



Summons to and
Agenda for the Annual
Meeting on
**Thursday, 22nd May,
2025**
at **10.00 am**



DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
SESSIONS HOUSE
MAIDSTONE

Wednesday, 14 May 2025

To: All Members of the County Council

A meeting of the County Council will be held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ on Thursday, 22nd May, 2025 at **10.00am** to deal with the following business. **The meeting is scheduled to end no later than 4.30pm.**

A G E N D A

1. Election of Chairman
2. Election of Vice-Chairman
3. Apologies for Absence
4. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Significant Interests in items on the agenda
5. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2025 and, if in order, to **(Pages 1 - 20)** be approved as a correct record
6. The Returning Officer to submit the returns of persons elected to **(Pages 21 - 26)** be County Councillors until 2029
7. Chairman's Announcements
8. Election of the Leader of the Council
9. Appointment of the Leader of the Opposition
10. County Council Questions
11. Report by Leader of the Council

12. Proportionality and Appointment to Committees and other bodies
(To Follow)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Watts', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Benjamin Watts
General Counsel
03000 416814

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, 13 March 2025.

PRESENT: Mr B J Sweetland (Chairman), Mr A M Ridgers (Vice-Chairman), Mr N Baker, Mr M Baldock, Mr P V Barrington-King, Mr P Bartlett, Mr D Beaney, Mrs C Bell, Mrs R Binks, Mr A Booth, Mr A Brady, Mr D L Brazier, Mr C Broadley, 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, Ms K Constantine, Mr G Cooke, Mr D Crow-Brown, Mr M C Dance, Ms M Dawkins, Mrs T Dean, MBE, Mr M Dendor, Mrs L Game, Mr R W Gough, Ms K Grehan, Ms J Hawkins, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr S Holden, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr D Jeffrey, Mr J A Kite, MBE, Rich Lehmann, Mr B H Lewis, Mr R C Love, OBE, Mr S C Manion, Mr R A Marsh, Ms J Meade, Mr J Meade, Mr D Murphy, Mr P J Oakford, Ms L Parfitt, Mr C Passmore, Mr H Rayner, Mr O Richardson, Mr D Robey, Mr D Ross, Mr A Sandhu, MBE, Mr T L Shonk, Mr M J Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, MBE, Dr L Sullivan, Mr R J Thomas, Mr D Watkins, Mr M Whiting, Mr J Wright and Ms L Wright

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

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

292. Apologies for Absence
(Item 1)

The Democratic Services Manager reported apologies from Mr Bond, Mrs Bruneau, Mr Campkin, Mr Collor, Mrs Hudson, Mrs McArthur and Mr McInroy.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

Later in the meeting Mr Sole declared an interest under Item 16 - *Pay Policy Statement 2025/26* - that a family member worked for KCC.

294. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2025 and, if in order, to be approved as a correct record
(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 February 2025 be approved as a correct record.

295. Corporate Parenting Panel - October 2024 and December 2024 Minutes for noting
(Item 4)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel meetings held on 29 October 2024 and 10 December 2024 be noted.

296. Chairman's Announcements
(Item 5)

- 1) With great sadness the Chairman informed Members of the death of Mr Charlie Simkins, Mr Matthew Balfour, Mr John Spence and Mr Roy Bullock.
- 2) Mr Simkins was a serving Member since 2013 and served as Chairman of the Pension Committee from 2017 and represented the Kent Pension Fund on the ACCESS Joint Committee. Mr Simkins also served on a wide range of formal bodies including Communities Cabinet Committee, Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee, Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee, Kent and Medway Fire & Rescue Authority, Planning Applications Committee, Regulation Committee, Selection and Member Services Committee and Standards Committee.
- 3) Mr Balfour served as Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste from 2015 to 2018. Mr Balfour also served on the Economic Development Cabinet Committee, Education Cabinet Committee, Environment, Highways & Waste Cabinet Committee and Planning Applications Committee.
- 4) Mr Spence OBE was a KCC Member from 1973 until 1993. During his time at KCC, Mr Spence served as Chair of the Finance & Review Group, Kent Superannuation Fund and Public Relations Group. He was appointed an Honorary Alderman in 2010 for his service to the Council. Mr Spence was appointed as Deputy Lieutenant in 2001 and was awarded an OBE for services to Heritage in 2005.
- 5) Mr Bullock, MBE served as a KCC Member for Tunbridge Wells North from 2007 until 2013. During that time he served on a number of Boards and Committees, including; Tunbridge Wells Local Board, the Electoral and Boundary Review Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committees for Corporate Policy as well as Environment, Highways and Waste. He was also a member of the Environment, Highways and Waste Cabinet Committee and was the Vice-Chair of the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee. Following his time as a Member at the Council, he was made an Honorary Alderman in March 2016.

- 6) The Chairman advised that tributes to Mr Bullock MBE would be taken at a future meeting as notification of his sad passing had only been received at short notice.
- 7) Tributes to Mr Simkins were made by Mr Gough, Sir Paul Carter, Mr Chard, Mr Passmore, Ms Dawkins, Mr Stepto, Mr Shonk, Mr Bartlett and Mr Oakford.
- 8) Tributes to Mr Balfour were made by Miss Carey, Mr Gough, Mr Lewis, Mrs Dean, Mr Brazier, Dr Sullivan, Sir Paul Carter, Mr Kite, Mr Streatfeild, Mr Oakford and Mrs Hohler.
- 9) Tributes to Mr Spence OBE were made by Mrs Dean, Mr Gough, Mr Brady and Mr Lehmann.
- 10) Mr Sweetland proposed, and Mr Ridgers seconded, that the Council formally record the sense of loss it feels on the sad passing of Mr Charlie Simkins, Mr Matthew Balfour, Mr John Spence OBE and Mr Roy Bullock MBE and extends to their family and friends its heartfelt sympathy to them in their sad bereavement.

Agreed unanimously.

- 11) The Chairman held a one-minute silence in memory of Mr Matthew Balfour, Mr Charlie Simkins, Mr John Spence OBE and Mr Roy Bullock MBE.

297. Questions (Item 6)

In accordance with Sections 14.15 to 14.22 of the Constitution, 12 questions were submitted by the deadline and 12 questions were put to the Executive. 12 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.

298. Report by Leader of the Council (Item 7)

- 1) The Leader referred to Government's decision not to include Kent and Medway in the Devolution Priority Programme and commented generally on the position and how this linked to the Council's finances. The level of overspend for the Council would reduce for this financial year, but would still be in the range of around £20million. Some areas which saw huge pressures a year or two ago such as SEND Transport and Children's Services, were now seeing significant progress, however there was a significant overspend in adult social care due to the challenges in delivering the savings programme. He commented that financial pressures over the coming years should govern the Council's approach to local government reorganisation and it's responsibility in setting up financially sustainable

councils. He stressed the importance of not losing sight of devolution, and said that without this the Council would find it harder to do what it wanted for example in relation to economic development and transport.

- 2) Mr Gough was pleased to confirm that one of the Council's officers would be giving evidence to the Transport Select Committee on the impact of street works following on from a strong submission the Council made to the Committee's inquiry in January. He said it was important to remember that, like other local authorities, the Council did not have the power to prevent utility companies from carrying out planned or emergency works and the Council's limited powers included minimising disruption where possible.
- 3) The Leader recalled the funding that was allocated to the pothole blitz in 2024 which had now been increased by almost 70% but was only a small portion of what was spent on maintaining roads, pavements, streetlights, drains and other highways assets. The total overall maintenance spend for 2025-26 would be in excess of £80million and the Council continued to press Government for funding and its better allocation.
- 4) Regarding secondary school offers, more than 96% of children were recently offered their preferred schools and over 80% got their first preference. Both of those figures were up on the previous year and Mr Gough recognised that many Members would be supporting residents locally where there was the need for an appeal. Referring to the Isle of Sheppey, Mr Gough commended officers and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills for the work they had undertaken in relation to extra secondary school places.
- 5) Mr Gough spoke about the Household Support Fund and the Just Missing Out Scheme and said wider work continued, for example the Council's Money Advice Hubs which supported people to access independent financial advice through the Citizens Advice Bureau. Work was also underway to ensure the most effective deployment of the coming year's allocation of the Household Support Fund.
- 6) The Making Space for Nature consultation had received a strong level of responses and the final strategy would be published in the summer.
- 7) Finally, the Leader paid tribute to all the Members that would be standing down ahead of the Council elections on 1 May.
- 8) The Leader of the Labour Group, Mr Brady, thanked officers for their hard work in difficult circumstances over the last four years. He commented on the Administration's four year term which he said had seen a declining road network and a decline in KCC assets. He commented on the reduction of community wardens, cuts to mental health services, children's and youth centre closures, and the removal of the youth service, and said cuts had been made in isolation without alternative provision. He commented that contracts which had been awarded to private sector companies could have been awarded to local businesses to benefit communities and invest in

Kent. Mr Brady questioned what invest to save programs had been implemented in the last four years and what had been implemented from Framing Kent's Future. He said for the last 14 years the Conservative Government's austerity policies had impacted the Council negatively and had resulted in the Council's current financial position.

- 9) Referring to devolution Mr Brady stressed the importance of positively embracing the new situation and looking for opportunities to learn from neighbouring councils to get local government reorganisation right.
- 10) Turning to highways, Mr Brady welcomed the work to tackle the issues caused by utility road closures. He also welcomed the pothole blitz but questioned when it would happen.
- 11) Finally, Mr Brady thanked the Members of the Labour Group for their hard work over the last four years and commented on the upcoming election.
- 12) Mr Lehmann, Leader of the Green and Independents Group, spoke about Government's evolving plans around devolution and local government reorganisation. He commented on the past four years and said progress locally, nationally and internationally had been made in some areas but not all.
- 13) Mr Lehmann referred to average global temperature and atmospheric carbon levels and explained that both 2023 and 2024 far exceeded 2016 as the hottest on record and the average temperatures for 2024 were around 1.6 degrees above pre-industrial levels. Global atmospheric carbon levels had continued to increase which was likely to continue unless the emergency was treated with the level of urgency it deserved.
- 14) Mr Lehmann commented that attempts to combat climate change internationally could be affected by events in the United States and referred to the Nolan principles of honesty, openness and transparency. He said he would like to see a move towards a more collegiate council where all Members worked together for the good of its residents to ensure that decisions were as robust as they could be. Mr Lehmann felt on the whole that Members had worked well together over the past four years and he thanked Mr Gough for his style of leadership.
- 15) Mr Lehmann shared Mr Gough's concerns regarding the current financial position of the Council, however, he disagreed with the optimism that devolution in local government reorganisation was the answer. He expressed disappointment that instead of addressing the crisis of local government funding, the Council was looking to undertake disruptive and time-consuming reorganisation. He said a wealth tax on those with assets greater than £10million could help to plug funding gaps.
- 16) Finally, Mr Lehmann expressed his good wishes to Members standing in the elections and echoed Mr Brady's gratitude to the Council's hard-working officers. He thanked all the Members standing down for their service.

- 17) The Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group, Mr Hook, recognised the Council's ongoing support for Ukraine and wished all Members of the Council well ahead of the upcoming election.
- 18) Mr Hook commented that street works caused a lot of disruption and frustration for Kent residents and said a review was needed, especially for a county like Kent that didn't have the same powers as some other local authorities.
- 19) Mr Hook suggested that it might be timely for a review of the Kent Test system following a number of complaints he had received. Regarding secondary school places, he referred to the issues on the Isle of Sheppey where some children had been given a place at a school 30 miles away from their home and said it was irrational that people living on an island should have to travel so far into the mainland for school.
- 20) Regarding the Household Support Fund, Mr Hook referred to the recent Scrutiny Committee where he questioned why people were treated differently according to age but not according to housing costs.
- 21) Mr Hook welcomed the Nature Recovery Plan and stressed the importance of biodiversity for general health and well-being. He commented that: peat lands in Kent should be restored; more trees should be planted to capture carbon; urban green spaces should be built up; coastal habitats like the salt marshes should be defended; and trees around agricultural areas should be planted to improve crop yields and biodiversity.
- 22) Mr Gough responded to some of the points made by the Group Leaders. He agreed with Mr Hook that a worthwhile conversation about the Household Support Fund had taken place at Scrutiny Committee. He felt all the Group Leaders recognised the limits on the Council's current powers and the need for change in certain areas, and acknowledged the agreement of Members on a number of points including support for Ukraine.
- 23) In response to Mr Brady's points the Leader emphasised that that Council had managed to stay afloat unlike many other councils across the country. He said the Council had been confronting a set of systemic pressures that were affecting the whole of the local government sector and failure to recognise that or build plans to address it would mean that the Council would not survive. Regarding Framing Kent's Future Mr Gough spoke about new models of care and support that had been rolled out across areas of biggest spending pressure including children's services. Regarding asylum, the Leader pointed out that the Council had managed an extraordinary crisis which included the willingness to take the Government to the High Court to minimise the pressure on Kent's services.
- 24) Mr Gough commented that significant steps had been made to reduce carbon emissions from the Council's estate and referred to innovative programs such as Plan Bee, Plan Tree, and Making Space for Nature.

- 25) He said the Council was working carefully on local government reorganisation and referred to the close working relationships between the 14 local authorities within Kent. The Council continued to ask the Minister for a clear timetable for devolution to go alongside local government reorganisation.
- 26) Finally, the Leader wished those standing in the elections good luck, and reiterated his thanks to Members, across all parties, for their service.
- 27) RESOLVED that the Leader's report be noted.

299. Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39
(Item 8)

- 1) Mr Derek Murphy proposed, and Mr Rob Thomas seconded the motion that
"Council is asked to:
 - (i) Note the Inspector's Report (see Appendix A) on the examination of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 (KWMLP) and the recommended modifications (incorporated in the Plan presented for Council approval);
 - (ii) Note the content and recommendations of the Sustainability Appraisal of the KMWLP (Appendix D); and,
 - (iii) Adopt the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 as set out in Appendix B; and
 - (iv) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment & Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, to approve any non-material changes to the text of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 and take other relevant actions as required to support final production and publication of the approved Plan."
- 2) Following the debate, the Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 1 to the vote and the voting was as follows:

For (52)

Mr Baker, Mr Baldock, Mr Brady, Mr Bartlett, Mr Beaney, Mrs Bell, Mrs Binks, Mr Booth, Mr Brazier, Mr Broadley, Mr Cannon, Miss Carey, Sir Paul Carter CBE, Mrs Chandler, Mr Chard, Mr Cole, Mrs Cole, Mr Cooke, Ms Constantine, Mr Dance, Ms Dawkins, Mr Dendor, Mrs Game, Mr Gough, Ms Grehan, Ms Hawkins, Mr Hill OBE, Mrs Hohler, Mr Holden, Mr Hood, Mr Jeffrey, Mr Kennedy, Mr Kite MBE, Mr Love OBE, Mr Manion, Mr Marsh, Ms Meade, Mr Meade, Mr Murphy, Mr Oakford, Ms Parfitt, Mr Rayner, Mr Richardson, Mr Ridgers, Mr Robey, Mr Sandhu MBE, Mr Stepto, Mr Thomas, Mr Watkins, Mr Whiting, Mr Wright, Mrs Wright

Against (0)

Abstain (11)

Mr Chittenden, Mrs Dean MBE, Mr Hook, Mr Lehmann, Mr Lewis, Mr Mallon, Mr Passmore, Mr Ross, Mr Shonk, Mr Sole, Mr Streatfeild MBE

Motion carried.

3) RESOLVED that Council:

- (i) Notes the Inspector's Report (see Appendix A) on the examination of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 (KMWLP) and the recommended modifications (incorporated in the Plan presented for Council approval);
- (ii) Notes the content and recommendations of the Sustainability Appraisal of the KMWLP (Appendix D); and,
- (iii) Adopts the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 as set out in Appendix B; and
- (iv) Delegates authority to the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment & Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, to approve any non-material changes to the text of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 and take other relevant actions as required to support final production and publication of the approved Plan.

300. Review of Decision 24/00093 - Commissioned Family Hubs
(Item 9)

- 1) The Chairman explained that the decision was taken by the Executive in January 2025 and subsequently considered by the Scrutiny Committee via the call-in procedure. Scrutiny Committee had referred the matter to Full Council.
- 2) Mr Booth proposed and Mrs Binks seconded the following motion:

"That the Council makes comments but does not require reconsideration of the decision. In particular, the Council urges the Executive in conjunction with the Cabinet Member to enforce the offer that Seashells and Millmead are directly funded from the 4th year Family Hub Grant to deliver the Family Hub Service from their own resources, in order to maximise the benefits of this service to residents of co-location of services."
- 3) The General Counsel clarified the recommendations open to Full Council as set out in the report and at paragraph 17.73 of the Council's Constitution.
- 4) Following the debate, the Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 2 to the vote.

Motion carried.

- 5) RESOLVED that the County Council makes comments but does not require reconsideration of the decision. In particular, the Council urges the Executive in conjunction with the Cabinet Member to enforce the offer that Seashells and Millmead are directly funded from the 4th year Family Hub Grant to deliver the Family Hub Service from their own resources, in order to maximise the benefits of this service to residents of co-location of services.

In accordance with paragraph 16.31 of the Constitution, Rich Lehmann wished for it to be recorded in the minutes that he voted against the motion set out in paragraph 2.

301. Armed Forces Covenant - Annual Report
(Item 10)

- 1) The Chairman thanked Canon Peter Bruinvels for his help during the Chairman's year as Chairman of the Council.
- 2) Canon Peter Bruinvels provided an update on the Armed Forces Covenant.
- 3) Mr Richardson proposed, and Mr Crow-Brown seconded the motion that

"Members are asked to note all that is being done to deliver the Armed Forces Covenant in Kent and agree to priorities going forward including promoting Kent County Council's status as the lead MoD Employers Recognition Gold Award Holder.

Members are requested to continue to support the Armed Forces Covenant across the county and to endorse the Council's commitment to this work by engaging locally in Covenant efforts and related events."

- 4) Following the debate, the Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 3.
- 5) RESOLVED that:

Members note all that is being done to deliver the Armed Forces Covenant in Kent and agree to priorities going forward including promoting Kent County Council's status as the lead MoD Employers Recognition Gold Award Holder.

Members continue to support the Armed Forces Covenant across the county and endorse the Council's commitment to this work by engaging locally in Covenant efforts and related events.

302. Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation Update
(Item 11)

- 1) Mr Gough proposed, and Mr Oakford seconded the motion that
“Council is asked to note the update on devolution and local government reorganisation.”
- 2) Following the debate, the Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 1 to the vote and the voting was as follows:

For (38)

Mr Baker, Mr Brady, Mr Bartlett, Mr Beaney, Mrs Bell, Mrs Binks, Mr Booth, Mr Brazier, Sir Paul Carter CBE, Mrs Chandler, Mrs Cole, Ms Constantine, Mr Cooke, Mr Dance, Ms Dawkins, Mr Dendor, Mr Gough, Mr Hill OBE, Mrs Hohler, Mr Holden, Mr Hook, Mr Jeffrey, Mr Kennedy, Mr Love OBE, Mr Marsh, Ms Meade, Mr Meade, Mr Oakford, Ms Parfitt, Mr Passmore, Mr Rayner, Mr Richardson, Mr Ridgers, Mr Robey, Mr Sandhu MBE, Mr Sole, Mr Streatfeild MBE, Mr Thomas

Against (5)

Mr Baldock, Mrs Dean MBE, Mr Hood, Mr Lehmann, Mr Lewis

Abstain (4)

Ms Hawkins, Mr Mallon, Mr Shonk, Mr Stepto

Motion carried.

- 3) RESOLVED that Council notes the update on devolution and local government reorganisation.

303. Treasury Management - Mid-Year Update 2024-25
(Item 12)

This item was taken after Item 16 and before Item 13.

- 1) Mr Oakford proposed, and Mr Rayner seconded the motion that
“Council is asked to endorse the report.”
- 2) Following the debate, the Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 1 and it was agreed unanimously.
- 3) RESOLVED that Council endorses the report.

304. Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Terms of Reference update

(Item 13)

This item was taken after Item 12 and before Item 14.

1) Mr Jeffrey proposed, and Mr Bartlett seconded the motion that

“Council is asked to:

- Agree the revised Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix A; and
- Delegate to the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary changes to the Constitution once Medway Council have agreed the same changes.”

2) Following the debate, the Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 1 and it was agreed unanimously.

3) RESOLVED that Council:

- Agrees the revised Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix A; and
- Delegates to the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary changes to the Constitution once Medway Council have agreed the same changes.

305. Governance & Audit Terms of Reference update

(Item 14)

This item was taken after Item 13 and before Item 17.

1) Mr Jeffrey proposed, and Mrs Binks seconded the motion that

“County Council is asked to agree the revised Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix A and ask the Monitoring Officer to update the Constitution accordingly.”

2) Following the debate, the Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 1 and it was agreed unanimously.

3) RESOLVED that Council agrees the revised Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix A and asks the Monitoring Officer to update the Constitution accordingly.

306. Governance Updates

(Item 15)

This item was taken after Item 11 and before Item 16.

- 1) Mr Gough proposed, and Mr Jeffrey seconded the motion that

“Council is asked to:

1. Note with thanks, the contribution and efforts of the Members of the Governance Working Party
2. Comment on the specific proposals and arrangements relating to Cabinet Committees to inform future changes
3. Approve the recommendation to the County Council to adopt the amended Constitution at Appendix 2.
4. Debate and Decide whether the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee should be mandated as an opposition Member.
5. If Recommendation 4 is passed, approve the relevant changes to the Constitution
6. Delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader and Opposition Group Leaders authority to make further necessary changes to the Constitution following the debate.”

- 2) Mr Holden proposed and Mr Lewis seconded the following amendment:

“Council is asked to:

1. Note with thanks, the contribution and efforts of the Members of the Governance Working Party
2. Comment on the specific proposals and arrangements relating to Cabinet Committees to inform future changes
3. Approve the recommendation to the County Council to adopt the amended Constitution at Appendix 2 **subject to amend the item in relation to proposed changes to 14.60 and to reject to the proposed additional text.**

14.60 The text of any motion or amendment must be given to the Chairman in writing before the start of the meeting, if it is not the Chairman may rule that the motion or amendment fails.

~~The following arrangements in relation to amendments proposed to time limited motions shall apply: a) Any proposed amendment to a time limited motion shall be provided to the proposer of the motion and Democratic Services by 10am two days before the meeting b) Any changes agreed between the proposer of the motion and proposer of the amendment shall be provided to Democratic Services by 4pm the day before the meeting. c) If a) or b) are not complied with then the Chairman may rule that the amendment fails~~

4. Debate and Decide whether the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee should be mandated as an opposition Member.
5. If Recommendation 4 is passed, approve the relevant changes to the Constitution

6. Delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader and Opposition Group Leaders authority to make further necessary changes to the Constitution following the debate.”
- 3) The Chairman proposed and the Vice-Chairman seconded that, under s14.48 of the Constitution, Council resolve to extend the meeting beyond 4.30pm with business to conclude no later than 5.30pm.
- 4) The Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 3 to the vote and the voting was as follows:

For (39)

Mr Baker, Mr Brady, Mr Bartlett, Mrs Bell, Mrs Binks, Mr Booth, Sir Paul Carter CBE, Mrs Chandler, Ms Constantine, Mr Dance, Ms Dawkins, Mrs Dean MBE, Mr Dendor, Mrs Game, Mr Gough, Ms Hawkins, Mr Holden, Mr Hood, Mr Hook, Mr Jeffrey, Mr Kite, Mr Lehmann, Mr Lewis, Mr Love, Mr Mallon, Mr Meade, Mr Oakford, Ms Parfitt, Mr Passmore, Mr Ridgers, Mr Ross, Mr Sandhu MBE, Mr Shonk, Mr Sole, Mr Stepto, Mr Streatfeild MBE, Mr Thomas, Mr Watkins, Mrs Wright

Against (3)

Mr Marsh, Mr Rayner, Mr Robey

Abstain (0)

Motion carried.

- 5) Following the debate the Chairman put the amendment set out in paragraph 2 to the vote and the voting was as follows:

For (32)

Mr Baker, Mr Brady, Mr Bartlett, Mrs Bell, Mrs Binks, Mr Booth, Mrs Chandler, Ms Constantine, Mr Dance, Ms Dawkins, Mrs Dean MBE, Mr Dendor, Mrs Game, Mrs Hohler, Mr Holden, Mr Hood, Mr Hook, Mr Kite MBE, Mr Lehmann, Mr Lewis, Mr Love OBE, Mr Mallon, Ms Parfitt, Mr Passmore, Mr Rayner, Mr Ridgers, Mr Ross, Mr Sandhu MBE, Mr Sole, Mr Thomas, Mr Watkins, Mrs Wright

Against (11)

Sir Paul Carter CBE, Mr Gough, Ms Hawkins, Mr Hood, Mr Hook, Mr Jeffrey, Mr Lehmann, Mr Meade, Mr Oakford, Mr Stepto, Mr Streatfeild MBE

Abstain (0)

Amendment carried

- 6) The Chairman put part 4 of the substantive motion at paragraph 2 – *“debates and decides whether the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee should be mandated as an opposition Member”* - to the vote and the voting was as follows:

For (36)

Mr Baker, Mr Brady, Mrs Bell, Mrs Binks, Sir Paul Carter CBE, Mrs Chandler, Ms Constantine, Ms Dawkins, Mrs Dean MBE, Mrs Game, Mr Gough, Ms Hawkins, Mrs Hohler, Mr Holden, Mr Hood, Mr Hook, Mr Jeffrey, Mr Kite MBE, Mr Lehmann, Mr Lewis, Mr Love, Mr Mallon, Ms Meade, Mr Meade, Mr Oakford, Mr Passmore, Mr Rayner, Mr Ridgers, Mr Ross, Mr Sandhu MBE, Mr Shonk, Mr Sole, Mr Stepto, Mr Streatfeild MBE, Mr Thomas

Against (4)

Mr Bartlett, Mr Booth, Mr Dendor, Mr Robey

Abstain (0)

Agreed.

- 7) Following the debate, the Chairman put the substantive motion to the vote and the voting was as follows:

For (37)

Mr Baker, Mr Brady, Mrs Bell, Mrs Binks, Mr Booth, Sir Paul Carter CBE, Mrs Chandler, Ms Dawkins, Mrs Dean MBE, Mr Dendor, Mrs Game, Mr Gough, Ms Hawkins, Mrs Hohler, Mr Holden, Mr Hood, Mr Hook, Mr Jeffrey, Mr Kite MBE, Mr Lehmann, Mr Lewis, Mr Love OBE, Mr Mallon, Mr Meade, Mr Oakford, Mr Passmore, Mr Rayner, Mr Ridgers, Mr Ross, Mr Sandhu MBE, Mr Shonk, Mr Sole, Mr Stepto, Mr Streatfeild MBE, Mr Thomas

Against (0)

Abstain (2)

Ms Constantine, Ms Meade

Substantive Motion carried.

- 8) RESOLVED that Council:

1. Notes with thanks, the contribution and efforts of the Members of the Governance Working Party.
2. Comments on the specific proposals and arrangements relating to Cabinet Committees to inform future changes.
3. Approves the recommendation to the County Council to adopt the Constitution at Appendix 2 (as amended in relation to s14.60).

4. Agrees that the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee should be mandated as an opposition Member.
5. Approves the relevant changes to the Constitution.
6. Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader and Opposition Group Leaders authority to make further necessary changes to the Constitution following the debate.

307. Pay Policy Statement 2025/26
(Item 16)

This item was taken after Item 15 and before Item 12.

Mr Sole declared an interest that a family member worked for the Council.

- 1) Mr Oakford proposed, and Mr Jeffrey seconded the motion that
"Council is asked to endorse the attached Pay Policy Statement."
- 2) Mr Brady proposed and Ms Meade seconded that the motion be put to the vote.

Agreed.

- 3) The Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 1 to the vote and the voting was as follows:

For (32)

Mr Baker, Mr Brady, Mrs Bell, Mrs Binks, Sir Paul Carter CBE, Mrs Chandler, Ms Dawkins, Mrs Dean MBE, Mr Dendor, Mrs Game, Mr Gough, Ms Hawkins, Mrs Hohler, Mr Holden, Mr Hood, Mr Hook, Mr Jeffrey, Mr Kite, Mr Lewis, Mr Love OBE, Mr Mallon, Mr Meade, Mr Oakford, Mr Passmore, Mr Rayner, Mr Ridgers, Mr Ross, Mr Sandhu MBE, Mr Shonk, Mr Stepto, Mr Streatfeild MBE, Mr Thomas

Against (1)

Mr Booth

Abstain (2)

Mr Lehmann, Mr Sole

Motion carried.

- 4) RESOLVED that Council endorses the attached Pay Policy Statement.

308. Motion for Time Limited Debate
(Item 17)

This item was taken after Item 14.

Motion for Time Limited Debate – Addressing the Environmental and Social Harm of Disposable Vapes

- 1) Mr Hood proposed, and Ms Hawkins seconded the motion that

This Council believes that:

- a) Immediate and decisive action is needed to address the environmental and public health risks posed by disposable vapes, rather than delaying with prolonged studies.
- b) Any ban must be robust and comprehensive, preventing manufacturers from exploiting legal loopholes to continue selling harmful products.
- c) Stronger regulations on vape marketing, packaging, and accessibility to young people should be introduced alongside the ban.
- d) Urgent action is required to address the environmental and health impacts of disposable vapes.

And;

This Council agrees to call on the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health to:

- a) Write again to the government, urging swift and decisive action on disposable vapes, rather than a decade-long study;
- b) Support calls for amendments to the proposed legislation that limit refill tank sizes and close other loopholes that could undermine the ban;
- c) Advocate for a comprehensive ban that addresses both single-use and potentially harmful ‘Big Puff’ alternatives;
- d) Work with local schools, businesses, and community groups to raise awareness of the environmental and health risks of disposable vape; and
- e) Encourage stronger local enforcement against the improper disposal of vapes and promote responsible recycling initiatives.

- 2) Mr Watkins proposed and Mr Brazier seconded the following amendment:

This Council believes that:

- a) Immediate and decisive action is needed to address the environmental and public health risks posed by disposable vapes, rather than delaying with prolonged studies, **and welcomes news that from 1 June 2025 it will be illegal to sell single-use (disposable) vapes under The Environmental Protection (Single-use Vapes) (England) Regulations 2024.**
- b) Any ban must be robust and comprehensive, preventing manufacturers from exploiting legal loopholes to continue selling harmful products.

- c) Stronger regulations on vape marketing, packaging, and accessibility to young people should be introduced alongside the ban.
- d) Urgent action is required to address the environmental and health impacts of disposable vapes.

And;

This Council agrees to call on the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services to:

- a) Write again to the government, urging swift and decisive action **to close identified loopholes on disposable vapes, and supporting calls for amendments to the proposed legislation that limit refill tank sizes and close other loopholes that could undermine the ban.** ~~on disposable vapes, rather than a decade-long study;~~
 - b) Encourage proper disposal of vapes and promote responsible recycling initiatives.**
 - ~~b.) Support calls for amendments to the proposed legislation that limit refill tank sizes and close other loopholes that could undermine the ban;~~
 - ~~c.) Advocate for a comprehensive ban that addresses both single-use and potentially harmful 'Big Puff' alternatives;~~
 - ~~d.) Work with local schools, businesses, and community groups to raise awareness of the environmental and health risks of disposable vape; and~~
 - ~~e.) Encourage stronger local enforcement against the improper disposal of vapes and promote responsible recycling initiatives.~~
- 3) The proposer and seconder of the original motion agreed to the amendment, which became the substantive motion:

This Council believes that:

- a) Immediate and decisive action is needed to address the environmental and public health risks posed by disposable vapes, rather than delaying with prolonged studies, and welcomes news that from 1 June 2025 it will be illegal to sell single-use (disposable) vapes under The Environmental Protection (Single-use Vapes) (England) Regulations 2024.
- b) Any ban must be robust and comprehensive, preventing manufacturers from exploiting legal loopholes to continue selling harmful products.
- c) Stronger regulations on vape marketing, packaging, and accessibility to young people should be introduced alongside the ban.
- d) Urgent action is required to address the environmental and health impacts of disposable vapes.

And;

This Council agrees to call on the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services to:

- a) Write again to the government, urging swift and decisive action to close identified loopholes on disposable vapes, and supporting calls for amendments to the proposed legislation that limit refill tank sizes and close other loopholes that could undermine the ban.
 - b) Encourage proper disposal of vapes and promote responsible recycling initiatives.
- 4) Following further debate, Mr Rayner proposed and Mr Meade seconded that the substantive motion (as amended) in paragraph 3 be put to the vote.
- 5) The Chairman put the motion in paragraph 4 to the vote and the voting was as follows.

For (33)

Mr Brady, Mrs Bell, Mrs Binks, Mr Booth, Sir Paul Carter CBE, Mrs Chandler, Ms Dawkins, Mrs Dean MBE, Mr Dendor, Mrs Game, Mr Gough, Ms Hawkins, Mrs Hohler, Mr Holden, Mr Hood, Mr Hook, Mr Jeffrey, Mr Kite MBE, Mr Lewis, Mr Love OBE, Mr Mallon, Mr Meade, Mr Oakford, Mr Passmore, Mr Rayner, Mr Ridgers, Mr Ross, Mr Sandhu MBE, Mr Shonk, Mr Sole, Mr Stepto, Mr Streatfeild MBE, Mr Thomas

Against (2)

Mr Baker, Mr Lehmann

Abstain (0)

Motion carried.

- 5) The Chairman put the substantive motion (as amended) as set out in paragraph 3 to the vote and the voting was as follows.

For (34)

Mr Baker, Mr Brady, Mrs Bell, Mrs Binks, Mr Booth, Sir Paul Carter CBE, Mrs Chandler, Mrs Dean MBE, Mr Dendor, Mrs Game, Mr Gough, Ms Hawkins, Mrs Hohler, Mr Holden, Mr Hood, Mr Hook, Mr Jeffrey, Mr Kite, Mr Lehmann, Mr Lewis, Mr Love OBE, Mr Mallon, Mr Meade, Mr Oakford, Mr Passmore, Mr Rayner, Mr Ridgers, Mr Ross, Mr Sandhu MBE, Mr Shonk, Mr Sole, Mr Stepto, Mr Streatfeild MBE, Mr Thomas

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Substantive motion carried.

6. RESOLVED that:

This Council believes that:

- a) Immediate and decisive action is needed to address the environmental and public health risks posed by disposable vapes, rather than delaying with prolonged studies, and welcomes news that from 1 June 2025 it will be illegal to sell single-use (disposable) vapes under The Environmental Protection (Single-use Vapes) (England) Regulations 2024.
- b) Any ban must be robust and comprehensive, preventing manufacturers from exploiting legal loopholes to continue selling harmful products.
- c) Stronger regulations on vape marketing, packaging, and accessibility to young people should be introduced alongside the ban.
- d) Urgent action is required to address the environmental and health impacts of disposable vapes.

And;

This Council agrees to call on the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services to:

- a) Write again to the government, urging swift and decisive action to close identified loopholes on disposable vapes, and supporting calls for amendments to the proposed legislation that limit refill tank sizes and close other loopholes that could undermine the ban.
- b) Encourage proper disposal of vapes and promote responsible recycling initiatives.

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By: Ben Watts, General Counsel (County Returning Officer)

To: County Council – 22 May 2025

Subject: The Returning Officer to submit the returns of persons elected to be County Councillors until 2029

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report provides the formal return of those Councillors duly elected to the County Council for the period until May 2029

1. The election for all 81 County Council seats took place on May 1st 2025, with the results being announced at local counts on May 2nd 2025. In my capacity as County Returning Officer, the formal return of Councillors is set out in the appendix to this report.
2. As Members will be aware, the delivery of elections is very much a team effort and whilst impossible to mention everyone, I would like to draw Members' attention and thanks to some of the significant groups of people who helped make these elections possible. I have set out some key groups below and will mention more at the meeting itself:
 - a. The twelve Deputy Returning Officers in the District, Borough and City Councils, their Electoral Services Teams and all of their staff who worked at the polling stations, the count and in support roles.
 - b. Colleagues from Kent Police.
 - c. My KCC Deputy Returning Officer, Lizzy Adam, for her outstanding work, technical expertise, support and patience.
 - d. Sian Connelly, who was a key part of my small elections team, for her diligence and innovation in supporting the successful delivery of this election.
 - e. Staff from across Kent County Council who helped support in a range of different ways including:
 - i. Support from our Marketing and Resident Experience Team who assisted us with publicising the role of Councillor and then the elections themselves. They worked with the media in the run up and on the count day and ensured that residents were aware of the elections taking place. Colleagues also supported us online through the interactive results map and live tweeting of the results as they came in. Our webpages throughout the election also carried a range of information including all of the election notices and detailed results.
 - ii. Colleagues from education and infrastructure who supported us in co-ordinating the use of KCC buildings as polling stations and to the schools and students who made space for the day so that the elections could take place.
 - iii. The insurance team for queries relating to the election.

- iv. All of the KCC staff who worked in a polling station or at a count.
 - v. The Governance, Law and Democracy team for all of their hard work in supporting across the full range of activity to support the election.
- 3. In accordance with the Council's governance, I will report in further detail on the election outcomes and provide a lessons learned report to inform future elections to the Electoral and Boundary Review Committee later in the year.

Recommendation

Members are asked to NOTE the formal return of Councillors duly elected to the County Council for the period until May 2029.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Formal Return of those Councillor duly elected

Report Author:

Ben Watts
General Counsel
Benjamin.watts@kent.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCIL

ELECTION OF COUNTY

COUNCILLORS

To the Democratic Services Manager of Kent County Council,

I, BENJAMIN WATTS, County Returning Officer for the County of Kent,

DO HEREBY RETURN the attached list of names as the persons being duly elected as County Councillors from 72 Electoral Divisions at the election held on 1 May 2025.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Watts', written in a cursive style.

COUNTY RETURNING OFFICER Sessions House County Hall
Maidstone Kent ME14 1XQ

Division	Elected Candidate	Political Party
Ashford Central	Pamela Williams	Reform UK
Ashford East	Dean Burns	Reform UK
Ashford Rural East	Brian Collins	Reform UK
Ashford Rural South	Bill Barrett	Reform UK
Ashford Rural West	Jeremy Eustace	Reform UK
Ashford South	Nick Wibberley	Reform UK
Birchington and Rural	Luke Evans	Reform UK
Birchington and Rural	Amelia Randall	Reform UK
Broadstairs	John Finch	Reform UK
Canterbury City North	Alister Brady	Labour and Co-operative Party
Canterbury City South	Connie Nolan	Labour
Canterbury North	Alex Ricketts	Liberal Democrat
Canterbury South	Mike Sole	Liberal Democrat
Cheriton, Sandgate & Hythe East	Tim Prater	Liberal Democrat
Cliftonville	Daniel Taylor	Reform UK
Cranbrook	Claudine Russell	Conservative
Dartford East	Ryan Waters	Reform UK
Dartford North East	Ben Fryer	Reform UK
Dartford Rural	Michael Brown	Reform UK
Dartford West	Beverley Fordham	Reform UK
Deal & Walmer	Martin Paul	Reform UK
Deal & Walmer	Chris Burwash	Reform UK
Dover North	Bridget Porter	Reform UK
Dover Town	Albert Thorp	Reform UK
Dover Town	James Defriend	Reform UK
Dover West	Paul King	Reform UK
Elham Valley	Christopher Hespe	Reform UK
Faversham	Antony Hook	Liberal Democrat
Folkestone East	Mary Lawes	Reform UK
Folkestone West	John Baker	Reform UK
Gravesend East	Georgia Foster	Reform UK
Gravesend East	Garry Sturley	Reform UK
Gravesham Rural	Diane Morton	Reform UK
Herne Bay East	Paul Chamberlain	Reform UK
Herne Village & Sturry	Mark Mulvihill	Reform UK
Hythe West	Peter Osborne	Reform UK
Maidstone Central	Oliver Bradshaw	Reform UK
Maidstone Central	Stuart Jeffery	Green Party
Maidstone North East	Geoffrey Samme	Liberal Democrat

Maidstone Rural East	Sarah Emberson	Reform UK
Maidstone Rural North	Spencer Dixon	Reform UK
Maidstone Rural South	Brian Black	Reform UK
Maidstone Rural West	Robert Ford	Reform UK
Maidstone South	Paul Thomas	Reform UK
Maidstone South East	Linden Kemkaran	Reform UK
Malling Central	Trudy Dean	Liberal Democrat
Malling North	Dodger Sian	Reform UK
Malling North East	Andrew Kennedy	Conservative
Malling Rural East	Sarah Hudson	Conservative
Malling West	Harry Rayner	Conservative
Margate	Jamie Henderson	Reform UK
Northfleet and Gravesend West	Matthew Fraser Moat	Reform UK
Northfleet and Gravesend West	Sharon Roots	Reform UK
Ramsgate	Terry Mole	Reform UK
Ramsgate	Trevor Shonk	Reform UK
Romney Marsh	David Wimble	Reform UK
Sandwich	Peter Evans	Reform UK
Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Marc Logen	Reform UK
Sevenoaks Rural North East	Maxine Fothergill	Reform UK
Sevenoaks Rural South	Robert Mayall	Reform UK
Sevenoaks Town	Richard Streatfeild	Liberal Democrat
Sevenoaks West	Nigel Williams	Conservative
Sheppey	Maxwell Harrison	Reform UK
Sheppey	Isabella Kemp	Reform UK
Sittingbourne North	Christine Palmer	Reform UK
Sittingbourne South	Paul Webb	Reform UK
Swale East	Rich Lehmann	Green Party
Swale West	Richard Palmer	Reform UK
Swanley	Dean Truder	Reform UK
Swanscombe & Greenhithe	Thomas Mallon	Reform UK
Tenterden	Wayne Chapman	Reform UK
Tonbridge	Mark Hood	Green Party
Tonbridge	Paul Stepto	Green Party
Tunbridge Wells East	Colin Sefton	Liberal Democrat
Tunbridge Wells North	Mark Ellis	Liberal Democrat
Tunbridge Wells Rural	Mark Munday	Liberal Democrat
Tunbridge Wells South	Martin Brice	Liberal Democrat

Tunbridge Wells West	John Moreland	Liberal Democrat
Whitstable East & Herne Bay West	Adrian Kibble	Reform UK
Whitstable West	Stuart Heaver	Green Party
Wilmington	Alan Cecil	Reform UK