

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 27th July, 2021

Present: Cllr M R Rhodes (Chairman), Cllr B J Luker (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs P A Bates, Cllr Mrs S Bell, Cllr M D Boughton, Cllr M A Coffin, Cllr D J Cooper, Cllr D A S Davis, Cllr N J Heslop, Cllr M A J Hood, Cllr D Lettington, Cllr W E Palmer and Cllr R V Roud participated via MS Teams as the meeting could not be held in the Council Chamber.

Councillors Mrs J A Anderson, V M C Branson, R I B Cannon, A E Clark, N Foyle, S A Hudson, D Keers, Mrs F A Kemp, P J Montague, Mrs A S Oakley, H S Rogers, J L Sergison, N G Stapleton and D Thornewell participated via MS Teams and joined the discussion when invited to do so by the Chairman in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 15.2.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs M Tatton

PART 1 - PUBLIC

GP 21/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

GP 21/26 PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive provided advice on the procedural arrangements for the meeting following the change from holding it in the Council Chamber to via Microsoft Teams.

The report of the Chief Executive provided details of the initial proposals contained in the review of Parliamentary Constituencies published by the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) on 8 June 2021. It was noted that the 8-week public consultation period would conclude on 2 August 2021. Members were reminded that, at its meeting held on 13 July 2021, Council had agreed that the General Purposes Committee should consider the proposals and had given delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to submit the Council's response to the BCE. The Commission's Guide to the review was attached at Annex 1 to the report while the proposals for the Constituencies encompassing the Borough were set out at Annex 2 to the report.

Members expressed a number of concerns about the fragmentation of communities which could arise from the proposals, acknowledged the difficulty in reaching a consensus on all matters at the meeting and offered to provide full details of their concerns to the Chief Executive to assist in the preparation of the response to the BCE. During the discussion it was proposed by Councillor Heslop, seconded by Councillor Palmer and agreed that the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee should be included in the consultation by the Chief Executive in her preparation of the response to be submitted to the BCE.

RESOLVED: That the issues raised at and provided post the meeting inform the Borough Council's response to the Consultation to be submitted by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

GP 21/27 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.11 pm