REPORT TO WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL 2nd December 2026

By the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councillors for

Aylesford North and North Downs Ward
Councillors Dave Davis, Alex McDermott and Roger Dalton

LOCAL GOVERNEMENT REORGANISATION

1. We reported earlier that on the 7th September the Minster for Housing and Local Government cancelled the proposed elections for the new Unitary Authorities.

2. The result of this is now clearer. The Local Government reform is on hold at the moment but early indications are that there will be full elections to the new councils in May 2028. With that KCC and TMBC will need to be running things until 2029 with the new council shadowing them from May 2028 to 2029. During the shadowing period, the old councils will be taking all decisions up to May 2029 but from May 2029 the new LR Council will be applying the plans and budgets, they have worked out in the shadow year.

3. The Local Government Reform was extensively covered at the parish Partnership Panel in 19th November by the TMBC Leader and Chief Executive and their slides have been forwarded to your Clerk.

BULKY ITEM PAID FOR SERVICE

4. KCC have confirmed that, following an increase in disposal capacity for fridges and freezers, they are taking a phased approach to allowing districts to resume household collections. The good news is that TMBC is in the first tranche, so we can reinstate fridges and freezers as part of our bulky collection service from Monday 30 November. There is a cost for using this service.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS IN PROGRESS

5. **Southern Extension to Peters Village 21/01939/OAEA.** We are waiting for a more detailed review by officers on what can be done about the Southern Extension Enforcement Officers are looking into this and we will update you when they have completed their investigations. We can confirm that this land is up for sale but has not been sold. Any liability concerning the land will be passed on to any future purchaser.

6. **Tramway Quarry.** The Enforcement Officer again found nothing that required planning permission. We are waiting for further information from your council on containers or any other issues you believe require planning permission before this case can be investigated. Please could we have this in email form to pass on to our officers