

**Draft Five Year Plan 2017-2022
Public Consultation Responses**

Comments on any part of the consultation document	Name/Organisation:	Cabinet Response
<i>TWBC: respondent mistakenly entered information in this consultation instead of Local Plan Issues & Options consultation.</i>	Mark French	Noted.
Section 5/Q 10 A26 is already very congested, and I have not seen any proposals as to how more development in the area of Southborough Common will be managed, and increased congestion alleviated. Proposed development is close to ancient woodland - the common has been much improved recently, for local people and wildlife - all this will be jeopardised by such far reaching development proposals. We have long enjoyed splendid high weald views, - an area of outstanding beauty will be ruined.	Mr D. Simmons	<p>Kent County Council is responsible for highways and traffic management. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is the planning authority, and when new applications for development are submitted, the Highways Team at Kent County Council are consulted on the proposals to ensure that local roads can cope with any additional traffic anticipated from the new development. Mitigation measures can be proposed to help alleviate any extra traffic and these would be paid for by the developer when the new development is built out.</p> <p>The Borough Council and the County Council work together to produce a Transport Strategy for the area, and this is being renewed alongside the new Local Plan to take account of the new levels of growth expected in the borough.</p>
An aspirational document with many sensible proposals, yet the key challenge - traffic movement to / through the town is not addressed and the proposed provision of more off street parking will surely just add to the existing congestion? Perhaps Park and Ride from e.g. The Hop Farm might help.	Bob Anthony	<p>Kent County Council is responsible for highways and traffic management. As this issue is important to many residents, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council will continue to advocate for road improvements, and where possible work with Kent County Council to mitigate any issues.</p> <p>The Transport Strategy, a joint document between the Borough Council and the County Council, is currently being renewed alongside the Local Plan to take account of the new levels of growth expected in the borough.</p>
I find the document vague and using aspiration as a substitute for the kind of detail that would make comment meaningful.	Maurice Price	Noted. This is an overarching strategy and is therefore unable to go into greater levels of detail, given the extent of projects and services contained within it. Our projects are available in more detail through the relevant business cases, action plans

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<p>'The new theatre project in my view is not a priority and will impact on a particularly valuable community space in Tunbridge Wells. I do not believe the the public realm has, or will be improved in Tunbridge Wells or Southborough from the projects stated and I believe that both towns are losing their attractive qualities.</p> <p>The area where the old cinema stood has been an eyesore for many years and if the council really want to attract more business and tourism to the town this should be addressed as a matter or urgency.</p> <p>I understand the need for housing development and that there is a shortage however the infrastructure does not allow for the extra population and the traffic congestion will only become worse. I personally know people who avoid visiting Tunbridge Wells because of the traffic delays on the A26 – this is not a new problem.</p> <p>I am sure the plan will be implemented despite protestations but I hope to continue to live in a town once renowned for its character and beauty.</p>	<p>July Cave</p>	<p>and strategies that sit under the Five Year Plan.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>The old cinema site in not in the possession of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, and as such we are reliant on the private owners of the site to come forward with a suitable planning application. We have been working with the current owners of the site, and are very pleased that a planning application has now been submitted.</p> <p>We understand that traffic congestion is a particularly important issue for residents, and we will continue to advocate for road improvements. Kent County Council is responsible for highways and traffic management, and where possible we work with them to find measures to mitigate the issues. The Transport Strategy, a joint document between the Borough Council and the County Council, is currently being renewed alongside the Local Plan to take account of the new levels of growth expected in the borough.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
<p>Page 12 - Theatre and Offices / Civic Space.</p> <p>The existing Assembly Halls are perfectly suited and located for their purpose. If there is a proven need for expansion it should be facilitated by moving the Police Station into new premises. The police building and the last of the Decimus Burton crescent buildings are very poorly utilised and could be brought into a greater scheme to expand the theatre Operation and introduce commercial/retail space into the theatre offer.</p> <p>The existing Town Hall / Civic complex are as above purpose built</p>	<p>Mr Bruce M Neilson MCIOB MAPM</p>	<p>We have aspirations to develop a theatre for the borough capable of hosting high-end West End shows.</p> <p>We believe this will add around £14m to the local economy each year (through cultural and tourism activity, which is an important part of the borough's economy), improve the cultural offer and act as a hub for the community so that quality of life for our residents is enhanced, and increase the sustainability of the theatre operation by attracting larger audiences.</p> <p>The current Assembly Hall Theatre is not able to offer this kind</p>

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<p>and strategically located as well as being ill suited to other purposes! seriously risking them becoming the victim of Land Banking and protracted planning in the same way as the cinema site. These buildings can be substantially updated and modernised to suit current and future council spacial requirements at a fraction of the cost of new buildings and would gain substantial merit under BREEAM in reusing the existing buildings and not destroying the finite public open space, parks and mature trees vital to our town centre.</p>		<p>of potential benefit to the economy or our residents.</p> <p>Expert consultants have reviewed all options for the redevelopment of the Assembly Hall and concluded that, given the constraints of the building and its Listed status, it would cost £31m (up from £25m in 2013) to redevelop.</p> <p>However, even with this investment the Assembly Hall would still not be large enough to attract the bigger productions. The theatre's fly tower would remain too low and the backstage would still be too small. The foyer would also be too small for an enlarged audience.</p> <p>It is important to recognise that if the existing Assembly Hall was redeveloped the building would have to close for 2-3 years, removing an important leisure amenity from local residents, and the economy.</p> <p>The current town hall and civic complex would remain in the possession of the Borough Council, which means we will have a much greater say on how and when the site is redeveloped, thereby significantly reducing the risk of it remaining vacant.</p>
<p>Dear Mr Jukes,</p> <p>I would like to compliment you on the draft five year plan. There are many areas needing improvement & development that appear to be in the process of being addressed. This may not be the first you/TWBC has produced but having lived in the borough for more than 20 years it is the first I have seen. This raises the point as to how it can be that the plan hasn't been effectively promoted so TWBC's inhabitants for comment. What level of feedback have you</p>	<p>Guy MacNaughton</p>	<p>Noted, thank you.</p> <p>The consultation was advertised through social media websites, at the Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum meeting, through the Parish and Town Councils, at two separate consultation events held on 10 May in Matfield and 12 May in Cranbrook, with hard copies placed in the Royal Tunbridge Wells Library and at the Weald Information Centre in Cranbrook. A digital copy was displayed and advertised on our website. Alongside this we notified through email the list of residents who have signed up to our consultation portal.</p>

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<p>received? I only heard about the plan at a meeting in Goudhurst held about a different matter. I could very easily have missed it. Email may be regarded by some as slightly outdated but isn't it a way of effectively and efficiently and inexpensively broadcasting issues we need to be aware of?</p> <p>Your opening section highlights the fact TW sits at the heart of a very beautiful part of the country - it's why people want to visit the town and surrounding countryside and hence why it should not in any way be developed to its detriment. The selection of sites, the quality of housing (both from an aesthetic point of view but also build quality/energy efficiency) are of utmost importance in maintaining the areas character and quality and should be of equal importance to any other factors. Many would argue that before any further houses are built an investment in infrastructure and transport should be made. The trains to London are slow and overcrowded, but nothing is done about this. The roads in the area are often narrow, windy and of poor quality and already congested and cannot take more cars. That said for many of us who live in the countryside we like narrow roads, it adds to the charm!</p> <p>Taking into account the views of local people is essential and I urge you to ensure this becomes central to any future plan.</p>		<p>We agree that high quality housing and protection areas of character and quality are of importance. The planning policies and development allocations of the adopted Core Strategy seek to deliver sustainable development, balancing the need for growth with protection and enhancement of the borough's highly-valued built and natural environment. In preparing a new up-to-date Local Plan the Council will seek to retain the same objectives: promoting high quality development; and ensuring that the right type of development happens in the right places.</p> <p>Unfortunately, funding for improvements to infrastructure, including road and rail improvements, are now directly linked by central Government to housing growth, which as the Plan highlights, is a particular problem for us due to the restricted areas in which we can develop.</p>