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, 21 May 2026.

PRESENT: Mr J Baker, Mr B Barrett, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mr M Brown, Mr D Burns, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mr R Ford, Mrs G Foster, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr S Heaver, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mrs S Hudson, Mr S Jeffery, Ms L Kemkaran, Ms I Kemp, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Mr J Moreland, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr M Munday, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mr T Prater, Mr H Rayner, Mrs S Roots, Ms C Russell, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Mr M J Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, MBE, Dr G Sturley, Mr P Thomas, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mr N Williams, Mrs P Williams, Mr D Wimble and Mr R Yates

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr J Cook (Democratic Services Manager) and Ms P Der Man (Head of Law – Monitoring Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

69. Election of Chairman of the Council
(Item 1)

(Mr Richard Palmer, the present Chairman presided for this item)

1. Mr Wayne Chapman proposed, and Mrs Pamela Williams seconded that Mr Jeremy Eustace be elected as Chairman of the County Council.

2. Mr Paul Thomas proposed, and Mr Harry Rayner seconded that Mrs Sarah Hudson be elected as Chairman of the County Council.

3. The Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 2 to the vote and the voting was as follows.

   For (20)
   Mr B Barrett, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mr D Burns, Mr R Ford, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr A J Hook, Mrs S Hudson, Miss I Kemp, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Mr T Prater, Mr H Rayner, Ms C

Russell, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr R G Streatfeild, Mr P Thomas and Mr N Williams.

Against (45)
Mr J Baker, Mr M Brown, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Mr M A J Hood, Mr S Jeffery, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mrs S Roots, Mr D Sian, Mr P Stepto, Dr G Sturley, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Abstain (2)
Mr S Heaver and Mr R Yates.

Motion lost.

4. The Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 1 to the vote and voting was as follows.

   For (43)
   Mr J Baker, Mr M Brown, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mrs S Roots, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Dr G Sturley, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

   Against (21)
   Mr B Barrett, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr M Brice, Mr D Burns, Mr R Ford, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mrs S Hudson, Mr S Jeffery, Miss I Kemp, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Mr T Prater, Mr H Rayner, Ms C Russell, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr P Thomas, Mr N Williams and Mr R Yates.

   Abstain (4)
   Mr A Brady, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr A J Hook and Mr R G Streatfeild.

   Motion Carried.

5. Mr Eustace made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and Mr Palmer invested Mr Eustace with the Badge of Office.

6. Mr Eustace paid tribute to Mr Palmer and the Vice-Chairman Mr Evans, reflected on his personal connection to Kent and set out his commitment to chairing meetings with fairness and openness to robust debate.

7. Mr Palmer expressed his thanks to Council officers, for their support and assistance during his term of office.

RESOLVED that Mr Eustace be elected as Chairman of the County Council.

70. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Council
(Item 2)

1. Mrs Georgia Foster proposed, and Mrs Sharon Roots seconded that Mr Dodger Sian be elected as Vice- Chairman of the County Council.

2. As there were no further nominations, the Chairman declared Mr Dodger Sian as Chairman of the County Council.

3. Mr Sian made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, following which Mr Evans invested Mr Sian with the Vice- Chairman's Badge. Mr Sian thanked Members for their support, congratulated the Chairman on his appointment, and affirmed his intention to undertake the role of Vice-Chairman with integrity.

4. Mr Evans expressed his thanks to Members, officers and the leadership for their support during his term as Vice-Chairman.

RESOLVED that Mr Sian be elected as Vice- Chairman of the County Council.

71. Apologies for Absence
(Item 3)

The Democratic Services Manager reported apologies from Mrs Trudy Dean, Mr Mark Ellis, Mrs Beverley Fordham, Mr Andrew Kennedy, Mr Rich Lehmann, Ms Connie Nolan, Mr Martin Paul, Mr Alex Ricketts, Mr Ryan Waters and Miss Amelia Randall.

72. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Significant Interests in items on the agenda
(Item 4)

Responding to a Member query regarding Declarations of Interests related to health matters, the Chairman advised that he would write to the Member outside of the meeting.

73. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2026

(Item 5)

1. The Leader asked that the minutes be updated to reflect that the Green Group did not withdraw their Motion for Time Limited Debate at the previous meeting.

2. Mr Rayner asked that the minutes be updated to reflect that he was interrupted by the Chairman during his response to the Leader within the Report by the Leader of the Council.

3. Mr Rayner asked that the minutes be updated to reflect that the opposition Members left the Chamber in protest at the permitting of a, in their view, disqualifiable time limited motion proceeding during a pre-election period.

4. Mr Brady clarified that the Labour Group made an announcement at the beginning of the debate to say that they would be leaving the Chamber and would not be partaking or voting, which was not referenced in the minutes.

5. Mr Brady proposed and Mr Hood seconded the amendment to the draft minutes. The Chairman put the minutes amendment in paragraph 4 to the vote and it was agreed by a majority.

6. Mr Rayner proposed and Ms Russell seconded the amendment to the draft minutes. The Chairman put the minutes amendment in paragraphs 2 and 3 to the vote and it was agreed by a majority.

7. There was a clerical error within the minutes, for Item 8 Member Allowances Scheme, Mr Burns was recorded as voting twice.

8. Mr Hook commented that he did not use the words ‘pre-election guidance’ when referring to the wording within Item 13 Motion for Time Limited Debate but rather described the motion as a stunt for political purposes.

9. Mr Bradshaw clarified that he voted against the amendment on Item 8 Member Allowances Scheme.

RESOLVED that, subject to relevant amendments agreed by Full Council above being made, the updated minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2026 be approved.

74. Chairman's Announcements
(Item 6)

1. The Chairman welcomed tributes in relation to the sad passing to Mr Roger Latchford, who was a KCC Member for Birchington and villages 2013 until 2017 and leader of the UKIP group.

2. Tributes to Mr Latchford were made by Ms Kemkaran, Mr Shonk, Mr Thomas, Mr Hood, Mr Rayner, Mr Evans, Mr Hook and Mr Brady.

3. Mr Eustace proposed, and Mr Sian seconded, that the Council formally record the sense of loss it feels on the sad passing of Mr Latchford and extends to his family and friends its heartfelt sympathy to them in their sad bereavement.

Agreed unanimously.

4. The Chairman held a one-minute silence in memory of Mr Roger Latchford.

RESOLVED that the Council formally record the sense of loss it feels on the sad passing of Mr Latchford and extends to his family and friends its heartfelt sympathy to them in their sad bereavement.

75. Questions
(Item 7)

In accordance with Sections 14.15 to 14.22 of the Constitution, 23 questions were submitted by the deadline and 20 questions were put to the Executive. 18 questions were asked and replies given. A record of all questions and answers is available online with the papers for this meeting.

76. Report by Leader of the Council
(Item 8)

1. The Leader began by placing on record her thanks to the outgoing Chairman and Vice Chairman for their service over the past year, recognising their contribution to the work of the Council and their representation at civic events. A welcome was also extended to the newly appointed Chairman and Vice Chairman.

2. The Leader stated that the Administration had focused on delivering improved accountability, service delivery and value for money. This had included the introduction of strengthened financial oversight and the launch of the Council's first commercial strategy in January 2026, intended to maximise value from Council expenditure.

3. It was reported that the Council had inherited long-term debt of £732 million, with daily interest payments of approximately £84,000. Over the

last year, this had been reduced by £142 million to £590 million, resulting in savings of approximately £1.2 million per year, equivalent to around £3,200 per day in interest costs. A balanced budget for 2026/27 had been achieved, and the Administration had not increased council tax to the maximum level, instead had identified in-year savings while maintaining investment in frontline services.

4. In relation to highways, the Leader advised that £67 million had been invested, with over 50,000 pothole repairs completed and resurfacing programmes accelerated.

5. The Leader outlined progress in education and children's services, including expanded support for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), reduced waiting times for assessments and strengthened partnership working with schools to improve outcomes for children and young people.

6. The Leader referred to adult social care, explaining that it accounted for a significant proportion of the Council's budget. It was reported that improved financial management had reduced overspending and strengthened budgetary control.

7. Governance and operational changes were highlighted, including the removal of duplication in committee structures and modernisation of meeting arrangements. These changes were reported to deliver savings of approximately £75,000 annually, alongside improvements to transparency through enhanced access to information on the Council's website.

8. The Leader reported that KCC's Climate Emergency Declaration had been removed, enabling the reallocation of approximately £39 million of planned expenditure. Work had commenced on the development of a new energy strategy, including consideration of alternative energy solutions and the protection of agricultural land.

9. The Leader highlighted rural issues, including fly-tipping and waste crime. The Leader advised that a county-wide Waste and Fly Tipping Conference would be held in July. This aimed to bring together stakeholders and enforcement agencies to address these challenges.

10. The Leader outlined activity to support economic growth and connectivity, including engagement with rail operators and infrastructure partners to encourage competition on international rail services and the reinstatement of services at Ashford and Ebbsfleet stations.

11. The Leader referenced regeneration initiatives, including partnership working to designate East Kent as a Marmot Coastal Region, aimed at improving life chances and opportunities for residents in coastal communities.

12. The Leader highlighted the declaration of an illegal migration emergency in Kent, sharing that a detailed report on associated impacts on services and communities had been produced and there was continued engagement planned with Central Government.

13. The Leader referred to the publication of the “Reforming Kent” plan in November 2025, which set out the Council’s strategic direction including financial sustainability, service delivery and support for residents and businesses.

14. An update was provided on Local Government Reorganisation proposals, with the Leader explaining that the KCC’s submission intended to minimise cost and disruption whilst maintaining effective service delivery.

15. In conclusion, the Leader stated that, while progress had been made during the first year, further work remained. The Administration remained committed to maintaining financial stability, improving services and delivering for residents.

16. Mr Hook, Leader of the Opposition, began by thanking the outgoing Chairman and Vice- Chairman for their service, congratulating the new Chairman and Vice- Chairman on their election and welcoming Mr Rob Yates as the newly elected Member for Cliftonville.

17. Mr Hook commented on the recent local elections, congratulating Liberal Democrat colleagues in Tunbridge Wells on their strong results. He asserted that despite facing a well- resourced opposition, the party’s success reflected their commitment to local communities and growing frustration with the Reform party.

18. Mr Hook criticised the Leader’s opposition to free breakfast clubs, arguing that they provided clear social and economic benefits. He emphasised that supporting children through measures like free school meals helped families, improved outcomes and reflected the importance of society contributing to the wellbeing of future generations.

19. Turning to the Kent Travel Saver, Mr Hook criticised the Administration’s proposed price increase, stating that made travel for young people more expensive and undermined claims of putting residents first.

20. In relation to fly tipping, Mr Hook asserted that while advising residents to check with tradespeople was a positive step, it was insufficient on its own. He argued that stronger action was needed, including possible legislative measures and better systems to track waste. Mr Hook endorsed the idea of a multi- agency hub to tackle what he described as serious, financially motivated crimes.

21. Mr Hook questioned the Leader’s comments on the Department of Local Government Efficiency (DOLGE), citing previous statements that it had not delivered savings. He argued that reductions in debt were largely due to maturing liabilities rather than policy changes and raised concerns about the Council’s financial position. Mr Hook highlighted increased risk exposure, reduced reserves, and a reliance on asset sales to balance the budget.

22. Mr Hook expressed concern about the condition of Kent’s roads, stating that the county had experienced its worst pothole situation despite increased funding. He also criticised comments made towards Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) campaigners, urging the Administration to listen more carefully to the concerns of teachers and those advocating for children with additional needs.

23. Finally, Mr Hook thanked colleagues across the Council and expressed his hope that the coming Civic Year would ensure that every Member had a strong voice and would work to make Kent proud of its Council.

24. Mr Thomas, Leader of the Restore Britain Kent Group, began his speech by recognising certain positive changes, while urging the Leader to consider developments elsewhere, where Reform groups were challenging the legal basis of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

25. Mr Thomas called for greater reflection and humility, clarifying that his group’s previous walkout was not due to a disagreement on the national issue, but because the previous meeting’s motion was predominately national politics and adversarial comments which detracted from a focus on local issues affecting Kent especially during a by-election period.

26. Mr Thomas criticised claims about protecting heritage in the light of asset sales and urged the Administration to reflect on the impact of its decisions

on residents. He continued by questioning the decision to prioritise a political assistant over crisis funding, raising concerns about the leadership’s judgement and transparency around such appointments.

27. Concerning international stations, Mr Thomas welcomed progress and thanked officers and campaigners for their efforts but stressed that further cross- party cooperation was needed to best serve the interests of Kent residents in order to expedite the international trains stopping in Kent.

28. Mr Thomas raised concerns about the handling of the Tilbury- Gravesend Ferry, stating a request for the Cabinet Member to pass over to Economic Development and revisit the issue if funding became available was rejected. He suggested that Member’s views were being overlooked, compounded by proposed constitutional changes, which he argued could limit open debate and restrict Member’s ability to challenge the Administration.

29. Finally, Mr Thomas commented on the approach to Galley Hill, stating that while the ambition was welcome, potential funding had been used to repay debt instead of supporting a significant economic development opportunity.

30. Mr Rayner, Leader of the Conservative Group, began by expressing concern that the Leader’s Report did not adequately address preparations for rising food and fuel costs, urging the Administration to mitigate their impact. He suggested reducing unnecessary travel, including greater use of remote Cabinet Committee meetings where appropriate. He also emphasised the need to ensure sufficient resources for frontline services, particularly in light of increasing financial pressures.

31. Mr Rayner warned that the Administration was falling behind in responding to rising inflationary pressures, highlighting concerns raised about potential budgetary overspends. He called for urgent updates to the corporate risk register and for decisive action to address the situation to provide clear leadership to Kent residents.

32. Concerning LGR, Mr Rayner referenced commentary from the Institute for Government expressing scepticism about the proposed timetable. He stated that while the Administration had supported a single unitary authority, it had not clearly set out its position on alternative proposals or addressed concerns about the viability of the current plans. Mr Rayner finished by thanking his group for their work supporting residents over the past year and for the support they had given him personally.

33. Mr Hood, Leader of the Green Group, referred to the previous Full Council meeting and outlined the Green Group's position in relation to the decision to leave the Chamber. Mr Hood explained that this action had been taken due to concerns regarding the legality of the Reform Groups' Motion for Time Limited Debate and the process followed in relation to advice provided at that time. Additionally, Mr Hood raised concerns that his group had not yet seen the legal advice associated with that matter.

34. Mr Hood made reference to recent media appearances following the elections, including the Leader's participation on BBC Politics South East alongside the Deputy Leader of the Green Party.

35. Concerns were raised regarding the Administration's approach to culture and heritage, including the disposal of artworks and assets. Mr Hood made reference to the sale of items from the Council's art collection and the proposed disposal of heritage properties, including windmills, highlighting concerns about long-term preservation and support for volunteer organisations.

36. Mr Hood commented on Council spending priorities, including reference to administrative and support costs, and how these were balanced against the maintenance of assets and services.

37. Mr Hood highlighted the absence of reference within the Leader's statement to the celebration of Kent Day and related activity to promote the county's heritage and identity. The importance of promoting Kent's cultural identity, heritage, and local produce was highlighted, alongside the potential for increased civic engagement and public participation. Mr Hood advised that he and Mr Stepto would ensure the county's flag was flown above Tonbridge Castle on Kent Day. He also referred to previous initiatives aimed at promoting Kent-related items and branding, adding that such initiatives could support engagement with residents and visitors.

38. Mr Hood concluded by welcoming Mr Yates to his first full Council meeting and highlighted his attendance at committee meetings as part of his introduction to Council business.

39. Mr Brady, Leader of the Labour Group, highlighted that the King's Speech set out a clear direction based on investment, long- term planning and partnership. He stated this approach was particularly important in Kent due to the county's unique pressures as the UK's gateway.

40. On transport, Mr Brady emphasised the importance of investment, highlighting the need for effective public transport and support for active

travel to address congestion and air quality issues, particularly in areas like Canterbury. He also warned that alternative approaches that prioritised car travel, could worsen traffic and environmental pressures.

41. Turning to health and public services, Mr Brady stressed the need for improvement and welcomed reforms in the King's Speech to reduce NHS bureaucracy, improve efficiency, and achieve better patient outcomes, benefitting KCC services without relying on privatisation.

42. On the economy, Mr Brady also emphasised the importance of improving trade links with Europe for Kent's connectivity and businesses and highlighted KCC's responsibility to deliver national commitments locally through the new national outcomes framework, by which KCC's performance would be judged. He concluded with a call for honesty, criticising the Council's current performance and warning that future funding would depend on results under this framework.

43. In response, the Leader made reference to Member conduct during the last meeting of Full Council, where Members had left the Chamber prior to the conclusion of proceedings. The Leader expressed concern regarding such actions and stated that they were not considered appropriate within the formal setting of Council meetings.

44. The Leader emphasised that all Members were expected to engage fully in debate and decision-making processes and to uphold standards of professionalism in carrying out their duties. The importance of maintaining constructive participation and fulfilling responsibilities to residents was highlighted.

45. The Leader commented on the recent local election results across the country, stating that these had been challenging for opposition parties and arguing that the outcomes reflected growing public support for Reform UK. The Leader referred to national voting trends and suggested that voters were increasingly turning away from other established parties in favour of alternative political representation. The Leader commented that the outcomes demonstrated public support for the Administrations approach to governance, including its focus on financial management, service delivery and policy direction.

46. The Leader raised concerns regarding the conduct and public statements of individuals associated with the Green Party, including comments made by the Party Leader in relation to the Golders Green incident. The Leader further clarified, in relation to a recent media appearance involving the Deputy Leader of the Green Party, that Wealden District Council held debt of £53 million. In addition, the Leader referenced reports of anti-Semitism

within the Green Party and expressed the view that such reports raised concerns regarding the party's governance and oversight.

47. The Leader expressed the view that the political group Restore Britain did not have a sufficient democratic mandate to represent residents within Kent. She stated that, to her knowledge, there were no formal agreements or arrangements in place between Reform UK and Restore Britain, either locally or elsewhere. The Leader further noted that current polling indicated limited electoral support for the group.

48. The Leader commented on developments within the Labour Party, referring to reports of internal divisions, including calls from Members of Parliament for the Party Leader to resign. Concerns were also expressed regarding governance and decision-making at a national level.

49. The Leader commented on the position of the Liberal Democrats within national politics, referring to perceptions of its leadership and public profile. Reference was also made to concerns regarding performance and accountability, including in relation to local government matters and the Party Leader's handling of issues connected to the Post Office scandal.

50. Reference was made to the Council's approach to council tax, the Leader highlighted that her Administration delivered the first reduction in Council Tax in Kent for over a decade.

51. The Leader outlined that the Administration had sought to prioritise a practical and delivery-focused approach, including the identification of cost savings and the implementation of measures intended to ensure value for money in service provision.

52. It was further stated that Members of the Administration were not career politicians but had sought election in response to concerns regarding the direction of local and national governance and with the intention of delivering change.

53. The Leader indicated that public response to the Administration's work over the previous year had been positive, referencing continued electoral support and public engagement. The Leader explained that residents had been able to observe the Council's work over the preceding year and form their own judgement on its performance and priorities.

54. The importance of continuing to deliver services effectively, maintaining financial discipline, and responding to residents' concerns was emphasised.

55. The Leader concluded by reiterating that all Members had a responsibility to contribute constructively to Council business and to represent the interests of residents in a professional and accountable manner.

RESOLVED that the Leader’s Report be noted.

77. Strategic Statement - 6 Month Review
(Item 9)

1. Ms Kemkaran proposed and Mr Collins seconded the motion that:

   “Council is asked to:

   (1) APPROVE the revisions to the Council’s strategic statement, ‘Reforming Kent 2025-2028’; and

   (2) NOTE the progress made”

2. Following the debate, the Chairman put the motion in paragraph 1 to the vote and the voting was as follows.

   For (43)
   Mr J Baker, Mr M Brown, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mrs S Roots, Mr D Sian, Dr G Sturley, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

   Against (26)
   Mr B Barrett, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mr D Burns, Mr R Ford, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr S Jeffery, Miss I Kemp, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Mr T Prater, Mr H Rayner, Ms C Russell, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr T L Shonk, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, Mr N Williams and Mr R Yates.

   Abstain (1)
   Mr P Thomas.

Motion carried.

RESOLVED that Council:

(1) Approves the revisions to the Council's strategic statement, 'Reforming Kent 2025-2028'; and

(2) Notes the progress made

78. Senior Management Update
(Item 10)

1. Ms Kemkaran proposed and Mr Collins seconded the motion that:

   "Council is asked to:

   APPROVE the change in the reporting line of the Director of Public Health from the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to the Chief Executive, with immediate effect."

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

RESOLVED that Council approves the change in the reporting line of the Director of Public Health from the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to the Chief Executive, with immediate effect.

79. Proportionality Update
(Item 11)

1. Ms Kemkaran proposed and Mr Collins seconded the motion that:

   "Council is asked to:

   1) APPROVE the amendment to the allocation of committee and sub committee places between the political groups as set out in Appendix 1;

   2) DELEGATE authority to the Democratic Services Manager, to resolve relevant appointments with the affected Political Groups."

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

RESOLVED that Council:

1) Approves the amendment to the allocation of committee and sub committee places between the political groups as set out in Appendix 1;

2) Delegates authority to the Democratic Services Manager, to resolve relevant appointments with the affected Political Groups.

80. Constitution Update
(Item 12)

1. Mr Hespe proposed and Mr Chamberlain seconded the motion that:

   "County Council is asked to agree the following amendments to the Constitution and ask the Monitoring Officer to update the document:

   a) Amend section 14.15 to read: "All Members are entitled to submit one question per meeting, which must be delivered to the Democratic Services Manager by 5:00pm of the tenth working day ahead of a regularly scheduled meeting of County Council by an email from that Member or by paper copy signed by that Member. The full list of questions submitted, with the names of the Members submitting them, will be circulated to Members by 5pm the working day before the meeting. Where the meeting is cancelled, Members will still receive written answers directly."
   b) Amend section 14.25 to read: "The Leader of each opposition Group may give a reply to the Report, with a minimum of two minutes allowed. The Leader of the Opposition may speak for up to five minutes with the Leader of any other opposition Group following in order of Group size, losing one minute from the maximum time allowed until the minimum is reached."
   c) Add a new section between the current 14.11 and 14.12 and read: "Prior to all other items, each County Council meeting shall start with a recital of the Lord's Prayer."
   d) Add a new section between the current 14.11 and 14.12 and read: "As the concluding item, each County Council meeting shall end with the singing of the national anthem."
   e) Amend section 14.9 to read: "Attendance at meetings will be recorded in a manner determined by the Head of Governance and Members must sit in the seat allocated to them by the Chairman." Further, to delete section 15.37 and amend section 15.7 to read: "Attendance at meetings will be recorded in a manner determined by the Head of Governance."
   f) Amend section 2(a) to read: "The role of the Council is, (within its remit and jurisdiction) to seek to ensure the delivery of services to the people of Kent so as to enhance their social and economic well-being."
   g) Delegate authority to the Democratic Services Manager, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to make relevant arrangements to support lawful implementation of agreed recommendations.
   h) Delegate to the Monitoring Officer the authority to finalise the wording of constitutional amendments agreed by County Council

where necessary to ensure the lawful implementation of any and all agreed recommendations.

i) Delegate to the Monitoring Officer the authority to finalise the wording of constitutional amendments agreed by County Council where necessary to ensure the lawful implementation of any and all agreed recommendations."

2. Mr Sole proposed, and Mr Hook seconded the following amendment to the recommendation:

   "County Council is asked to agree the following amendments to the Constitution and ask the Monitoring Officer to update the document:

a) Amend section 14.15 to read: "All Members are entitled to submit one question per meeting, which must be delivered to the Democratic Services Manager by 5:00pm of the tenth working day ahead of a regularly scheduled meeting of County Council by an email from that Member or by paper copy signed by that Member. The full list of questions submitted, with the names of the Members submitting them, will be circulated to Members by 5pm the working day before the meeting. Where the meeting is cancelled, Members will still receive written answers directly."
b) Amend section 14.25 to read: "The Leader of each opposition Group may give a reply to the Report, with a minimum of two minutes allowed. The Leader of the Opposition may speak for up to five minutes with the Leader of any other opposition Group following in order of Group size, losing one minute from the maximum time allowed until the minimum is reached."
c) Add a new section between the current 14.11 and 14.12 and read: "Prior to all other items, each County Council meeting shall start with ~~a recital of the Lord's Prayer~~ 30 seconds of quiet reflection."
d) Add a new section between the current 14.11 and 14.12 and read: "As the concluding item, each County Council meeting shall end with the singing of the national anthem."
e) Amend section 14.9 to read: "Attendance at meetings will be recorded in a manner determined by the Head of Governance and Members must sit in the seat allocated to them by the Chairman." Further, to delete section 15.37 and amend section 15.7 to read: "Attendance at meetings will be recorded in a manner determined by the Head of Governance."
f) Amend section 2(a) to read: "The role of the Council is, (within its remit and jurisdiction) to seek to ensure the delivery of services to the people of Kent so as to enhance their social and economic well-being."
g) Delegate authority to the Democratic Services Manager, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to make relevant arrangements to support lawful implementation of agreed recommendations.
h) Delegate to the Monitoring Officer the authority to finalise the wording of constitutional amendments agreed by County Council where necessary to ensure the lawful implementation of any and all agreed recommendations.

i) Delegate to the Monitoring Officer the authority to finalise the wording of constitutional amendments agreed by County Council where necessary to ensure the lawful implementation of any and all agreed recommendations."

3. Following the debate, the Chairman put the amendment in paragraph 2 to the vote and the voting was as follows.

For (16)
Mr B Barrett, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Mr T Prater, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild and Mr R Yates.

Against (44)
Mr J Baker, Mr M Brown, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mrs S Roots, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Dr G Sturley, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Abstain (9)
Mr B Black, Mr D Burns, Mr R Ford, Mrs M Fothergill, Miss I Kemp, Mr H Rayner, Ms C Russell, Mr P Thomas and Mr N Williams.

Amendment lost.

4. Mr Thomas proposed and Mr Black seconded the following amendment to the recommendation:

"County Council is asked to agree the following amendments to the Constitution and ask the Monitoring Officer to update the document:

a) Amend section 14.15 to read: "All Members are entitled to submit one question per meeting, which must be delivered to the Democratic Services Manager by 5:00pm of the tenth working day ahead of a regularly scheduled meeting of County Council by an email from that Member or by paper copy signed by that Member. The full list of questions submitted, with the names of the Members submitting them, will be circulated to Members by 5pm the working day before the meeting. Where the meeting is cancelled, Members will still receive written answers directly."
b) Amend section 14.25 to read: "The Leader of each opposition Group may give a reply to the Report, with a minimum of two minutes allowed. The Leader of the Opposition may speak for up to

five minutes with the Leader of any other opposition Group following in order of Group size, losing one minute from the maximum time allowed until the minimum is reached."

c) Add a new section between the current 14.11 and 14.12 and read: "10 minutes prior to the commencement of each full ~~to all other items, each~~ County Council meeting ~~shall start with~~ a recital of the Lord's Prayer will take place."
d) Add a new section between the current 14.11 and 14.12 and read: "10 minutes following the end of each full ~~As the concluding item, each~~ County Council meeting ~~shall end with~~ the singing of the national anthem shall take place."
e) Amend section 14.9 to read: "Attendance at meetings will be recorded in a manner determined by the Head of Governance and Members must sit in the seat allocated to them by the Chairman." Further, to delete section 15.37 and amend section 15.7 to read: "Attendance at meetings will be recorded in a manner determined by the Head of Governance."
f) Amend section 2(a) to read: "The role of the Council is, (within its remit and jurisdiction) to seek to ensure the delivery of services to the people of Kent so as to enhance their social and economic well-being."
g) Delegate authority to the Democratic Services Manager, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to make relevant arrangements to support lawful implementation of agreed recommendations.
h) Delegate to the Monitoring Officer the authority to finalise the wording of constitutional amendments agreed by County Council where necessary to ensure the lawful implementation of any and all agreed recommendations.
i) Delegate to the Monitoring Officer the authority to finalise the wording of constitutional amendments agreed by County Council where necessary to ensure the lawful implementation of any and all agreed recommendations."

5. Following the debate, the Chairman put the amendment in paragraph 4 to the vote and the voting was as follows.

For (26)
Mr B Barrett, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mr D Burns, Mr R Ford, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Miss I Kemp, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Mr T Prater, Mr H Rayner, Ms C Russell, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, Mr P Thomas, Mr N Williams, Mr D Wimble and Mr R Yates.

Against (43)
Mr J Baker, Mr M Brown, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms

L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mrs S Roots, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Dr G Sturley, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, and Mrs P Williams.

Abstain (0)

Amendment lost.

6. Mr Hood proposed and Mr Heaver seconded the following amendment to the recommendation:

   "County Council is asked to agree the following amendments to the Constitution and ask the Monitoring Officer to update the document:

   a) Amend section 14.15 to read: "All Members are entitled to submit one question per meeting, which must be delivered to the Democratic Services Manager by 5:00pm of the tenth working day ahead of a regularly scheduled meeting of County Council by an email from that Member or by paper copy signed by that Member. The full list of questions submitted, with the names of the Members submitting them, will be circulated to Members by 5pm the working day before the meeting. Where the meeting is cancelled, Members will still receive written answers directly."
   b) Amend section 14.25 to read: "The Leader of each opposition Group may give a reply to the Report, with a minimum of two minutes allowed. The Leader of the Opposition may speak for up to five minutes with the Leader of any other opposition Group following in order of Group size, losing one minute from the maximum time allowed until the minimum is reached."
   c) Amend section 14.23 to read: "14.23 The Leader may speak for a maximum of fourteen minutes on this item. This consists of:
      a. Up to nine minutes giving an oral report on key issues arising since the last meeting.
      b. Up to five minutes to respond to any and all replies given under 14.25."
   d) Add a new section between the current 14.11 and 14.12 and read: "Prior to all other items, each County Council meeting shall start with a recital of the Lord's Prayer."
   e) Add a new section between the current 14.11 and 14.12 and read: "As the concluding item, each County Council meeting shall end with the singing of the national anthem."
   f) Amend section 14.9 to read: "Attendance at meetings will be recorded in a manner determined by the Head of Governance and Members must sit in the seat allocated to them by the Chairman." Further, to delete section 15.37 and amend section 15.7 to read: "Attendance at meetings will be recorded in a manner determined by the Head of Governance."

g) Amend section 2(a) to read: “The role of the Council is, (within its remit and jurisdiction) to seek to ensure the delivery of services to the people of Kent so as to enhance their social and economic well-being.”
h) Delegate authority to the Democratic Services Manager, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to make relevant arrangements to support lawful implementation of agreed recommendations.
i) Delegate to the Monitoring Officer the authority to finalise the wording of constitutional amendments agreed by County Council where necessary to ensure the lawful implementation of any and all agreed recommendations.

7. Following the debate, the Chairman put the amendment in paragraph 2 to the vote and the voting was as follows.

   For (24)
   Mr B Barrett, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mr D Burns, Mr R Ford, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Miss I Kemp, Mr M Munday, Mr T Prater, Mr H Rayner, Ms C Russell, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, Mr P Thomas, Mr N Williams and Mr R Yates.

   Against (43)
   Mr J Baker, Mr M Brown, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr M Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mrs S Roots, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Dr G Sturley, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

   Abstain (2)
   Mr J Moreland and Mr N Wibberley.

Amendment lost.

8. Following the debate the Chairman put the recommendations to the vote separately.

9. The vote for Recommendation (a) to amend section 14.15 to read: “All Members are entitled to submit one question per meeting, which must be delivered to the Democratic Services Manager by 5:00pm of the tenth calendar day ahead of a regularly scheduled meeting of County Council by an email from that Member or by paper copy signed by that Member. The full list of questions submitted, with the names of the Members submitting

them, will be circulated to Members by 5pm the working day before the meeting. Where the meeting is cancelled, Members will still receive written answers directly" was as follows:

For (52)
Mr J Baker, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr M Brown, Mr D Burns, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mr R Ford, Mrs G Foster, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr S Heaver, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mrs S Roots, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Dr G Sturley, Mr P Thomas, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams, Mr D Wimble and Mr R Yates.

Against (14)
Mr B Barrett, Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Mr T Prater, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild and Mr N Williams.

Abstain (3)
Miss I Kemp, Mr H Rayner and Ms C Russell.

Motion carried.

10. The vote for Recommendation (b) to amend section 14.25 to read: "The Leader of each opposition Group may give a reply to the Report, with a minimum of two minutes allowed. The Leader of the Opposition may speak for up to five minutes with the Leader of any other opposition Group following in order of Group size, losing one minute from the maximum time allowed until the minimum is reached" was as follows:

For (44)
Mr J Baker, Mr M Brown, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mrs S Roots, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Dr G Sturley, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Against (25)
Mr B Barrett, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mr D Burns, Mr R Ford, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Miss I Kemp, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Mr T Prater, Mr H

Rayner, Ms C Russell, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, Mr P Thomas, Mr N Williams and Mr R Yates.

Abstain (0)

Motion carried.

11. The vote for Recommendation (c) to add a new section between the current 14.11 and 14.12 and read: "Prior to all other items, each County Council meeting shall start with a recital of the Lord's Prayer" was as follows:

For (48)
Mr J Baker, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr M Brown, Mr D Burns, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mr R Ford, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, Miss I Kemp, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mrs S Roots, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Dr G Sturley, Mr P Thomas, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Against (15)
Mr B Barrett, Mr M Brice, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Mr T Prater, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, Mr N Wibberley and Mr R Yates.

Abstain (6)
Mr A Brady, Mr J Eustace, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr H Rayner, Ms C Russell and Mr N Williams.

Motion carried.

12. The vote for Recommendation (d) to add a new section between the current 14.11 and 14.12 and read: "As the concluding item, each County Council meeting shall end with the singing of the national anthem was as follows:

For (46)
Mr J Baker, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr M Brown, Mr D Burns, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, Miss I Kemp, Mr A Kibble, Mr P

King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mrs S Roots, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Dr G Sturley, Mr P Thomas, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Against (16)
Mr B Barrett, Mr M Brice, Mr R Ford, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Mr T Prater, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, Mr N Wibberley and Mr R Yates.

Abstain (7)
Mr A Brady, Mr J Eustace, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr T Mallon, Mr H Rayner, Ms C Russell and Mr N Williams.

Motion carried.

13. The vote for Recommendation (e) to amend section 14.9 to read: “Attendance at meetings will be recorded in a manner determined by the Head of Governance and Members must sit in the seat allocated to them by the Chairman.” Further, to delete section 15.37 and amend section 15.7 to read: “Attendance at meetings will be recorded in a manner determined by the Head of Governance” was as follows:

For (60)
Mr J Baker, Mr B Barrett, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr M Brice, Mr M Brown, Mr D Burns, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mr R Ford, Mrs G Foster, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Mr A J Hook, Ms L Kemkaran, Miss I Kemp, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Mr J Moreland, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr M Munday, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mr T Prater, Mrs S Roots, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Mr R G Streatfeild, Dr G Sturley, Mr P Thomas, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Against (3)
Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood and Mr P Stepto.

Abstain (6)
Mr A Brady, Mr H Rayner, Ms C Russell, Mr M Sole, Mr N Williams and Mr R Yates.

Motion carried.

14. The vote for Recommendation (f) to amend section 2(a) to read: "The role of the Council is, (within its remit and jurisdiction) to seek to ensure the delivery of services to the people of Kent so as to enhance their social and economic well-being." was as follows:

For (60)
Mr J Baker, Mr B Barrett, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr M Brice, Mr M Brown, Mr D Burns, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mr R Ford, Mrs G Foster, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Mr A J Hook, Ms L Kemkaran, Miss I Kemp, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr M Munday, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mr T Prater, Mrs S Roots, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Mr M Sole, Mr R G Streatfeild, Dr G Sturley, Mr P Thomas, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Against (7)
Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr H Rayner, Ms C Russell, Mr P Stepto, Mr N Williams and Mr R Yates.

Abstain (2)
Mr A Brady and Mr J Moreland.

Motion carried.

15. The vote for Recommendation (g) to delegate authority to the Democratic Services Manager, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to make relevant arrangements to support lawful implementation of agreed recommendations was as follows:

For (53)
Mr J Baker, Mr B Barrett, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr M Brown, Mr D Burns, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mr R Ford, Mrs G Foster, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, Miss I Kemp, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mrs S Roots, Ms C Russell, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Dr G Sturley, Mr P Thomas, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Against (3)
Mr M A J Hood, Mr T Prater and Mr P Stepto.

Abstain (13)
Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mr S Heaver, Mr A J Hook, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Mr H Rayner, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr R G Streatfeild, Mr N Williams and Mr R Yates.

Motion carried.

16. The vote for Recommendations (h-i) to delegate to the Monitoring Officer the authority to finalise the wording of constitutional amendments agreed by County Council where necessary to ensure the lawful implementation of any and all agreed recommendations and to delegate to the Monitoring Officer the authority to finalise the wording of constitutional amendments agreed by County Council where necessary to ensure the lawful implementation of any and all agreed recommendations was as follows:

For (55)
Mr J Baker, Mr B Barrett, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr A Brady, Mr M Brown, Mr D Burns, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr S Heaver, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Mr M A J Hood, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mrs S Roots, Ms C Russell, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Mr P Stepto, Dr G Sturley, Mr P Thomas, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams, Mr D Wimble, and Mr R Yates.

Against (9)
Mr M Brice, Mr A J Hook, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Mr T Prater, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole and Mr R G Streatfeild.

Abstain (5)
Mr R Ford, Mrs M Fothergill, Miss I Kemp, Mr H Rayner and Mr N Williams

Motion carried.

RESOLVED that the County Council agreed the following amendments to the Constitution and ask the Monitoring Officer to update the document:

a) Amend section 14.15 to read: “All Members are entitled to submit one question per meeting, which must be delivered to the Democratic Services Manager by 5:00pm of the tenth calendar day ahead of a regularly scheduled meeting of County Council by an email from that Member or by paper copy signed by that Member. The full list of questions submitted, with the names of the Members submitting them, will be circulated to Members by 5pm the working day before the meeting. Where the meeting is cancelled, Members will still receive written answers directly."

b) Amend section 14.25 to read: "The Leader of each opposition Group may give a reply to the Report, with a minimum of two minutes allowed. The Leader of the Opposition may speak for up to five minutes with the Leader of any other opposition Group following in order of Group size, losing one minute from the maximum time allowed until the minimum is reached."
c) Add a new section between the current 14.11 and 14.12 and read: "Prior to all other items, each County Council meeting shall start with a recital of the Lord's Prayer."
d) Add a new section between the current 14.11 and 14.12 and read: "As the concluding item, each County Council meeting shall end with the singing of the national anthem."
e) Amend section 14.9 to read: "Attendance at meetings will be recorded in a manner determined by the Head of Governance and Members must sit in the seat allocated to them by the Chairman." Further, to delete section 15.37 and amend section 15.7 to read: "Attendance at meetings will be recorded in a manner determined by the Head of Governance."
f) Amend section 2(a) to read: "The role of the Council is, (within its remit and jurisdiction) to seek to ensure the delivery of services to the people of Kent so as to enhance their social and economic well-being."
g) Delegate authority to the Democratic Services Manager, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to make relevant arrangements to support lawful implementation of agreed recommendations.
h) Delegate to the Monitoring Officer the authority to finalise the wording of constitutional amendments agreed by County Council where necessary to ensure the lawful implementation of any and all agreed recommendations.
i) Delegate to the Monitoring Officer the authority to finalise the wording of constitutional amendments agreed by County Council where necessary to ensure the lawful implementation of any and all agreed recommendations.

81. Motions for Time Limited Debate
(Item 13)

Motion for Time Limited Debate 1:

1.Mr Heaver proposed and Mr Hood seconded the motion that:

"This Council resolves to:

1. Welcome the Water Supply Short Focused Inquiry (SFI) report, thank the Members and Officers involved for their work examining the water outages in Winter 2025/2026 and note the requirement for the Executive to provide a response to the report and its

recommendations to the Scrutiny Committee in due course but also recognise that there are a range of other water related issues that merit immediate consideration by the Council.

2. Recommend that the Executive to write to Southern Water and request that its published CSO spill data is condensed into a concise Kent-wide Combined Sewer Outfall (CSO) spill report and submitted on a quarterly basis to enable more effective scrutiny of water borne pollution and the progress of spill reduction efforts, across the county.

3. Recommend that the Executive to write to Southern Water to request a concise quarterly report on the county-wide progress of the Clean Rivers and Seas Task Force and to offer Southern Water any appropriate support from KCC for their efforts to reduce CSO spills across the county and with particular regard to encouraging SUDS on KCC owned buildings and infrastructure such as schools and libraries.

4. Recommend that the Cabinet Member for Environment, Coastal Regeneration and Public Health to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to recommend that any future fines imposed by the regulator on water companies (or other private or public bodies) for water related failure incidents in Kent, are ring-fenced for water infrastructure and pollution/sewage release prevention improvements.

5. Recommend that the Flood Risk and Water Management Committee consider; asking the Environment Agency to provide a report on the number of pollution incidents for each category report by the Water Companies, many of these resulted in inspections in Kent over the last 5 years; and consider recommending that the Quarterly Environment Agency updates on this matter form part of routine performance monitoring by the Committee.

6. Request that the Executive investigate the feasibility of setting up, facilitating and promoting via Plan Sea or any other appropriate means, the development and support of citizen science testing teams on key bathing water areas and rivers seek greater partnership working between all responsible authorities, including water companies, Districts and the Environment Agency alongside supporting existing projects and research to improve monitoring of bathing water quality.

7. Recommend that the Scrutiny Committee consider requesting a Public Health report on the impact, risks of and KCC responsibilities in relation to water outages and in particular, waterborne pollution in Kent.

8. Recommend that the Executive engages with relevant stakeholders to ensure the first Kent and Medway Spatial Development Strategy has due regard to issues relating to water supply, wastewater management and water demand throughout the preparation, adoption and delivery of the strategy.”

2. The Chairman advised that he would be seeking written advice from the Monitoring Officer on the Green Motion for Time Limited Debate and that the motion would therefore be deferred pending consideration of that advice.

   Motion deferred

Motion for Time Limited Debate 2:

3. Mr Bradshaw proposed, and Mr Burns seconded, the following updated motion to the motion published as part of the agenda, which had received minor updates from the Liberal Democrat Group. The updated motion was agreed in advance by the proposer and seconder alongside the relevant political groups.

   “This Council resolves to:

   1. Recommend that the Executive engage with Kent schools, hospitals, businesses, and other publicly funded organisations to encourage them to prioritise sourcing Kent produced food, fruit, vegetables, and game where possible, thereby supporting local farmers, and game dealers.

   2. Recommend that the Executive work with relevant partners to explore options for agricultural land management in Kent that maximise farming use and best support and promote the permitting of sustainable conservation practices and countryside pursuits.

   3. Recommend the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport examines the impact of deer in Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) across Kent and consider whether a county-wide Deer Management Plan could help mitigate such incidents and improve public safety.

   4. Recommend the Executive explores and reports on how country pursuits and other conservation activities can contribute to Kent’s environmental targets, biodiversity goals, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and rural economic development.

   5. Recommend that the Executive develops a strategy for youth involvement in agricultural or agricultural adjacent fields by promoting apprenticeships, vocational opportunities or volunteering

and the potential reopening of school farms to provide opportunities for young people and combat the growing level of NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) in the County.

6. Recommend the Executive explores the viability of offering support or incentives for farmers and similar rural business operators to aid in helping tackle winter services such as road gritting.

7. Recommend that the Executive explores with District Councils and other relevant partners, the options for reviewing water extraction rights for farmers to reduce strain on the public water supply.

8. Recommend that the Executive explore, with District Councils and other relevant partners, options for the active promotion, support and incentivisation of solar schemes focused on existing buildings and other infrastructure instead of on farmland itself.

9. Recommend that the Executive, when making decisions that affect Kent's farmers, consult with the National Farmers Union (NFU) to ensure that their views and experience and published evidence are taken on board and reflected in any decision-making."

4. Mr Harrison proposed and Mrs Emberson seconded the following amendment to the motion set out in paragraph 3:

"This Council resolves to:

1. Recommend that the Executive continues to engage with ~~Kent schools, hospitals, businesses,~~ external partners and other publicly funded organisations to encourage them to prioritise produce and meat sourcing from Kent partners ~~produced food, fruit, vegetables, and game where possible, thereby supporting local farmers,~~ and local game dealers.

2. Recommend that the Executive continues to work with relevant partners to explore options for agricultural land management in Kent that maximise farming use and best support and promote the permitting of sustainable conservation practices and countryside pursuits.

~~3. Recommend the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport examines the impact of deer in Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) across Kent and consider whether a county-wide Deer Management Plan could help mitigate such incidents and improve public safety.~~

~~4.~~ 3. Recommend the Executive continues to promote and support ~~explores and reports on how~~ country pursuits and other conservation activities ~~can~~ that contribute to Kent's environmental targets, biodiversity goals, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and rural economic development.

~~5.~~ 4. Recommend that the Executive continues efforts in promoting ~~develops a strategy for youth~~ and supporting youth involvement in agricultural activities ~~or agricultural adjacent fields~~ through its established farm- based education models ~~by promoting apprenticeships, vocational opportunities or volunteering and the potential reopening of school farms to provide opportunities for young people~~ and continue providing a Local Skills Improvement Plan and wider skills systems that offers a full range of opportunities and provision available within the sector that incorporates land-based learning and outdoor education. ~~combat the growing level of NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) in the County.~~

~~4.~~ 5. Recommend that the Executive ~~explores the viability of offering support or incentives for~~ continues offering service arrangements and contracts to farmers and similar rural business operators to aid in helping tackle winter services. ~~such as road gritting.~~

~~5. Recommend that the Executive explores with District Councils and other relevant partners, the options for reviewing water extraction rights for farmers to reduce strain on the public water supply.~~

~~6.~~ 5. Recommend that the Executive ~~explore, with District Councils and other relevant partners, options for the active promotion,~~ should both continue exploring the incentivisation of solar schemes that do not harm our rural economy and tourism industry ~~support and incentivisation of solar schemes focused on existing buildings and other infrastructure instead of on farmland itself~~ and continue resisting government plans to cover agricultural land with solar farms.

~~7. Recommend that the Executive, when making decisions that affect Kent's farmers, consult with the National Farmers Union (NFU) to ensure that their views and experience and published evidence are taken on board and reflected in any decision making.~~"

5. Following the debate, the Chairman put the amendment set out in paragraph 4 to the vote and the voting was as follows.

For (44)

Mr J Baker, Mr M Brown, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mrs S Roots, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Dr G Sturley, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Against (21)

Mr B Barrett, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr D Burns, Mr R Ford, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Miss I Kemp, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Mr T Prater, Mr H Rayner, Ms C Russell, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild and Mr P Thomas.

Abstain (2)

Mr A Brady and Mr R Yates.

Amendment carried

6. The Chairman put the substantive motion set out in paragraph 4 to the vote and the voting was as follows:

For (46)
Mr J Baker, Mr M Brown, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mrs B Porter, Mr H Rayner, Mrs S Roots, Ms C Russell, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Dr G Sturley, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Against (4)
Mr B Barrett, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr D Burns and Mr M Munday.

Abstain (13)
Mr B Black, Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mr R Ford, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr A J Hook, Mr J Moreland, Mr T Prater, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr R G Streatfeild and Mr P Thomas.

Substantive motion carried.

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Recommends that the Executive continues to engage with external partners and other publicly funded organisations to encourage them to prioritise produce and meat sourcing from Kent farmers and local game dealers.

2. Recommends that the Executive continues to work with relevant partners to explore options for agricultural land management in Kent

that maximises farming usage and best supports and promotes the permitting of sustainable conservation practices and countryside pursuits.

3. Recommends that the Executive continues to promote and support country pursuits and other conservation activities that contributes to Kent's environmental targets, biodiversity goals, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and rural economic development.

4. Recommends that the Executive continues efforts in promoting and supporting youth involvement in agricultural activities through its established farm-based education models and continues providing a Local Skills Improvement Plan and wider skills systems that offers a full range of opportunities and provision available within the sector that incorporates land-based learning and outdoor education.

5. Recommends that the Executive continues offering service arrangements and contracts to farmers and similar rural business operators to aid in helping tackle winter services.

6. Recommends that the Executive should both continue exploring the incentivisation of solar schemes that do not harm our rural economy and tourism industry and continue resisting government plans to cover agricultural land with solar farms.

7. The Chairman proposed that, under s14.48 of the Constitution, Council resolve to extend the meeting beyond 4:30pm and it was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED that the County Council agree to continue the meeting beyond 4:30pm.

Motion for Time Limited Debate 3:

8. Mr Prater proposed and Mr Hook seconded the motion that:

"The County Council resolves to:

1. Recognise that there is a real risk of significant traffic delays in Kent during the forthcoming summer due to tourist and other traffic subject EES, in addition to the well-known delays caused by freight management through Operations Brock.

2. Request the Cabinet Member for Highways produce and publish an action plan to mitigate the impact on Kent residents, so far as the council is able to do so with the tools available to it.

3. Agree that Kent’s unique national role as the UK’s principal gateway to mainland Europe should be recognised by Government and that Government should:
   - Put forward a credible plan to manage freight traffic without Operation Brock.
   - Provide additional funding, policy levers, and operational powers to support Kent County Council in actively managing traffic subject to EES during peak travel periods and periods of cross-Channel disruption.
   - Work in partnership with Kent County Council, National Highways, border agencies, and port operators to deliver a coordinated national approach to tourist traffic management that reflects the risks associated with the Entry Exit-System and seasonal travel demand.
   - Utilise Sevington, or another suitable facility, for offline queuing or traffic management purposes, to alleviate pressure on the strategic and local road network, and to minimise the impact on Kent residents and businesses.

And that the Clerk to the County Council should provide a copy of the motion to the relevant Government Officers.”

9. Following the debate, the Chairman put the motion in paragraph 8 to the vote and the voting was as follows.

For (67)
Mr J Baker, Mr B Barrett, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr M Brice, Mr M Brown, Mr D Burns, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr P Evans, Mr L Evans, Mr J Finch, Mr R Ford, Mrs G Foster, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr M Harrison, Mr S Heaver, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Mr M Hood, Mr A Hook, Ms L Kemkaran, Miss I Kemp, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Mr J Moreland, Ms D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr M Munday, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Ms B Porter, Mr T Prater, Mr H Rayner, Mrs S Roots, Ms C Russell, Mr G Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr T Shonk, Mr D Sian, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R Streatfeild, Dr G Sturley, Mr P Thomas, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams, Mr D Wimble and Mr R Yates

Against (0)

Abstain (1)
Mr A Brady

Motion carried.

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Recognise that there is a real risk of significant traffic delays in Kent during the forthcoming summer due to tourist and other traffic subject EES, in addition to the well-known delays caused by freight management through Operations Brock.

2. Request the Cabinet Member for Highways produce and publish an action plan to mitigate the impact on Kent residents, so far as the council is able to do so with the tools available to it.

3. Agree that Kent's unique national role as the UK's principal gateway to mainland Europe should be recognised by Government and that Government should:
    - Put forward a credible plan to manage freight traffic without Operation Brock.
    - Provide additional funding, policy levers, and operational powers to support Kent County Council in actively managing traffic subject to EES during peak travel periods and periods of cross-Channel disruption.
    - Work in partnership with Kent County Council, National Highways, border agencies, and port operators to deliver a coordinated national approach to tourist traffic management that reflects the risks associated with the Entry Exit-System and seasonal travel demand.
    - Utilise Sevington, or another suitable facility, for offline queuing or traffic management purposes, to alleviate pressure on the strategic and local road network, and to minimise the impact on Kent residents and businesses.

And that the Clerk to the County Council should provide a copy of the motion to the relevant Government Officers.