

Borough Report 2018

Due to the continuing reduction in funding from central government, we have had yet another year when considerable savings have had to be found. Tonbridge & Malling continues to receive one of the lowest payments per head of population in Kent so we are very fortunate that for many years we have had a robust Medium Term Financial Strategy in place, making our huge savings gradually over the years without impacting too greatly on our frontline services.

As we go forward, with yet more pressure on our finances, the council have been looking, not only at savings, but also at opportunities to increase our revenue.

Work on our new Local Plan continues apace, with a new timeline now in place for the final draft to be approved for consultation late summer and ready to be deposited with The Secretary of State by the end of the year.

A lot of work has been done this year on the renewal of our Waste Collection contract in the hope of improving our roadside recycling collections to include plastics and glass.

Our Leisure Services continue to be well used as well as being rated among the best in the country. Recent works at Larkfield will make sure that facilities keep up to date.

The works to make the M20 a Smart Motorway and the concerns regarding a proposal to include a new sandpit at Ryarsh in the KCC Minerals plan will both cause concerns amongst our residents in the coming year, as will the ever present pressure for more houses and the effect that has on our infrastructure. We both hope to be able to continue to protect and support our communities.