

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

18 FEBRUARY 2014

Report of the Director of Central Services & Monitoring Officer

Part 1- Public

For decision

1 RECORDED VOTES AT BUDGET MEEETINGS

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 On 31 January 2014 Regulations were laid before Parliament to require that all budget decisions taken by local authorities should now be subject to a recorded vote. The rationale for making these Regulations is set out in the covering letter from Brandon Lewis MP, a copy of which is attached as **Annex 1**.

1.1.2 The new requirements apply to any votes taken at a 'budget decision meeting' of a local authority. This means that a vote on any decision related to the calculation of the Council Tax, or the issuing of a precept, must now be recorded.

1.2 Proposed amendments

1.2.1 The existing requirements relating to recorded votes are contained within paragraph 8 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules. Whilst these make provision for 2 members of the Council to require a recorded vote, there are no circumstances in which a recorded vote is otherwise mandatory.

1.2.2 The proposed amendments to the Council and Committee Procedure Rules are attached as **Annex 2**. These meet the requirements of the 2014 Regulations.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 The amendments to the Council and Committee Procedure Rules are required by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014. The requirements of the Regulations come into force on 25 February 2014.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 None arising from this report.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 None arising from this report.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 Please see 'Screening for Equality Impacts' table below.

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 Members are asked to **APPROVE** the proposed amendments to the Council and Committee Procedure Rules.

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	N/A	
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

Background papers:

contact: Adrian Stanfield

None

Adrian Stanfield

Director of Central Services & Monitoring Officer