

REPORT TO WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL 7th January 2025

By the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councillors for

**Aylesford North and North Downs Ward
Councillors Dave Davis, Alex McDermott and Roger Dalton**

LOCAL PLAN -RUN UP TO REGULATION 18B CONSULTATION

1. Just before Christmas TMBC received the government's changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This is fundamental to getting the next Regulation 18 consultation out, which is called 18b, to differentiate from the last Regulation 18 consultation. Consultations are important and the last one will have significant input to the next one.
2. We cannot say when the Regulation 18b will be. This is totally dependent on the fine detail of the new NPPF, which is being studied by our planning officers now, but it will be several months before this critical consultation.
3. Last month's Housing and Planning Scrutiny Select Committee passed some key aspects of the Local Plan process and critically:
 - a. Annex 1. The Engagement and Consultation Strategy.
 - b. Annex 2. TMBC Member, Officer and Parish Council Engagement Plan.
4. The whole of this HPSSC Item is an attachment to this report.
5. Your Council will be involved as indicated in Annex 2 above and this will be part of future Parish Partnership Panel meetings.. You may wish to make your own plan for this consultation and to take it out to your residents. It is of critical importance to Tonbridge and Malling Council and to our own residents.

DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARRANGMENTS

6. On the 16th December, the Government published its English Devolution White Paper. This is a major piece of legislation that will fundamentally change local government in England. There are key decisions to be taken by KCC in the next few days and we will report further in future reports.