Q1: Why has this Local Plan been prepared?

A1: The Council’s current Development Plan\(^1\) is reaching the end of its lifetime (2021). A new Local Plan needs to be in place to manage change in the borough for the period up to 2031, including addressing assessed needs and protecting natural and heritage assets. The Government expects local authorities to have an up-to-date Local Plan in place which responds to local evidence and is in conformity with national planning policy and practice guidance.

Q2: What is the ‘Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Publication’ version of the Local Plan?

A2: The current consultation is on a detailed Local Plan that the Council considers to be sound. It includes a range of policies and allocations on matters including housing, the economy, the environment and infrastructure.

Q3: Is this the first stage of consultation?

A3: No, the Council undertook a consultation on an earlier draft in the autumn of 2016\(^2\). The draft presented the outcomes of key pieces of evidence and a possible way forward.

Q4: If I took part in the previous consultation, how have my comments been treated?

A4: The issues raised during the previous consultation were taken into account during the preparation of the Regulation 19 Local Plan. A summary of the main issues raised during the earlier...

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\(^1\) A suite of adopted Development Plan Documents (2007-2010), more details: [www.tmbc.gov.uk/developmentplan](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/developmentplan)

\(^2\) Regulation 18 Consultation: [www.tmbc.gov.uk/localplanconsult](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/localplanconsult)
Regulation 18 consultation will be submitted to the Secretary of State (SoS) for consideration during the examination of the Plan.

**Q5: When and how can I make a representation on the Regulation 19 Local Plan?**

**A5:** Representations can be made during the seven week period between 1st October and 4 pm on 19th November 2018. Any representation received after 4 pm on Monday 19th November 2018 will not be registered as duly made.

You are encouraged to complete the electronic pdf representation form that is available from the consultation web page: [www.tmbc.gov.uk/localplanreg19](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/localplanreg19)

All electronic representations should be returned to [localplan@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@tmbc.gov.uk).

Representations made in writing should be posted to:

Ian Bailey, Planning Policy Manager, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, Kent ME19 4LZ

**Q6: What is the focus of this consultation?**

**A6:** The focus of this consultation is on the soundness of the content of the Local Plan. The Council has prepared what it considers to be a sound Local Plan which takes account of local evidence, national policy and consultation responses. With this in mind, please focus your attention on what is included in the Plan.

In addition, the Council welcomes comments on the ‘Changes to the Proposals Map’ document, the Sustainability Appraisal Final Report and the Habitat Regulations Assessment. For further information on making a formal representation, please see the guidance note that is available from the consultation web page: [www.tmbc.gov.uk/localplanreg19](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/localplanreg19).

**Q7: Will the Local Plan be tested against the requirements of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (July 2018)?**

**A7:** No, the timetable for the Local Plan indicates that it will be submitted to the Secretary of State during December 2018. According to [para.214 in the revised NPPF](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework), this means that for the purposes of examining the Local Plan the policies in the previous Framework (March 2012) will apply, as will any previous planning practice guidance which has been superseded since the new NPPF was published in July 2018.
Q8: What will happen to my representation?

A8: All duly made representations, along with a summary of the main issues raised during the consultation, will be submitted to the SoS. The SoS will appoint an independent inspector who will examine the soundness of the Local Plan, taking account of duly made representations. This examination is anticipated to take place during the Spring 2019.

As soon as reasonably practicable after the Local Plan has been submitted to the SoS, the Council will make available the representations made on the Regulation 19 Plan, where it is practicable to so.

Q9: Where can I access the consultation documents and read more about the Local Plan?

A9: The consultation documents are available online from the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council website at: www.tmbc.gov.uk/localplanreg19.

In addition, printed versions can be inspected at the Council offices at Kings Hill and Tonbridge Castle during normal office hours and at public libraries across the borough. Details of libraries and their opening times are available from Kent County Council’s website.

The Council has organised two ‘Drop-in’ sessions, one at each of the Council offices at Kings Hill and Tonbridge Castle. These sessions will include presentation panels containing information on the Local Plan and will be manned by Planning Policy Officers who will be available should you have any questions. Details of the sessions:

- Monday 15th October 2018, Committee Room, Kings Hill Council offices, 9am – 7pm
- Wednesday 17th October 2018, Tonbridge Castle Chamber, 9am – 8pm

The evidence that has informed the Local Plan is available online: www.tmbc.gov.uk/localplanevidence.