

**Notice of Motion submitted pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No. 5.27**

**To consider the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor G Bridge, seconded by Cllr M Hood on behalf of the Liberal Democrat and Green Groups:**

Tonbridge is the only part of Tonbridge and Malling that does not have a parish or town council. Some services that are provided by a parish or town council in other parts of the borough are provided in Tonbridge by the borough council and paid for by charging residents of Tonbridge special expenses rather than a parish precept. Decisions on these services are made by councillors representing the whole borough and not by councillors elected by the residents of Tonbridge only. In December 2024, the Government announced plans to reorganise local government, replacing county and district councils with unitary authorities covering at least 500,000 people. This would create a democratic deficit with power being centralised further away from residents.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough council believes:

- Local services should be provided by truly local councils, sensitive to the needs of, and accountable through the ballot box to, local residents.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council also notes that:

- Where unitary councils have replaced shire county councils, town councils have usually been established where no such council previously existed.

This council, therefore, agrees, in principle, the following:

- Tonbridge should have a town council if that is the wish of the people of Tonbridge