

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the County Council held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 4 November 2021.

PRESENT: Mrs L Game (Vice-Chairman), Mr N Baker, Mr M Baldock, Mr P V Barrington-King, Mr P Bartlett, Mr D Beaney, Mr C Beart, Mrs C Bell, Mrs R Binks, Mr A Brady, Mr D L Brazier, Mr C Broadley, Mrs B Bruneau, Mr S R Campkin, Mr T Cannon, Miss S J Carey, Sir Paul Carter, CBE, Mrs S Chandler, Mr N J D Chard, Mr I S Chittenden, Mrs P T Cole, Mr P Cole, Mr N J Collor, Ms K Constantine, Mr G Cooke, Mr P C Cooper, Mr D Crow-Brown, Mr D S Daley, Mr M C Dance, Ms M Dawkins, Mrs T Dean, MBE, Mr M Dendor, Mr R W Gough, Ms K Grehan, Ms S Hamilton, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr A R Hills, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mrs S Hudson, Mr D Jeffrey, Mr A Kennedy, Mr J A Kite, MBE, Rich Lehmann, Mr R C Love, OBE, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J P McInroy, Ms J Meade, Mr J Meade, Mr D Murphy, Mr P J Oakford, Mrs S Prendergast, Mr H Rayner, Mr O Richardson, Mr A M Ridgers, Mr D Robey, Mr D Ross, Mr C Simkins, Mr M J Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, MBE, Dr L Sullivan, Mr B J Sweetland, Mr R J Thomas, Mr D Watkins, Mr A Weatherhead, Mr S Webb and Ms L Wright

ALSO PRESENT: Canon Peter Bruinvels

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr B Watts (General Counsel) and Mr J Cook (Democratic Services Manager)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

26. Apologies for Absence
(Item 1)

The General Counsel reported apologies from Mr Peter Harman, Mr Steve Manion, Ms Lottie Parfitt-Reid, Mr John Wright, Ms Margot McArthur, Mr Jan Ozog, Mr Barry Lewis and Mr Booth. Members were advised that Mr Booth was joining the meeting virtually.

27. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Significant Interests in items on the agenda
(Item 2)

Ms Meade declared an interest in item 13 (motions for time-limited debate) in that she was a carer.

Mrs Wright declared an interest in item 13 (motions for time-limited debate) in that she was an appointee for a family member.

28. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2021
(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2021, subject to a correction in relation to the attendance of Mr Dendor and Mr Beart, be approved as a correct record.

29. Corporate Parenting Panel - Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2021 for noting
(Item 4)

The Vice-Chairman highlighted to Members that Mrs Allen chaired KCC's Corporate Parenting Panel for many years and was particularly keen to ensure the needs of young people were always considered as a priority. Mrs Allen championed the continued consideration of Corporate Parenting Panel minutes and Full Council meetings.

RESOLVED that the notes of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 20 July 2021 be noted.

30. Vice-Chairman's Announcements
(Item 5)

- 1) The Vice-Chairman, with the deepest sadness and regret, announced the passing of Ann Allen, Chairman of the Council.
- 2) Tributes were made by Mr Gough, Mr Kite, Dr Sullivan, Mr Hook, Mr Stepto, Mrs Dean, Mr Cooke, Mr Oakford, Mrs Cole, Mr Love, Mr Simkins, Mr Sweetland, Ms Grehan, Sir Paul Carter and Mrs Chandler. Video tributes were also shown from the Chair of the Kent Youth County Council, Kent Foster Care Association (the Chairman's chosen charity) and young people who had worked with Mrs Allen.
- 3) In the course of the tributes, as suggested by Mr Kite and agreed by the Vice-Chairman, the Council held a one-minute round of applause in memory of Ann Allen.
- 4) The Vice-Chairman thanked all those who offered such heartfelt tributes as part of the meeting.

31. Questions
(Item 6)

In accordance with Sections 14.15 to 14.22 of the Constitution, 11 questions were asked and replies given. A record of all questions put and answers given at the meeting is available online with the papers for this meeting.

32. Report by Leader of the Council (Oral)
(Item 7)

- (1) The Leader updated the Council on events since the previous meeting.
- (2) Mr Gough referred to the Comprehensive Spending Review and Budget. The outcome of the spending review had been better than expected, however, this remained a challenging area with continued pressure within demand-led services particularly in adult social care and children's services. In addition to this the Council Tax Referendum limit had been reduced, the result of this was that spending power shifted slightly from a reliance on council tax to reliance on government support, this was a marginal impact but nevertheless was welcomed.
- (3) A series of announcements regarding grants had been received, many very positive and these included the ZEBRA grant for transport funding, and in relation to the Levelling Up Fund and the Community Renewal Fund there had been significant awards in Ramsgate, Margate, and in relation to the New Town works in Ashford. These were welcomed.
- (4) Mr Gough reflected on the changes within the government and considered that there was further opportunity for local government with Michael Gove at the newly named Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
- (5) Mr Gough referred to asylum. The Council had resumed taking young people into its care with a further 193 unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) being taken into care since August 2021. The current number of looked-after children from a UASC background was 361.
- (6) The Council had been very active in the run up to the end of the Brexit transition and it sought to continue to work with the government to ensure cross country provision in the event of a crisis or disruption.
- (7) In relation to the Green Agenda and COP26 the Leader drew attention to the two detailed reports recently received by Cabinet in relation to the Council's approach to Net Zero and to dealing with adaptation and other key elements in its response to the ecological and climate pressures.

- (8) Lastly, the Leader commended the Council's submission under the National Bus Strategy: The Bus Service and Improvement Plan which was now with the government.
- (9) Dr Sullivan, the Leader of the Opposition, asked about additional funding for the reopening of children's centres and expressed her wish for no more cuts to services.
- (10) With regards to UASC Dr Sullivan stated that the Council must do everything possible to ensure that more lives are not lost. The new redistribution system was not mandatory and it was hoped that there was not a breakdown in the council's statutory duties due to a failure of all authorities to deal with the related problems.
- (11) Dr Sullivan referred to COP26 and the strides the council was taking to tackle the green agenda. There were many challenges and costs and there were questions over who would bear those costs.
- (12) Mr Hook, Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group referred to COVID and the situation which, he commented, had worsened since July. He thanked Mr Watts, Mr Cook and all the staff who had worked hard to ensure the meeting was as safe as possible. Mr Hook considered it outrageous that national government had not yet created the necessary legal framework for local government to have choice and to work more remotely that was possible at present.
- (13) Mr Hook referred to Canterbury resident Abdulazak Gurnah, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature on 7 October. Professor Gurnah came to Kent as a refugee in 1968, he studied at Canterbury until his recent retirement as Professor of English at Kent University where he taught generations of students.
- (14) Mr Hook considered it essential that the council looked after UASC and insisted that national authorities provided the resources to ensure this can be done.
- (15) Mr Hook referred to concerns about the spending review which he considered would be largely wiped out by the inflation forecast.
- (16) In relation to devolution Mr Hook considered that it was important to resist any suggestion that greater devolution should be attached to a requirement to have an elected mayor, it was his view that power was best shared between a group of people rather than invested in one individual.

- (17) Mr Stepto, Leader of the Green and Independent Group, referred to the Comprehensive Spending Review and welcomed any additional money coming into local government and it was hoped that this would meet some of the extra costs, demands and pressures on KCC.
- (18) In relation to devolution, it was hoped that measures would bring decision making closer to people, to improve services and connectivity, provide investment and create a better quality of life for Kent residents.
- (19) Referring to the green agenda Mr Stepto praised the work of KCC on the climate emergency and the environment. He commented on flooding problems and considered that surface water flood mapping needed to be updated as a matter of urgency.
- (20) He concurred with the Leader's comment about the national bus strategy and was optimistic that services would improve.
- (21) In replying to the other Leader's comments, Mr Gough commented on preventative services which had worked well in KCC. This had been stable over many years and KCC was actually in the bottom quartile in relation to population in terms of number of children in care, however, there were pressures on children's services.
- (22) In relation to the point about Youth Hubs, Youth Centres, these were being gradually opened, delays had been caused by health and safety issues, and in some cases the impact of what happened during the period they were closed over the pandemic.
- (23) Mr Gough commented on mandation in relation to UASC, this had been lobbied for and KCC continued to think that it was the right solution. Many councils had stepped up under the National Transfer scheme and although significant progress had been made the issue remained.
- (24) Referring to COP26 and KCC's initiatives in this area, KCC was in the running for an award, but this was one small aspect of the work that had been done to bring down by 73% our emissions from our own estate and operations. Detailed work was being done to assess progress towards the 2050 target for the County as a whole.
- (25) Mr Gough concurred with Mr Hook in relation to elected Mayors, and this was also the view of district colleagues and Medway Council.
- (26) RESOLVED that the Leaders update be noted.

33. Building Back Better - Update on Making a Difference Every Day
(Item 8)

- 1) Mrs Bell proposed and Mr Meade seconded the motion that;
"The County Council notes the report."
- 2) Following the debate the Vice-Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 1.

RESOLVED that the County Council note the report.

Following consideration of this item, the Vice-Chairman proposed and the Leader of the Council seconded the following procedural motion:

That under s14.70 (e) of the Constitution that, the Council agrees to extend the time of the meeting beyond 16:30 if required.

No debate took place and the motion was agreed without a formal vote.

RESOLVED that under s14.70 (e) of the Constitution that, the Council agree to extend the time of the meeting beyond 16:30 if required.

34. Treasury Management - Annual Review 2020/21
(Item 9)

- 3) Mr Oakford proposed and Mr Cooper seconded the motion that;
"The County Council notes the report."
- 4) Following the debate, during which a written answer was requested by Mr Brady of Mr Cooper (subsequently provided via Democratic Services), the Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 1.

RESOLVED that the County Council note the report.

35. Member Remuneration
(Item 10)

- 1) Mr Gough proposed and Mr Oakford seconded the motion that;
 - a) Note the report;
 - b) Note the report of the Member Remuneration Panel and thank the Panel Members for their work; and

- c) Agree the changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme as set out in Appendix 1, this scheme to be in place until 31 March 2025 including:
- i. No change to the Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and Dependents' Carers' Allowances for 2021/22;
 - ii. Removal of the SRA for the Lead Member for Partnerships;
 - iii. Annual indexation mechanism to be the average of the TCP pay award 'Successful' rating applying to the same year as the Members' allowance increase, and the average of the increases proposed by the 8 Pay Review Bodies in the preceding year;
 - iv. The current SRA for the Leader of each Opposition Group (of at least five Members) to be replaced with an SRA equivalent to 33% of the Leader's SRA, subject to a maximum SRA allocation for this role of 3 times the Opposition Group Leader SRA to be divided equally amongst the Opposition Group Leaders where there are more than 3;
 - v. The change to the SRAs of the Opposition Group Leaders will be deemed to have taken effect from 1 November 2021;
 - vi. The annual scheme to be agreed with the annual budget for the year and coming into effect at the beginning of each municipal year;
 - vii. That Member attendance at meetings will be tabulated and published as soon as is practical;
 - viii. That the Selection and Member Services Committee be asked to consider whether there is anything in how we operate which militates against a more diverse membership; and
 - ix. That the Selection and Member Services Committee also be asked to consider what additional information could be published to give a more accurate picture of Member contribution as well as how to better promote the Dependents' Carers' Allowance.

- 2) Following debate the Vice-Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 1 to the vote. The voting was as follows:

For (52)

Mr Baker, Mr M Baldock, Mr P Bartlett, Mr D Beaney, Mr C Beart, Mrs C Bell, Mrs R Binks, Mr D L Brazier, Mr C Broadley, Mrs B Bruneau, Mr S R Campkin, Mr T Cannon, Miss S J Carey, Sir Paul Carter, CBE, Mrs S Chandler, Mr I S Chittenden, Mrs P T Cole, Mr P Cole, Mr G Cooke, Mr P C Cooper, Mr D Crow-Brown, Mr M C Dance, MBE, Mr M Dendor, Mr R W Gough, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr

A R Hills, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr M A J Hood, Mr D Jeffrey, Mr J A Kite, MBE, Mr Lehmann, Mr R C Love, OBE, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J P McInroy, Mr J Meade, Mr D Murphy, Mr P J Oakford, Mr O Richardson, Mr A M Ridgers, Mr D Robey, Mr D Ross, Mr C Simkins, Mr M J Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, MBE, Mr B J Sweetland, Mr R J Thomas, Mr D Watkins, Mr A Weatherhead, Mr S Webb, Ms L Wright

Abstain (10)

Mr A Brady, Ms K Constantine, Ms M Dawkins, Mrs T Dean, Ms K Grehan, Mr A J Hook, Mrs S Hudson, Mr A Kennedy, Ms J Meade, Dr L Sullivan,

Against (1)

Mr H Rayner

Motion carried

RESOLVED that the County Council;

- a) Note the report;
- b) Note the report of the Member Remuneration Panel and thank the Panel Members for their work; and
- c) Agree the changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme as set out in Appendix 1, this scheme to be in place until 31 March 2025 including:
 - i. No change to the Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and Dependents' Carers' Allowances for 2021/22;
 - ii. Removal of the SRA for the Lead Member for Partnerships;
 - iii. Annual indexation mechanism to be the average of the TCP pay award 'Successful' rating applying to the same year as the Members' allowance increase, and the average of the increases proposed by the 8 Pay Review Bodies in the preceding year;
 - iv. The current SRA for the Leader of each Opposition Group (of at least five Members) to be replaced with an SRA equivalent to 33% of the Leader's SRA, subject to a maximum SRA allocation for this role of 3 times the Opposition Group Leader SRA to be divided equally amongst the Opposition Group Leaders where there are more than 3;
 - v. The change to the SRAs of the Opposition Group Leaders will be deemed to have taken effect from 1 November 2021;

- vi. The annual scheme to be agreed with the annual budget for the year and coming into effect at the beginning of each municipal year;
- vii. That Member attendance at meetings will be tabulated and published as soon as is practical;
- viii. That the Selection and Member Services Committee be asked to consider whether there is anything in how we operate which militates against a more diverse membership; and
- ix. That the Selection and Member Services Committee also be asked to consider what additional information could be published to give a more accurate picture of Member contribution as well as how to better promote the Dependents' Carers' Allowance.

36. Top Tier County Council Structure
(Item 11)

- 1) Mr Gough proposed and Mr Oakford the motion that;

"The Council agree;

- (a) The introduction of a new post of Director of Technology reporting to the Head of Paid Service.
- (b) The permanent change of reporting line for the Director of Public Health from the Strategic Commissioner to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health with immediate effect."

- 2) Following debate the Vice-Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 1 to the vote. The voting was as follows:

For (57)

Mr Baker, Mr P Bartlett, Mr D Beaney, Mr C Beart, Mrs C Bell, Mrs R Binks, Mr D L Brazier, Mr C Broadley, Mrs B Bruneau, Mr S R Campkin, Mr T Cannon, Miss S J Carey, Sir Paul Carter, CBE, Mrs S Chandler, Mr I S Chittenden, Mrs P T Cole, Mr P Cole, Mr N J Collor, Mr G Cooke, Mr P C Cooper, Mr D Crow-Brown, Mr M C Dance, Mrs T Dean, MBE, Mr M Dendor, Mr R W Gough, Ms S Hamilton, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr A R Hills, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mrs S Hudson, Mr D Jeffrey, Mr A Kennedy, Mr J A Kite, MBE, Mr Lehmann, Mr R C Love, OBE, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J P McInroy, Mr J Meade, Mr D Murphy, Mr P J Oakford, Mr H Rayner, Mr O Richardson, Mr A M Ridgers, Mr D Robey, Mr D Ross, Mr C Simkins, Mr M J Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, MBE, Mr B J Sweetland, Mr R J Thomas, Mr D Watkins, Mr A Weatherhead, Mr S Webb, Ms L Wright

Abstain (6)

Mr A Brady, Ms K Constantine, Ms M Dawkins, Ms K Grehan, Ms J Meade, Dr L Sullivan,

Against (1)

Mr M Baldock

Motion carried

RESOLVED that the County Council agree:

- (a) The introduction of a new post of Director of Technology reporting to the Head of Paid Service.
- (b) The permanent change of reporting line for the Director of Public Health from the Strategic Commissioner to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health with immediate effect.

37. Armed Forces Covenant
(Item 12)

- 1) Mr Richardson proposed and Mr Crow-Brown seconded the motion that;
"The County Council notes the update."
- 2) Canon Peter Bruinvels provided a detailed briefing and answered Members' questions. It was highlighted that Mrs Allen, as Chairman of the County Council was keen for the Council to receive the update on the Armed Forces Covenant.
- 3) Following debate the Vice-Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 1.

RESOLVED that the County Council note the update.

38. Motions for Time Limited Debate
(Item 13)

Motion for Time-limited Debate 1:

- 1) Mr Stepto proposed and Mr Campkin seconded the following motion for time-limited debate;

Kent County Council shows its support for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill by requesting that the Cabinet Member for Environment;

1. Promotes this council's support of the Bill to the CEE Bill Alliance, the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, as well as to the local media.
2. Writes to Kent MPs, asking them to show support for the Bill.

2) Ms Carey proposed and Mr Hills seconded the following amendment;

Kent County Council shows its continuing support for the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 and Ecological Emergency Bill by requesting that the Cabinet Member for Environment;

- ~~1.—Promotes this council's work to achieve net-zero emissions for KCC's own estate and services by 2030 and for Kent as a whole by 2050 to Kent's residents support of the Bill to the CEE Bill Alliance, the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, as well as to the local media.~~
- ~~2.—Writes to Kent MPs, asking them to show support for the Bill.~~
3. Congratulates KCC officers for being shortlisted for an LGC award in the 'Climate Response' category and wishes them success in the final.

3) Following discussion between Members and consideration by the Vice-Chairman of the procedural arrangements for this motion and amendment, the Vice-Chairman confirmed that the motion would not be debated and accepted that withdrawal of both the original motion and the amendment.

Motion for Time-Limited Debate Two:

1) Ms Grehan proposed and Ms Meade seconded the following motion for time-limited debate:

County Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health;

1. Revisits the approach to the 'Making a Difference Every Day' Strategy and the Carers' Strategy, ensuring that an integrated approach is adopted throughout, led by qualified staff in social care and informed by service users and frontline practitioners. All of the feedback that has been gathered from the Adult Social Care Strategy consultation can be used but must be used in conjunction and integrated with the feedback received from the Carers Strategy to ensure that the needs and views of our carers and cared for are adequately reflected and listened to;

2. Develop a Carers' Strategy that is co-produced by carers and frontline qualified practitioners. Reach out to all organisations that represent carers in Kent, including and especially young carers, and ask for (and most importantly feedback to them) their views of service provision to ensure that carer's lived experience is integrated and acted upon;
3. Provide carers with the opportunity to sit on key advisory and decision-making bodies for health and social care providers (or allow them to nominate a representative to act on their behalf) and actively involve carers in the commissioning process. For example, several Councils have developed a 'Multi-Agency Carers Strategy Group', which regularly discusses strategy, practice and policy with carers, carers support providers and carers support commissioners;
4. Support carer's health and wellbeing by ensuring that they have access to a range of short and longer-term breaks. When long-term respite is required, suitable replacement care must be provided;
5. Ensure that any commissioning that may be required (although services should be in house with proper scrutiny and accountability through the formal democratic process) is done by officers and led by managers that are qualified in the field of social care, and with professional knowledge of the field, so as to ensure quality provision rather than by uninformed dashboard and scorecard;
6. Support the full funding of social care and carers by national Government and that the burden of this should not fall to local taxpayers via the council tax system.

2) Mrs Bell proposed and Mr Meade seconded the following amendment:

County Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health:

~~1. Revisits the approach adopted throughout, led by qualified and experienced staff in social care and informed by service users involving people who use services and frontline practitioners. All of the feedback that has been gathered from the engagement and consultation process will be used to inform both the Adult Social Care Strategy and the Carers' Strategy to ensure that the needs and views of our carers and cared for are adequately reflected and listened to;~~

~~2. Develop a Carers' Strategy that is co-produced with carers and frontline qualified practitioners. Reach out to all organisations that represent carers in Kent, including and especially young carers, and ask for (and most importantly feedback to them) their views of service provision to ensure that carer's lived experience is integrated and acted upon, fully taken into account;~~

~~3. Provide carers with the opportunity to sit on key advisory and decision-making bodies for health and social care providers (or allow them to nominate a representative to act on their behalf) and actively involve carers in the commissioning process. For example, several Councils have developed a 'Multi-Agency Carers Strategy Group', which regularly discusses strategy, practice and policy with carers, carers support providers and carers support commissioners; Without pre-determining what the new Carers' Strategy will include, explore the possibility of setting up and facilitating advisory groups, including carers' representatives, to be involved in influencing future decisions in Adult Social Care commissioning;~~

~~4. Support carer's health and wellbeing by ensuring that they have access to offering a range of support, including access to short and longer-term breaks. When long-term respite is required, suitable replacement care must be provided, where appropriate;~~

~~5. Ensure that any commissioned services continue to be monitored within the Adult Social Care commissioning that may be required (although services should be in house with proper scrutiny team for quality and accountability through the formal performance and are subject to democratic process) is done by officers and led by managers that are qualified in members via the field of social care, council's governance processes;~~

~~6. Continue to lobby for adequate and with professional knowledge of the field, so as to ensure quality provision rather than by uninformed dashboard and scorecard; 6. Support the full sustainable funding of social care and carers by national Government and that the burden of this should not fall to local taxpayers via the council tax system, meet rising demand and other pressures.~~

- 3) Following debate on the proposed amendment, the Vice-Chairman put the amendment set out in paragraph 2 to the vote. The voting was as follows:

For (46)

Mr Baker, Mr P Bartlett, Mr C Beart, Mrs C Bell, Mrs R Binks, Mr D L Brazier, Mr C Broadley, Mr T Cannon, Sir Paul Carter, CBE, Mrs S Chandler, Mr I S Chittenden, Mr P Cole, Mr N J Collor, Mr G Cooke, Mr D Crow-Brown, Mr M C Dance, Mrs T Dean, MBE, Mr M Dendor, Mr R W Gough, Ms S Hamilton, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr A R Hills, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr A J Hook, Mr D Jeffrey, Mr A Kennedy, Mr J A Kite, MBE, Mr R C Love, OBE, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J P McInroy, Mr J Meade, Mr D Murphy, Mr P J Oakford, Mr H Rayner, Mr O Richardson, Mr A M Ridgers, Mr D Robey, Mr D Ross, Mr C Simkins, Mr M J Sole, Mr R G Streatfeild, MBE, Mr B J Sweetland, Mr D Watkins, Mr A Weatherhead, Mr S Webb, Ms L Wright

Abstain (1)

Mr Lehmann

Against (8)

Mr A Brady, Mr S R Campkin, Ms K Constantine, Ms K Grehan, Mr M A J Hood, Ms J Meade, Mr P Stepto, Dr L Sullivan

Amendment carried.

- 4) Following the debate the Vice-Chairman put the following substantive motion to the vote. The voting was as follows:

For (45)

Mr Baker, Mr P Bartlett, Mr C Beart, Mrs C Bell, Mrs R Binks, Mr D L Brazier, Mr C Broadley, Mr T Cannon, Sir Paul Carter, CBE, Mrs S Chandler, Mr I S Chittenden, Mr P Cole, Mr N J Collor, Mr G Cooke, Mr D Crow-Brown, Mr M C Dance, Mrs T Dean, MBE, Mr M Dendor, Mr R W Gough, Ms S Hamilton, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr A R Hills, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr A J Hook, Mr D Jeffrey, Mr A Kennedy, Mr J A Kite, MBE, Mr R C Love, OBE, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J P McInroy, Mr J Meade, Mr D Murphy, Mr P J Oakford, Mr H Rayner, Mr O Richardson, Mr A M Ridgers, Mr D Robey, Mr D Ross, Mr C Simkins, Mr M J Sole, Mr R G Streatfeild, MBE, Mr B J Sweetland, Mr A Weatherhead, Mr S Webb, Ms L Wright

Abstain (0)

Against (9)

Mr A Brady, Mr S Campkin, Ms K Constantine, Ms K Grehan, Mr M A J Hood, Mr R Lehmann, Ms J Meade, Mr P Stepto, Dr L Sullivan,

Motion carried

RESOLVED that County Council request that the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health;

1. Continues to adopt an integrated approach to the Making a Difference Every Day Strategy and the Carers' Strategy, led by qualified and experienced staff in social care and involving people who use services and frontline practitioners. Feedback from the engagement and consultation process will be used to inform both the Adult Social Care Strategy and the Carers' Strategy ensuring that the needs and views of our carers and cared for are adequately reflected and listened to;
2. Develop a Carers' Strategy that is co-produced with carers and frontline qualified practitioners. Reach out to organisations that represent carers in Kent and ask for their views of service provision to ensure that carers' lived experience is fully taken into account;
3. Without pre-determining what the new Carers' Strategy will include, explore the possibility of setting up and facilitating advisory groups, including carers' representatives, to be involved in influencing future decisions in Adult Social Care commissioning;
4. Support carers' health and wellbeing by offering a range of support, including access to short and longer-term breaks where appropriate;
5. Ensure that commissioned services continue to be monitored within the Adult Social Care commissioning team for quality and performance and are subject to democratic scrutiny by members via the council's governance processes;
6. Continue to lobby for adequate and sustainable funding of social care to meet rising demand and other pressures.