

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

13 November 2018

Report of the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

Summary: This report provides an update on the Regulation 19 consultation exercise and sets out the next stages in the preparation of the Local Plan.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Following the decision of Full Council on the 12th September 2018, the Local Plan public consultation exercise required by Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Plans)(England) Regulations began on Monday 1st October for a period of 6 weeks.
- 1.1.2 The deadline for responding was extended by one week from the 12th to the 19th November during the first week of the consultation exercise. This was in order to ensure that all of those contacted about the consultation would have the minimum 6 weeks to respond and also to respond positively to requests from some Parish Councils that a short extension would be welcomed. All of those who were initially contacted were advised of the extension.
- 1.1.3 Two briefings were arranged for Parish and Town Council's on the 3rd and 4th October at Kings Hill and Tonbridge Castle to explain the purpose of the consultation and how local councils can assist their communities in responding. Hard copies of the consultation documents were provided together with some supporting information. Both briefings were well attended. Those councils unable to attend had their copies delivered.
- 1.1.4 Two Drop In sessions were held on the 15th and 17th October at the council offices at Kings Hill and Tonbridge Castle between 9am and 8pm. These events were also well attended. The display panels illustrating the Local Plan and the purpose of the consultation used at the Drop Ins were also made available for local councils and community groups for use at separate events.

1.2 Consultation Responses received so far

- 1.2.1 At the time of writing (29.10.18) 615 submissions had been received via the website, email or letter. The majority of these are raising objections to the strategic site at Borough Green.
- 1.2.2 The on-line response form, which has been designed in accordance with the Planning Inspectorate's guidance, has proved to be unpopular with users particularly for those wishing to make simple comments. In response, a simplified form has been prepared and was added to the website on Friday 26th October.
- 1.2.3 If the current consultation is similar to the exercise carried out for the Regulation 18 consultations in 2016, we can expect most of the responses to be received during the last week of the consultation.

1.3 Next Steps

- 1.3.1 Once the consultation has closed on the 19th November officers will prepare the documents for submission to the Secretary of State. It is intended to submit the Local Plan to the Secretary of State before Christmas, but if this is not possible then before the 24th January 2019.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this information report.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this information report.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 The risks associated with not securing an up to date and robust Local Plan at the earliest practicable opportunity have been set out in previous reports to the Board.
- 1.6.2 Failure to submit the Local Plan before the 24th January 2019 could result in significant delays to the process.

Background papers:

Nil

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