

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
FINANCE, INNOVATION and PROPERTY ADVISORY BOARD

24 September 2014

Report of the Director of Finance and Transformation

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 RURAL RATE RELIEF – RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST

A report informing Members of the requirement to review the Council's rural settlement list and recommending that the current list should be retained, unaltered, for the financial year 2015/16.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Members will be aware that the Council grants relief to certain types of businesses that are located in rural settlements. For the purpose of granting relief, the rural settlements within the area of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council are shown in the Council's rural settlement list. The list is in the form of a map, which shows the location and boundaries of each rural settlement. The map is shown at **[Annex 1]**.

1.1.2 At this time of year, the Council has to consider whether it wishes to amend the rural settlement list for the forthcoming financial year. If it wishes to do so, then it must consult on any changes that it proposes to make.

1.1.3 Members should be aware that I have received no suggestions for amendment of the list. I am also unaware of any problems arising from the definitions of the rural settlements in the current list.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 None.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 None.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 No risks identified.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 In view of the above, Members are **REQUESTED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that the current rural settlement list should remain in force for the year 2015/16.

The Report of the Director of Finance and Transformation confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and policy Framework.

Background papers:

Nil

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Sharon Shelton
Director of Finance and Transformation

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	The recommended decision to retain the rural settlement list in an unaltered form is neutral in its effect, insofar as it relates to a geographical area in which a business might operate and not to individuals or groups of individuals who might use a business.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	No	See above.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		Not applicable.

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.