KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

SELECTION AND MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Selection and Member Services Committee held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 22 October 2026.

PRESENT: Mr M Paul (Chair), Mr S Dixon (Vice-Chair), Mr M Brown, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr M A J Hood, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kennedy, Mr P King, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mrs C Palmer, Mr T Prater and Mr R G Streatfeild, MBE

ALSO PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE:

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

49. Apologies and Substitutes
(Item 1)

Apologies were received from Mr Chapman who was substituted by Mr Mole, Mrs Foster who was substituted by Mrs Palmer and Mr Morland who was substituted by Mr Streatfeild.

50. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda
(Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

51. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 September 2026
(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2026 were accurate and that they be signed by the Chair.

52. Development of the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board and Terms of Reference
(Item 4)

1. Dr Gogarty introduced the report. During the introduction the following key points were highlighted:
   a) The Kent Health and Wellbeing Board had an important role in supporting improvements to the health and wellbeing of Kent residents.
   b) The Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy remained the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Kent.
   c) There was increased national focus on Health and Wellbeing Boards, particularly their role in developing the Neighbourhood Health Plan and arrangements relating to the Better Care Fund.
   d) The proposed changes to the Terms of Reference reflected the revised NHS architecture and the enhanced role of the Board.

e) The proposed changes to membership would increase representation from district councils and local health alliances, NHS providers, the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector and other partners whose functions contribute to health and wellbeing outcomes.

2. During consideration of the item the following points were raised:
   a) In line with recent support at Full Council for a motion on military veteran health, the Terms of Reference should include specific reference to the monitoring and improvement of health outcomes for military veterans, serving personnel and their families.
   b) The membership could be expanded to broaden its political, geographical and public representation.
   c) In recognition that there was health inequality across the County, representatives from the most deprived areas should sit on the Board.
   d) There needed to be measurable improvements in health outcomes and appropriate accountability for the Board's work.
   e) The relationship between the Board and the Council's other committees could be made more explicit. Clarity between their respective roles and responsibilities was important.
   f) The Kent Health and Wellbeing Board was a partnership body comprising a number of organisations. Any changes the Committee wished to propose to the arrangements set out in the report would require endorsement from the partner organisations before being submitted to Full Council for final approval.

3. After the debate, the following amendments were put forward by members of the Committee:

   a) Proposed by Mr Streatfeild and seconded by Mr Kennedy:

      That the following two sentences are added to the role of the Board:
      - To monitor, review and promote health and care outcomes for military veterans, serving personnel and their families across Kent, ensuring full alignment with the Armed Forces Covenant and seamless integration with the NHS mental health services.
      - Oversee joint strategies ensuring local health and social care systems maintain community resilience and continuity of care, during major incidents and emergency disruptions.

      That paragraph 18.5, Membership, be amended to include the following sentence:
      - To have one co-opted, non-voting representative from the Kent Armed Forces Covenant Partnership - Veterans Health Service.

   b) Proposed by Mr Prater and seconded by Mr Streatfeild:
      That paragraph 18.5 (g) be amended to include how the Health and Wellbeing Board would work alongside the Adult Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee.

   c) Proposed by Mr Prater and seconded by Mr Hood:
      That paragraph 18.7 (b) be amended to add two non-executive County Councillors, allocated on a proportional basis to opposition groups.

d) Proposed by Mr Prater and seconded by Mr Hood:
That paragraph 18.16 be amended to add "with at least one from East, West and North Kent".

e) Proposed by Mr Prater and seconded by Mr Streatfeild:
That paragraph 18.18 be amended to delete the words “non-voting”

f) Proposed by Mr Prater and seconded by Mrs Fothergill:
To amend the Membership section to add two co-opted, voting member positions representing the public.

g) Proposed by Mr Prater and seconded by Mr Kennedy:
To amend the Membership section to include the following two co-opted, voting member positions:
- A dedicated representative from a Kent Unpaid Carers Organisation.
- A dedicated representative for Children and Young People’s Mental Health / Neurodiversity Advocacy.

h) Proposed by Mr Prater and seconded by Mr Streatfeild:
To amend paragraphs 18.5(e) and (f) to include a clear requirement that capital investment in neighbourhood health hubs and preventative primary care be heavily weighted toward high-deprivation coastal communities (such as Thanet, Folkestone & Hythe, Dover, and Swale) to eradicate local "healthcare and dental deserts".

i) Proposed by Mr Prater and seconded by Mr Kennedy:
To amend paragraph 18.5(n) to make an Annual State of Kent’s Health report a mandatory, standing item at Full County Council every autumn, debated in open public session.

4. Each amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

5. The Committee RESOLVED to:
   a) NOTE the evolving national and local context for Health and Wellbeing Boards, including the Board's anticipated leadership role in the development and oversight of the Kent Neighbourhood Health Plan and Better Care Fund arrangements;
   b) ENDORSE the proposed future role, membership and ways of working for the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in the report; and
   c) RECOMMEND to County Council that the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

6. In accordance with council procedure rule 16.31, Mr Prater wished it to be recorded in the minutes that he abstained from voting.

53. Kent Pension Fund Governance Reforms
(Item 5)

1. Mr Watts introduced the report that detailed the actions required by the Council in response to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) governance reforms.

2. During consideration of the item the following points were raised:

a) The reforms introduced new governance requirements for administering authorities, including the creation of a statutory LGPS Senior Officer role and an Independent Person role, the introduction of Independent Governance Reviews and revised requirements relating to knowledge and training. The proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference reflected these new requirements.
b) The selection process for the Independent Person was approved by the Pension Fund Committee and had been completed.
c) Mr McDonald had been selected for the role on the basis of his relevant experience and expertise across pension administration, investment and governance.
d) The findings and actions arising from Independent Governance Reviews would be considered by elected Members. It was anticipated that they would be reported to the Pension Fund Committee for consideration.
e) The appointment of the LGPS Senior Officer was the responsibility of the Head of Paid Service and would need to comply with the Council's relevant HR and recruitment processes.

3. The Committee RESOLVED to:
   a) NOTE the designation of the LGPS Senior Officer as the statutory officer for the Kent Pension Fund;
   b) NOTE the selection of Kevin McDonald as the Fund's Independent Person;
   c) RECOMMEND to County Council that the updated Terms of Reference for the Pension Fund Committee be approved; and
   d) NOTE that the appointment to the LGPS Senior Officer role and its position within the organisational structure were reserved to the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive).

54. Sealing of Documents: Constitutional Amendments
(Item 6)

1. Mr Godfrey introduced the report and highlighted the following points:
   a. The common seal was affixed to certain documents to demonstrate that the appropriate governance requirements had been followed and was applied by an officer authorised by the Monitoring Officer. This provided an additional check that the necessary processes had been completed.
   b. The proposed amendments would allow the Monitoring Officer, in defined circumstances, to waive the requirement to affix the common seal when appropriate.
   c. The change was intended to provide greater administrative flexibility and would help to avoid unnecessary delays.
   d. The proposed discretion would not apply when sealing was required by law. It would only be applicable when there was no statutory requirement for a seal to be affixed.

2. A minor grammatical correction was needed to remove the word ‘or’ from the end of the sentence in paragraph 13.13 (b) of the appendix.

3. The Committee RESOLVED to recommend to County Council that the proposed changes to the Constitution, as set out in the appendix to the report, be agreed, subject to the removal of the word ‘or’ from the end of the sentence in paragraph 13.13 (b).

(a) **FIELD**
(b) **FIELD_TITLE**