

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 October 2018

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet

1 ROAD CLOSURES REVIEW

To hear further evidence from key partners regarding the procedures used to implement temporary road closures for community events.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Following an initial report to the previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16 August 2018, we have now sought views from partners regarding the powers available to allow temporary road closures. Recommendations arising were to seek the views of Kent Police as well as views of Kent County Council and other Kent Districts, prior to making a final decision.

1.1.2 I am pleased to confirm that Police Sergeant Peter Gilmore (Strategic Operation Planning) will be providing an overview of the road closure powers available and will highlight any concerns he has relating to the use of the different powers. A supplementary report may follow if PS Gilmore is able to provide a written statement prior to the meeting regarding the police position on this issue.

1.1.3 Kirstie Williams (Highway Manager) from KCC has been asked to provide a statement outlining the County Council view of the procedures used for road closures, attached as Annex 1.

1.1.4 All districts were contacted for their views on the use of the Town Police Clauses Act for road closures. Annex 2 provides a summary of the comments received so far. Of those received all have been using the TPCA for at least some of the road closures, which indicates that continued use of the TPCA is appropriate for local events.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 As set out in the previous report.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 There is currently no established revenue budget for road closures, with costs limited to staff time for those dealing with the administration.
- 1.3.2 If it is found that the TPCA cannot be used to support local community events involving road closures, there would be a potential cost to community groups as the Highway Authority would make a charge of up to £1000 for each event.

1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 As above, costs for events may be prohibitive for local community groups.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.5.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.6 Recommendations

- 1.6.1 Subject to further discussions with relevant partners, the continued use of Town Police Clauses Act 1847 for appropriate local community events **BE CONFIRMED.**

Background papers:

contact: Gill Fox

Nil

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive