

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION

Decision Taken By: Cabinet

Decision No: D260014CAB

Decision Type: Non-Key

Date: 10 February 2026

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026/27

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Annual Service Delivery Plan. This was a performance management tool setting out the Borough Council's priority actions for the year, along with key milestones and targets that could be used to monitor progress with delivery.

Due regard was given to the views of the Committee, the financial and value for money considerations, the assessment of risk and the legal implications. The amendments, corrections and points of clarification raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been reviewed in liaison with Services and reflected in a revised Annual Service Delivery Plan (attached at Annex 1).

It was also reported that due to external factors, such as awaiting legislation or funding from Central Government, the current Plan was missing some information. It was hoped that this missing information would be provided as part of the Quarter 1 update.

In recognition that without an effective performance management framework in place the authority would not be able to identify any required improvements or achieve value for money, Cllr Keers proposed, Cllr Taylor seconded and Cabinet

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026/27 (attached at Annex 1) be approved; and
- (2) any updated information addressing current gaps in information be considered during Quarter 1 reporting of the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026/27.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 22 January 2026

Signed Leader:

M Boughton

Signed Chief Executive:

D Roberts

Date of publication:

12 February 2026

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.

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Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Procurement Partnership - Formal Review

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of a number of options for the Procurement Partnership.

Due regard was given to the views of the Committee, the financial and value for money considerations, the assessment of risk and the legal implications. Cabinet was pleased to note that the Procurement Partnership had been very well received, an improvement in high quality procurement and contracting activity.

In recognition that membership of the Mid-Kent Procurement Partnership supported full compliance with relevant legislation, maintained an effective council and on the grounds of providing certainty and continuity for the future Cllr Boughton proposed, Cllr Mehmet seconded and Cabinet

RESOLVED: That

- (1) subject to ensuring appropriate budget provision, Option 3 to continue with the Procurement Partnership be approved; and
- (2) a further review of the Procurement Partnership be undertaken in 4 years' time.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 22 January 2026

Signed Leader:

M Boughton

Signed Chief Executive:

D Roberts

Date of publication:

12 February 2026

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Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Risk Management

Consideration of recommendations of the Audit Committee in respect of the risk management process and the current status of the Strategic Risk Register (SRR).

Due regard was given to the views of the Committee, the financial and value for money considerations, the assessment of risk and the legal implications.

Cabinet noted that the risks categorised as 'RED' were:

- Failure to adopt a Local Plan
- Recruitment and retention of staff
- Local Government Reorganisation in Kent

In recognition of the importance of efficient and effective risk management in protecting the Borough Council's assets, employees and customers and ensuring value for money, Cllr Boughton proposed, Cllr Betts seconded and Cabinet

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the updates to the Strategic Risk Register since the last iteration with particular emphasis on those risks categorised as 'RED' (summarised above) and set out in Annexes 1 and 1(a) be noted; and
- (2) the service risks identified in Annex 2 be noted.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Audit Committee of 26 January 2026

Signed Leader:

M Boughton

Signed Chief Executive:

D Roberts

Date of publication:

12 February 2026

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.

Decision Taken By: Cabinet
Decision No: D260017CAB
Decision Type: Non-Key
Date: 10 February 2026

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

National Planning Policy Framework: Proposed Reforms and other Changes to the Planning System

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Housing and Planning Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Borough Council's response to proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other changes to the planning system. A draft response was attached at Annex 1.

Due regard was given to the views of the Committee, the financial and value for money considerations, assessment of risk and the legal implications.

Particular reference was made to better decision-making on contaminated land (166) and Cllr Taylor proposed a further amendment to strengthen and emphasise the role of the developer in remediation. For example:

- (i) This includes the requirement that responsibility for securing a safe development principally rests with the developer and/or landowner where a site is affected by contamination or land stability issues. The role of the Local Planning Authority is to monitor and approve.

This amendment was seconded by Cllr Boughton and supported by the Cabinet, subject to further consultation with the Director of Planning, Housing and Regulatory Services.

A further minor correction was also identified at (145) on page 40 of Annex 1 and this had been drawn to the attention of Officers.

In recognition that the Borough Council had to submit a response to the consultation by the deadline of 10 March 2026, Cllr Taylor proposed, Cllr Boughton seconded and Cabinet

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council response to the Government's National Planning Policy Framework: Proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system be approved;
- (3) delegated authority be given to the Director of Planning, Housing and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Borough Council and the Cabinet Member of Planning, to make any necessary minor changes

to the Borough Council's response before submission.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Housing and Planning Scrutiny Select Committee of 3 February 2026

Signed Leader: M Boughton

Signed Chief Executive: D Roberts

Date of publication: 12 February 2026

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.

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Date: 10 February 2026

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Tonbridge Town Centre Programme Board - Notes of 16 January 2026

(Reason: Part 2 – Private LGA 1972 Sch 12A Paragraph 3 – Financial or business affairs of any particular person)

The report of the Director of Central Services presented the notes of the Tonbridge Town Centre Programme Board held on 16 January 2026.

Cabinet noted the comments of the Programme Board in respect of the delivery of a number of key priorities in connection with Tonbridge Town Centre.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Notes of the Tonbridge Town Centre Programme Board of 16 January 2026 be noted.

Reasons: As set out in the report to Cabinet of 10 February 2026 (contains exempt information)

Signed Leader:

M Boughton

Signed Chief Executive:

D Roberts

Date of publication:

12 February 2026

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