



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Baroness Taylor of Stevenage

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for
Housing and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: MC2024/31321

Kim Tanner
Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing

Mike Taylor
Cabinet Member for Planning

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

FT *February*
January 2025

Dear *Kim and Mike*

Thank you for your letter of 11 December to the Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP, regarding the financial impact of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's Local Plan. I have been asked to reply.

I appreciate that this is an important matter for your council.

The Government believes that authorities that have an up-to-date plan in place will be in the best possible position to steer sustainable growth to areas supported by their communities. We therefore strongly encourage councils who have already made progress on plans to continue work at pace, to address local needs and provide certainty to communities.

To help planning authorities get local plans in place as soon as possible and support the Government's ambition to build more homes, we have set out specific transitional arrangements to apply to advanced plans. We recognise that some local authorities will need to revisit and rework their draft plans to take account of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was published on 12 December.

It is for the local authority to determine whether they can sufficiently progress towards being examined under the current system before the deadline of December 2026. Local authorities which conclude they are unable to reach the December 2026 deadline, are expected to prepare a plan in the new system and to proceed at pace once the new system commences and should therefore be undertaking preparatory work to enable this to happen at the earliest opportunity.

To ensure that local authorities progressing a plan in the current system are well-equipped and supported to implement the changes in the revised NPPF, the Government has announced funding to support local planning authorities with local plan delivery and Green Belt reviews. Whilst we cannot pre-empt the EOI process the eligibility criteria for the local plans funding and GB review funding is set out on gov.uk, and local authorities must meet all the criteria to be eligible. In addition, Local Plan support is available through the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and will be prioritised on a case-by-case basis to ensure the most effective and efficient use of this resource.

Following publication of the NPPF and having considered its impacts on plan making, all Local Planning Authorities should review and update their plan making timetables and send a copy of their new timetable to the Ministry within 12 weeks, that is by no later than 6 March 2025.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,



BARONESS TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government