

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION

Decision Taken By: Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure

**Decision No:
D210031MEM**

Date: 02 March 2021

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Local Plan Update

(Report of Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health)

The report provided an update on the Local Plan process since July 2020, set out the next steps and requested that the response sent to the Local Plan Inspectors on 29 January 2021 be endorsed.

In addition, the latest position with regard to the Borough Council's 5 Year Housing Land Supply, the outcome of the latest Housing Delivery Test results and the implications for decision making were set out.

Following consideration by the Planning and Transportation Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure resolved that:

- (1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) the response to the Local Plan Inspectors sent on 29 January 2021, previously circulated to all Members and available on the Borough Council's website, be endorsed.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Planning and Transportation Advisory Board of 2 March 2021.

Signed Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure: D Lettington

Signed Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 5 March 2021

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.

Date: 02 March 2021

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Development Management Strategy 2021

(Report of Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health)

In response to the current local plan position and delays to the adoption of the Plan, a proposed strategy for development management related matters for the forthcoming year was outlined. Members were advised that the implementation of an effective strategy which responded positively to the current position would ensure that the Borough Council continued to provide an efficient and high-quality service and robustly defend its position in the event of appeals being lodged.

Following consideration by the Planning and Transportation Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure resolved that:

The proposed Development Management strategy for 2021, as detailed in the report and summarised below, be agreed

- (1) Officers will not seek to refuse applications for planning permission on grounds of prematurity until such time that the local plan is at a sufficiently advanced stage to accord with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 and will advise the Area Planning Committees of the risks of doing so should any proposals be made to that effect;
- (2) Development of an electronic system to regularly monitor the five-year housing land supply position to inform decision making and in defending housing related planning appeals;
- (3) External consultants will be instructed to advise the Council on technical matters that require specific expert input to inform decision making and in defending relevant appeals where considered necessary to do so;
- (4) Officers will explore all opportunities to adopt individual technical studies used as part of the local plan evidence base for development management purposes and seek to commission further studies for adoption on an individual or cumulative basis as required;
- (5) External training will be provided to all officers across the service on giving evidence at hearings and public inquiries to ensure they have the necessary skills to advance and defend the Council's case in appeal scenarios in conjunction with any external specialist consultants that may be necessary to

employ; and

- (6) Officers will assemble a legal team of suitable experience to thereafter be engaged where necessary as part of ongoing public inquiry work.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Planning and Transportation Advisory Board of 2 March 2021

Signed Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure: D Lettington

Signed Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

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D210033MEM**

Date: 02 March 2021

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework and Introduction of a National Model Design Code

(Report of Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health)

The report provided an update on the consultation related to the revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework and proposed National Model Design Code and proposed the key elements of a response for Member consideration.

Following consideration by the Planning and Transportation Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure, resolved that

- (1) the content of the report be noted;
- (2) the formal consultation response be formulated in line with the key elements outlined in the report; and
- (3) the final response be delegated to the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Planning and Transportation Advisory Board of 2 March 2021

Signed Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure: D Lettington

Signed Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 5 March 2021

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.