

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

10 September 2015

### Report of the Chief Executive

#### Part 1- Public

#### Matters for Information

### 1 REVIEW OF THE PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

#### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 Parish Councils will be aware that the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is currently undertaking a review of the ways in which the Borough Council engages with Parish Councils and with Local Community Groups in Tonbridge focusing on the Parish Partnership Panel and Tonbridge Forum.

1.1.2 All Parish Councils have been invited to complete a short questionnaire about the PPP and a number of have already completed and returned them. However, as the consultation period covered the main holiday period, and at the request of KALC, we have extended the original deadline of the 24<sup>th</sup> August to the 25<sup>th</sup> September to allow more time for responses to be made.

1.1.3 Parishes are therefore encouraged to complete a questionnaire if they have not already done so to enable the Member Panel undertaking the review to be fully informed of local views on this issue.

1.1.4 Responses received to date indicate that there is support for retaining the PPP but a number of suggestions have been made regarding changes to the format of the meetings and creating opportunities to enable Parishes to suggest additional agenda items. In addition to the request to extend the consultation period, KALC has also highlighted the following issues:

- The participation of parishes in the meetings, and to draw to the Borough Councils attention that it is a partnership and as a consequence agenda items are not for the consideration of one party only.
- Matters raised by Parish Councils to be consider early on the agenda, not relegated to the very end.
- Matters raised should be for debate at PPP meetings by parishes concerned and should not be covered by prepared position statements, read out by officers at the meetings.

1.1.5 These are all valid points and they will be taken into account as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review is progressed.

Background papers:

Nil

Julie Beilby  
Chief Executive