

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

MINUTES

Tuesday, 3rd March, 2026

Present: Cllr M D Boughton (Chair), Cllr R P Betts, Cllr D Keers and Cllr M Taylor

Cllr M R Rhodes* was also present pursuant to Access to Information Rule No 23.

(*attended via MS Teams)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M A Coffin and A Mehmet

PART 1 - PUBLIC

CB 26/33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

CB 26/34 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 10 February 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION

EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS

CB 26/35 LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

(Decision Notice D260032CAB)

Consideration was given to proposals to strengthen the Borough Council's capacity to deliver its Workforce Development Strategy, to ensure that key programmes were effectively implemented, monitored and evaluated and to provide organisational development support in preparation for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

Due regard was given to the financial and value for money considerations, the assessment of risk and legal implications.

In recognition that the additional capacity would support the authority in maintaining an effective and resilient workforce, particularly during the transition associated with LGR, Cllr Boughton proposed, Cllr Keers seconded and Cabinet

RESOLVED: That the funding for a full-time two-year fixed-term Learning and Development Manager from the Local Government Reorganisation Reserve be approved.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

CB 26/36 MINUTES OF PANELS, BOARDS AND OTHER GROUPS

The Minutes of the meetings of the following Advisory Panels and other Groups were received, any recommendations contained therein being incorporated within the decisions of the Cabinet reproduced at the annex to these Minutes.

CB 26/37 DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET MEMBERS

Details of the Decisions taken in accordance with the rules for the making of decisions by executive members, as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution, were presented for information.

CB 26/38 NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING KEY DECISIONS

The Notice setting out Key Decisions anticipated to be taken during the period April to May 2026 was noted.

A further Notice explained that, in accordance with Rule 15 of the Access to Information Rules (Part 4 of the Constitution), the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been informed that a decision would be taken as a general exception due to the need to implement as soon as possible.

CB 26/39 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Taylor and

RESOLVED: That as public discussion would disclose exempt information, the following matters be considered in private.

PART 2 - PRIVATE**MATTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION****EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS****CB 26/40 OPTIONS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING FUND - PURCHASE OF PROPERTY**

(Decision Notice D260033CAB)

(Reasons: Part 2 – Private – LGA 1972 Sch 12A Paragraph 3 – Financial or business affairs of any particular person)

Consideration was given to the proposed purchase of a residential property in Aylesford from Clarion Housing to meet the requirement of the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF).

Due regard was given to the financial and value for money considerations, the assessment of risk and the legal implications.

In recognition of improving housing options for local people whilst protecting outdoor areas of importance, increasing options for temporary accommodation, delivering resettlement properties and making best use of LAHF, Cllr Boughton proposed, Cllr Betts seconded and Cabinet

RESOLVED: That the purchase of a residential property in Aylesford, as detailed in the report, be approved.

CB 26/41 INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE

(Decision Notice D260034CAB)

(Reasons: Part 2 – Private – LGA 1972 Sch 12A Paragraph 3 – Financial or business affairs of any particular person)

Consideration was given to the recommendation of the Audit Committee in respect of the provision of both Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Services. These were currently provided by Kent County Council through the Kent Audit Function and was due to end in September 2026. However, it was recommended that the service continue up to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

Due regard was given to the views of the Audit Committee, the financial and value for money considerations, the assessment of risk and the legal implications.

In recognition that the provision of Internal Audit Services was required under LGA 1972 to maintain sufficient governance and control on local

authority operations and to maintain an effective council, Cllr Boughton proposed, Cllr Taylor seconded and Cabinet

RESOLVED: That the recommendation from the Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) to appoint Kent County Council to provide Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Services from 1 October 2026 to 31 March 2029 be approved.

The meeting ended at 7.41 pm