

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

18 February 2016

Report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING LOCAL PLAN AND PLANNING REFORMS UPDATE

This report provides an update for the Parish Partnership Panel on important progress made towards the preparation of the Local Plan and also recent Government Planning Reforms.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Progress towards the preparation of the Local Plan for Tonbridge and Malling and the Government's ongoing programme of Planning Reforms are regularly reported to the Borough Council's Planning and Transportation Advisory Board, most recently on 12th January 2016. Both of these reports are appended for information.

1.1.2 Since the Planning Reform report was written, the deadline for commenting on the Government's consultation into proposed changes to national planning policy has been extended to the 22nd of February from 25th January.

1.1.3 There has also been an amendment to the Bill to allow for the outsourcing of the processing of planning applications. New clause 43 proposes that pilot schemes be established enabling applicants to choose how they would like their application processed. This opens the way for third parties to bid to process applications, although the Local Planning Authority would retain the decision making function.

1.1.4 The Housing and Planning Bill, at the time of writing this report, is entering the Committee stages in the House of Lords. It is anticipated that the Bill will receive the Royal assent in April or May this year.

Background papers:

Nil

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