TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

FORWARD PLAN



www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/forwardplan

Notice of Key Decisions / Notice of Private Meetings

Pursuant to the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

This Plan gives at least 28 days notice if the Cabinet of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council intends to make a key decision or make a decision in private². Other decisions by the executive are also included on the Plan wherever possible.

Relevant documents can be downloaded from the Council's website or are available on request from: Democratic Services, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS or committee@tunbridgewells.gov.uk. Documents may be submitted to the decision maker via Democratic Services.

If it is necessary to hold a meeting in private, the reasons for this are stated alongside the decision. These reasons are prescribed by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and summarised at the back of this Plan.

Representations against the intention to make a decision in private can be submitted in writing to Democratic Services no less than ten working days before the meeting date.

If the Council is unable to give 28 days notice, it will publish the reasons for this on its website and at its offices.

Councillor Ben Chapelard Leader of the Council

Publication Date: 11 January 2024 an supersedes all previously issued versions

The most recent version of the Plan supersedes all previously issued versions

Guidance notes are provided at the back of this document

Members of the Cabinet and their respective Cabinet Responsibilities

Councillor Ben Chapelard Leader of the Council

- Strategic Policy
- Communications, Consultations & Engagement
- Transparency
- Human Resources (including learning & development)
- Democratic Services
- Devolution/Enhanced two-tier working

Councillor Nancy Warne Deputy Leader and Communities

- Deputy Leader
- Rural/Parished Areas & Parish Chairs
- Community Safety and CCTV
- Community Centres and Hubs
- Community Partnerships
- Assets of Community Value
- Equalities (including younger & older people)
- Equalities and Equal Access
- Community Grants
- Cost of Living Crisis

Councillor Jayne Sharratt Carbon Reduction, Sustainability & Transportation

- Sustainability Carbon Reduction and promoting biodiversity
- Community Leadership (raising funds for carbon reduction)
- Transportation
- Parking (on and off street)

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Councillor Pamela Wilkinson Sport, Leisure and Health

- Sports and Leisure Centres
- Parks
- Grounds Maintenance
- Health

Councillor Ellen Neville Environmental Services

- Cemetery and crematorium
- Recycling and waste collection
- Street cleansing and littering
- Fly Tipping and Abandoned Vehicles
- Environmental Protection
- Environmental Health
- Licensing
- Food Hygiene & Health & Safety Standards in businesses
- Corporate Health and Safety

Councillor Mark Ellis Finance and Performance

- Finance
- Revenues and Benefits
- Internal Audit and Risk Management
- Property, Estates & Facilities Management
- Performance & Project Management
- ICT, Technology and Digital Transformation
- Legal Services
- FOI/EIR/Complaints/Data Protection
- Procurement Policy and Strategy

Councillor Justine Rutland Economic Development

- Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Centre
- Economic Development & Tourism
- Business Engagement
- Supporting the Town Centre
- Culture & the Arts & Customer Service
- Assembly Hall, Ice Rink & The Amelia Scott
- Events

Councillor Hugo Pound Housing and Planning

- Planning Policy
- Strategic Sites and Delivery
- Development Management
- Heritage and Conservation
- Planning Enforcement
- Land Charges
- Building Control
- Housing (incl Private Sector and Housing Needs)
- Homelessness Prevention and Reduction

Leader of the Council - Councillor Ben Chapelard

Date of decision/ Decision maker	Full Council	Advisory Board	Report Title, Summary and Ward	Consultation Details	Relevant Officer	Key? ¹	Private? ²
25/01/24 Cabinet		24/01/24 Communities and Economic Development Cabinet Advisory Board	TWBC Strategic Plan This report presents the draft new strategic plan for TWBC. Following approval at Cabinet, the plan will be put out to public consultation. (All Wards)	The Communities and Economic Development CAB will be consulted. Public consultation on the draft plan will take place following the approval to proceed to consultation from Cabinet.	Ian Hirst, Head of Digital Services and Communications	No	Open
08/02/24 Cabinet	Full Council 28/2/24	23/01/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	*People Strategy 2024-27 The report seeks approval for the Council's People Strategy 2024-2027. The Strategy outlines how the Council will develop its workforce and be better equipped to ensure it attracts, develops and retains staff so as to support the effective and efficient delivery of services. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	Paul Taylor, Director of Change and Communities	No	Open
08/02/24 Cabinet	Full Council 28/2/24	23/01/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	*Governance Review Final recommendations following a review of the Council's Committee structure. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	Andy Sturtivant	No	Open

Date of decision/ Decision maker	Full Council	Advisory Board	Report Title, Summary and Ward	Consultation Details	Relevant Officer	Key? ¹	Private? ²
Not before 12/01/24 Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance			Pension Fund Guarantor The terms of the superannuation Admission Agreement with Fusion Lifestyle included the need to have a Pension Guarantee Bond in place. Due to current market conditions, it is not financially viable for Fusion to obtain such a bond. Following discussions between Kent County Council, Fusion and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council a solution has been identified whereby Tunbridge Wells Borough Council assumes this responsibility and acts as the Guarantor instead. (All Wards)	Report to be published before decision is made.	Lee Colyer, Director of Finance, Policy and Development (Section 151 Officer)	No	Open
08/02/24 Cabinet		23/01/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	Lease of 8 Grosvenor Road - The Gateway Terms have been agreed for a 10 year lease of the former TWBC premises known as The Gateway. A report is to be submitted to Cabinet for approval of the lease terms owing to the overall value of the transaction. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	Peter Benfield, Senior Estates Officer	Yes	Part
08/02/24 Cabinet		23/01/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	Banking Tender 2024/25 The Council is re-tendering its banking and merchant services contract. This report is to obtain Cabinet approval to contract with the winning bidder, as the contract is likely to be valued at over £250,000 and therefore require a key decision. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	Jane Fineman, Head of Finance and Procurement	Yes	Open

Date of decision/ Decision maker	Full Council	Advisory Board	Report Title, Summary and Ward	Consultation Details	Relevant Officer	Key? ¹	Private? ²
08/02/24 Cabinet		23/01/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	Cleaning and Hygiene Maintenance Tender To award a contract to a suitably experienced and qualified contractor to undertake the cleaning and hygiene maintenance for several operational properties, public conveniences and temporary accommodation. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	Denise Haylett, Head of Facilities and Community Hubs	Yes	Part
08/02/24 Cabinet		23/01/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	Property Transaction Report July to December 2023 This report informs Cabinet of the property transactions completed under delegated authority between 1 July 2023 and 31 December 2023. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	David Candlin, Head of Economic Development and Property	No	Part
08/02/24 Cabinet	Full Council 28/2/24	23/01/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	*Asset Management Plan 2024/25 To recommend to Full Council the revised Asset Management Plan following public consultation. (All Wards)	Public consultation January 2024. The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	David Candlin, Head of Economic Development and Property	No	Open
08/02/24 Cabinet	Full Council 28/2/24	23/01/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	* Budget 2024/25 & Medium Terms Financial Strategy To recommend to Full Council the Council's budget and the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy following public consultation (Stage 4 of 4 in setting the forthcoming year's budget). (All Wards)	Public consultation January 2024. The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	Lee Colyer, Director of Finance, Policy and Development (Section 151 Officer)	No	Open
08/02/24 Cabinet	Full Council 28/2/24	23/01/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	*Treasury Management Policy and Strategy To recommend to Full Council the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy to set the parameters and key information regarding the Council's treasury activity, with specific regards to investments and cash flow. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	Clare Hazard, Accountancy Manager	No	Open

Date of decision/ Decision maker	Full Council	Advisory Board	Report Title, Summary and Ward	Consultation Details	Relevant Officer	Key? ¹	Private? ²
08/02/24 Cabinet	Full Council 28/2/24	23/01/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	*Capital Strategy To recommend to Full Council the Council's Capital Strategy for 2024/25. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	Clare Hazard, Accountancy Manager	No	Open
08/02/24 Cabinet		23/01/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	Revenue and Benefits Shared Service Proposal Report The Mid Kent Revenues and Benefits partnership is currently between Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Borough Councils. This report gives a background to the business case proposing the addition of Swale Borough Council to this shared service. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	Zoe Kent, Interim Head of Revenues and Benefits	No	Part
08/02/24 Cabinet	Full Council 28/2/24	23/01/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	*Discretionary Rate Relief Report The Government had changed the legislation on the backdating of Discretionary Rate Relief to non-profit making organisations and charities. This report gives options for the backdating of Non Domestic Discretionary Rate Relief. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	Zoe Kent, Interim Head of Revenues and Benefits	Yes	Open
08/02/24 Cabinet		23/01/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	New Lease on Asset - Royal Victoria Place, Royal Tunbridge Wells To consider the granting of a new lease on premises in Royal Victoria Place. (All Wards)		David Candlin, Head of Economic Development and Property	Yes	Part
21/03/24 Cabinet		05/03/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	Insurance Tender 2024/25 The insurance contract is being tendered for renewal in October 2024. This report will lay out the winning bid for Cabinet approval, as the contract will be over £250,000 and will therefore be a key decision. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	Jane Fineman, Head of Finance and Procurement	Yes	Open

Date of decision/ Decision maker	Full Council	Advisory Board	Report Title, Summary and Ward	Consultation Details	Relevant Officer	Key? ¹	Private? ²
21/03/24 Cabinet		05/03/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	Performance Summary Quarter 3 To consider an outline of the Council's performance against key strategic indicators. Measures described by central government through the Single Data List (SDL) and the progress against each of the strategic project as at the end of December 2023. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	Pamela Grover- Morgan, Performance and Governance Manager	No	Open
21/03/24 Cabinet		05/03/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	Revenue Management Report Quarter 3 To receive the financial position as at the end of December 2023. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	Jane Fineman, Head of Finance and Procurement	No	Open
21/03/24 Cabinet		05/03/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	Capital Management Report Quarter 3 To receive the financial position as at the end of December 2023. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	Jane Fineman, Head of Finance and Procurement	No	Open
21/03/24 Cabinet		05/03/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	Treasury and Prudential Indicator Management Report Quarter 3 To receive the financial position as at the end of December 2023. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	Jane Fineman, Head of Finance and Procurement	No	Open
21/03/24 Cabinet		05/03/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	New Lease on Asset - Royal Victoria Place, Royal Tunbridge Wells To consider the granting of a new lease on premises in Royal Victoria Place. (All Wards)	The Finance and Governance CAB will be consulted.	David Candlin, Head of Economic Development and Property	Yes	Open

Date of decision/ Decision maker	Full Council	Advisory Board	Report Title, Summary and Ward	Consultation Details	Relevant Officer	Key? ¹	Private? ²
21/03/24 Cabinet		05/03/24 Finance and Governance Cabinet Advisory Board	Consideration of a new lease or freehold disposal of land at Tunbridge Wells Rugby Club Tunbridge Wells Rugby Club have requested that the Council grant them a new longer lease or land or consider a freehold disposal of land at the Rugby Club. (Pantiles & St Mark's)	Advisory Board will be consulted.	David Candlin, Head of Economic Development and Property	No	Full

Communities (And Deputy Leader) - Councillor Nancy Warne

Date of decision/ Decision maker	Full Council	Advisory Board	Report Title, Summary and Ward	Consultation Details	Relevant Officer	Key? ¹	Private? ²
21/03/24 Cabinet	Full Council 3/4/24	07/03/24 Communities and Economic Development Cabinet Advisory Board	*Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024/25 To recommend to Full Council the annual Community Safety Partnership Plan for approval. The Plan presents data on crime and anti-social behaviour within Tunbridge Wells Borough and provides an update on solutions provided to ensure the safety of residents. (All Wards)	The Communities and Economic Development CAB will be consulted.	Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager	No	Open

Economic Development – Councillor Justine Rutland

Date of decision/ Decision maker	Full Council	Advisory Board	Report Title, Summary and Ward	Consultation Details	Relevant Officer	Key? ¹	Private? ²
21/03/24 Cabinet		07/03/24 Communities and Economic Development Cabinet Advisory Board	RVP Business Plan TWBC acquired the Royal Victoria Place shopping centre in October 2023. The report is seeking approval of the updated RVP annual business plan post acquisition which provides an analysis of the current income position, a short-term business plan and cash flow, sensitivities to the cash flow, and medium term plans for the centre. (All Wards)	The Communities and Economic Development CAB will be consulted.	Diane Brady, Property, Estates and Development Lead	Yes	Part

Environmental Services – Councillor Ellen Neville

Date of decision/ Decision maker	Full Council	Advisory Board	Report Title, Summary and Ward	Consultation Details	Relevant Officer	Key? ¹	Private? ²
21/03/24 Cabinet		07/03/24 Communities and Economic Development Cabinet Advisory Board	Proposal to Revoke the Tunbridge Wells Air Quality Management Area The Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Tunbridge Wells was first declared in 2005. Air quality in Tunbridge Wells has improved considerably in recent years, to the point that for the last 5 years, pollution levels have been below the threshold required for the declaration of an AQMA. DEFRA are concerned that Councils are allowing AQMAs to remain in place after they cease to meet the necessary criteria, and have therefore made it clear that we should revoke the AQMA. (Broadwater; Culverden; Pantiles & St Mark's; Southborough & High Brooms; Southborough North; St John's)	The Communities and Economic Development CAB will be consulted.	Stuart Maxwell, Senior Scientific Officer	No	Open
21/03/24 Cabinet		07/03/24 Communities and Economic Development Cabinet Advisory Board	Review of Provision of Free Pest Control Services Review of the provision of free pest control services to members of the public receiving universal credit in the context of increased costs to the contract. (All Wards)	The Communities and Economic Development CAB will be consulted.	Duncan Haynes, Environmental Protection Team Leader	Yes	Open

Housing and Planning - Councillor Hugo Pound

Date of decision/ Decision maker	Full Council	Advisory Board	Report Title, Summary and Ward	Consultation Details	Relevant Officer	Key? ¹	Private? ²
Not before 15/01/24 Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning			TWBC response to Kent County Council's consultation on the Kent Local Flood Risk Strategy 2024-2034 consultation document KCC is consulting on a draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, spanning the period 2024-2034. This report explains what the consultation is about, the purpose/aims/objectives of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and sets out the formal response to be submitted on behalf of TWBC to the consultation. (All Wards)	KCC began the public consultation on the draft Kent Local Flood risk Management Strategy on 22/11/23 and it ends on 30/1/24. Report to be published before decision is made.	Ellen Gilbert, Planning Policy Manager	No	Open
Not before 16/01/24 Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning			TWBC Response to Kent County Council Consultation on the KCC Cycling, Wheeling and Walking Infrastructure Plan This report provides an introduction and summary to a public consultation by KCC on its emerging Cycling, wheeling and walking Infrastructure Plan and sets out the proposed response by TWBC to be submitted as its formal response to the consultation. (All Wards)	Report to be published before decision is made.	Ellen Gilbert, Planning Policy Manager	No	Open
08/02/24 Cabinet		24/01/24 Communities and Economic Development Cabinet Advisory Board	Award of Partnership Services Contracts The current contract to deliver a hospital discharge service, home straight service and handyperson expire on 31 March 2023. Procurement has commenced for new contracts. The hospital discharge service is a shared service with Sevenoaks District Council and Tonbridge and Malling Council and the Council is leading the procurement on behalf of the three local authorities. (All Wards)	The Communities and Economic Development CAB will be consulted.	Sue Oliver, Private Sector Housing Manager	Yes	Open

Housing and Planning - Councillor Hugo Pound

Date of decision/ Decision maker	Full Council	Advisory Board	Report Title, Summary and Ward	Consultation Details	Relevant Officer	Key? ¹	Private? ²
08/02/24 Cabinet		24/01/24 Communities and Economic Development Cabinet Advisory Board	Affordable Housing Commuted Sums - Land to East of Highgate Hill and South of Copthall Avenue, Hawkhurst Approval use for affordable housing commuted sums held by the Council to assist in the delivery of the affordable housing provision of the 18 rented units, conversion from affordable rent to social rent. (Hawkhurst & Sandhurst)	The Communities and Economic Development CAB will be consulted.	Tobi Phillips, Affordable Housing and Enabling Officer	Yes	Open
08/02/24 Cabinet		22/01/24 Planning and Transportation Cabinet Advisory Board	A Plan for Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Centre Draft Vision 2040 Regulation 18 (Part 1) Consultation February to April 2024 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is currently in the early stages of preparing a plan to guide future development within Tunbridge Wells Town Centre. The early engagement consultation is the first stage in the preparation of the plan and the draft document sets out the draft vision, ambitions and opportunities for the defined town centre over the Plan period to 2040. Wide consultation will be carried out with the public and stakeholders between February and April 2040. (All Wards)	Planning and	Sharon Evans, Principal Planning Policy Officer	No	Open
21/03/24 Cabinet	Full Council TBA	04/03/24 Planning and Transportation Cabinet Advisory Board	*High Weald AONB Management Plan 2024-2029 This report relates to the formal approval of the High Weald AONB Management Plan, 2024 - 2029, which would become a material planning consideration in planning decisions. (All Wards)	The Planning and Transportation CAB will be consulted.	Ellen Gilbert, Planning Policy Manager	No	Open

Housing and Planning - Councillor Hugo Pound

Date of decision/ Decision maker	Full Council	Advisory Board	Report Title, Summary and Ward	Consultation Details	Relevant Officer	Key? ¹	Private? ²
21/03/24 Cabinet		04/03/24 Planning and Transportation Cabinet Advisory Board	High Weald AONB Unit: Service Level Agreement This report provides details of the new Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the High Weald AONB and the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) that cover the High Weald AONB. (All Wards)		Ellen Gilbert, Planning Policy Manager	No	Open

Sports, Leisure and Health - Councillor Pamela Wilkinson

Date of decision/ Decision maker	Full Council	Advisory Board	Report Title, Summary and Ward	Consultation Details	Relevant Officer	Key? ¹	Private?2

There are no items within the designated timeframe.

Carbon Reduction & Sustainability - Councillor Jayne Sharratt

Date of decision/ Decision maker	Full Council	Advisory Board	Report Title, Summary and Ward	Consultation Details	Relevant Officer	Key? ¹	Private? ²
08/02/24 Cabinet		Transportation Cabinet	Agreement with Kent County Council to enforce Public Realm 2 That TWBC implement PR2 and contract with KCC to provide enforcement services for safety reasons. (All Wards)	Transportation CAB will	Jane Fineman, Head of Finance and Procurement	Yes	Open

Guidance Notes

Note 1: KEY DECISIONS

A "key decision" means a decision which is to be taken by the executive of the Council which is likely to:

- result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are over £250,000 as well as otherwise being significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (b) be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the Borough of Tunbridge Wells.

Note 2: REASONS A MEETING MAY BE HELD IN PRIVATE

In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public may be excluded from a meeting on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Act. The exemption must be by virtue of one or more specified paragraphs which are shown on the meeting agenda (giving 5 days notice) and, in the case of the Cabinet, on the Forward Plan (giving 28 days notice). The exemptions are summarised as follows:

- Paragraph (1) Information relating to any individual.
- Paragraph (2) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
- Paragraph (3) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
- Paragraph (4) Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office-holders under, the authority.
- Paragraph (5) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
- Paragraph (6) Information which reveals that the authority proposes -
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
- Paragraph (7) Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- (8) Information falling within paragraph (3) above is not exempt information by virtue of that paragraph if it is required to be registered under
 - (a) the Companies Act 1985;
 - (b) the Friendly Societies Act 1974;
 - (c) the Friendly Societies Act 1992;
 - (d) the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1978;
 - (e) the Building Societies Act 1986; or
 - (f) the Charities Act 1993.
- (9) Information is not exempt information if it relates to proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992.
- (10) Information which
 - (a) falls within any of paragraphs 1 to 7 above; and
 - (b) is not prevented from being exempt by virtue of paragraph 8 or 9 above,

is exempt information if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.