

# PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO STATEMENT 2014-15

Councillor Alan McDermott



## 1. Portfolio responsibilities

My role is responsible for leading on Planning; ensuring we balance the enhancement of the borough's natural and built assets whilst ensuring that the economy develops in a sustainable way. I also lead on transport and parking issues from engaging with Kent Highways Services as the Highways Authority and strategy, through to the operation of the Council's car parking facilities and enforcement.

My work contributes to all the Council's strategic priorities particularly to provide a prosperous borough. This link is supported through the Local Development Framework, which will shape the future of the borough for several decades.

## 2. Functions and services

As Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation, I am responsible for all services, covering a 2013/14 revenue budget of £1,168,790, that relates to:

- Planning Policy and the Local Development Framework
- Development Management
- Planning Enforcement
- Conservation & Heritage Planning
- Building Control
- Land Charges
- Parking (on and off street)
- Transportation

I am the Deputy Leader and the Lead Cabinet member on a range of partnerships and working groups, namely:

- Planning & Transportation Cabinet Advisory Board (Chairman)
- Planning Policy Working Group (Chairman)
- Public Transport Forum (Chairman)
- Quality Bus Partnership
- LGA Rural Commission

## 3. Our achievements in 2013-14

- Completed consultation on the Site Allocation Development Plan Document
- Supported the Highways Agency and Kent Highways on the A21 dualling between Pembury & Tonbridge that saw the dualling of the A21 given the go ahead
- Worked with the owners to implement an approved scheme for the Kent and Sussex Hospital site
- Drafted the Transport Strategy in association with Kent County Council and carried out consultation on this document alongside the Site Allocations Development Plan document
- Worked with Kent County Council to agree an infrastructure plan at North Farm. An urban traffic control scheme was introduced and Kent County Council have since secured funding for an approved project to be delivered by 2015
- Introduced a road safety campaign to develop road safety awareness across the borough; working with local schools and communities
- Transferred the management of two car parks to parish councils

## 4. Key plans and strategies

Specific plans for which I have responsibility:

- Core Strategy & Local Development Framework
- Conserving the Natural and Built Environment
- Planning Enforcement and Compliance Strategy
- Transport Strategy
- Parking Strategy (incl. Enforcement & Permit policies)

## 5. Our priorities for 2014-15

- Encourage future growth and investment in Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Centre through delivering the local plan and transport strategy
- To see the commencement of the North Farm infrastructure improvements works and A21 dualling
- Working with the owners to ensure the proper discharge of conditions for the approved scheme for the Kent and Sussex Hospital site
- Maintain high performing Development Management functions in terms of processing applications and dealing with enforcement
- Ensure that building proposals are designed and carried out in accordance with modern standards set out in the Building Regulations & Approved Documents
- Work with local developers to secure suitable development schemes/applications for further housing development and associated community infrastructure in allocated sites
- To continue to enhance and promote the Council's off street car parks

## 6. Contact

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