

Annex 2 – Proposed Stage 2 consultation Questionnaire

Tonbridge CGR - Proposed Stage 2 consultation questions.

Our first consultation in summer 2025, showed that the majority of residents who responded would like a town council for Tonbridge to be established.

A final decision on whether to create a town council will not be taken until early 2026. However, we would like further views on how a new town council could be structured. This survey seeks your views on:

- Warding arrangements
- The number of councillors a town council could have
- Whether the town council should have a mayor

Before responding to this consultation, you may wish to read more information about the review of community governance. [Visit our Tonbridge CGR webpages.](#)

Questions

[Demographic Qs]

Did you submit a response to the first consultation on a town council for Tonbridge?

Yes/No

Warding arrangements

1. Most large parish or town council areas are divided into sub-sections called wards. Town councillors are then elected to represent the residents of each ward.

The alternative is that the area is not divided into wards and all councillors are responsible for representing the whole parish or town area.

If a town council for Tonbridge is created, would you like the area to be divided into wards?

Yes

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No

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If no, please proceed to Q3 (No. of Councillors)

[Filter - If yes]

2. Existing borough council arrangements have six wards in Tonbridge. They are:

- Cage Green and Angel
- Higham
- Hildenborough (unparished area)
- Judd
- Trench
- Vauxhall

It is proposed that if the area was divided into wards, that these six wards would be used. However, if you have alternative suggestions on warding structure, please provide them below.

Number of councillors

3. The number of elected town councillors reflects the population size of the area or wards they represent. There are no rules around the number of councillors on a town/parish council, but the typical town/parish councils are made up as follows:

- less than 500 people had between 5 and 8 councillors
- those between 501 and 2,500 had 6 to 12 councillors
- those between 2,501 and 10,000 had 9 to 16 councillors
- those between 10,001 and 20,000 had between 13 and 27 councillors
- while almost all councils representing a population of over 20,000 had between 13 and 31 councillors

In the 2021 Census, Tonbridge had a population of 36,115

How many councillors would you like to sit on a town council?

Select one of the four options below.

Option 1: 13 councillors

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i.e. if warded:

Cage Green & Angel – 3

Higham – 2

Hildenborough (unparished area) – 1

Judd – 2

Trench – 2

Vauxhall - 3

Option 2: 18 councillors

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i.e. if warded:

Cage Green & Angel – 4

Higham – 3

Hildenborough (unparished area) – 1

Judd – 3

Trench – 3
Vauxhall - 4

Option 3: 30 councillors

i.e. if warded:

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Cage Green & Angel – 6
Higham – 5
Hildenborough (unparished area) – 3
Judd – 5
Trench – 5
Vauxhall - 6

Option 4: Suggest an alternative number of councillors

If selecting Option 4, please explain your answer.

Mayor for Tonbridge

4. A town council can opt to have a mayor instead of a chairperson. While a mayor would not have any greater decision-making powers than a chairman or chairwoman, they would have a role in promoting the more traditional civic and ceremonial type activities of the council.

Should the town council have a mayor?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Other Comments

5. Do you have any other comments on the arrangements for a town council for Tonbridge?

Newsletter sign up – Yes/No

Follow up communication – Yes/No

End of survey