

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

Motion on Behalf of the Green Group

Proposer: Councillor A Cope
Seconder: Councillor S Pilgrim

Amendment on Behalf of the Conservative Group (Approved)

Proposer: Councillor M Boughton
Seconder: Councillor R Betts

(Amendment to (1) – (4) and addition of (5))

Council be asked to note:

- (1) Cabinet has already instructed the Planning Policy team to prepare an Article 4 direction covering Houses in Multiple Occupation, and a report has already been prepared for the Housing and Planning Scrutiny Select Committee to consider at its meeting on Tuesday 19 May 2026.

Council be asked to agree:

- (2) In line with the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Corporate Strategy priority to improve housing options for local people, Article 4 directions are an effective deterrent to prevent illegal immigrants accessing homes ahead of residents with a local need.
- (3) Given national planning policy advises that Article 4 directions be applied in a measured and targeted way, any Article 4 direction be focused on wards where there are live issues with HMOs, and local members are supportive of recommendation (2).
- (4) Approve the making of an Article 4 Direction to be brought into effect at the earliest opportunity. This will remove permitted development rights for the change of use from Use Class C3 dwellinghouses to Use Class C4 small Houses in Multiple Occupation for the entire borough of Tonbridge and Malling as identified within the Direction.
- (5) Authorise the Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive to submit the relevant documentation to support the Article 4 Direction.