergency Planning Officer to ensure he will be available to assist with any Brexit issues arising.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 Any legal matters related to the Council's role in providing mutual assistance and support will be dealt with as such issues arise.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 As set out above, an initial bid to the Brexit Contingency Programme Fund has been made seeking funding of c £105K to provide for additional remote access facilities for staff and to strengthen key staff resources.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 We will be utilising the Kent Resilience Forum's Partners Pack to assess possible risks via the checklist which they have provided.

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.7.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.8.1 That the above issues be noted and that further updates are provided as more information becomes available;

1.8.2 That the Cabinet **be recommended** to extend the current urgency provisions in the Council's Constitution and Policy Framework to include 'arrangements for decision making during a period of serious and/or unexpected disruption'.

Background papers:

Nil

contact:

Mark Raymond

Andy Edwards

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive
on behalf of the Management Team

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