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, 17 September 2026.

PRESENT: Mr J Baker, 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, Mrs T Dean, MBE, Mr S Dixon, Mr M Ellis, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr J Finch, Mr R Ford, Mrs B Fordham, 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 Kennedy, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Rich Lehmann, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr M Munday, Ms C Nolan, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mr M Paul, Mrs B Porter, Mr T Prater, Mr H Rayner, Mr A Ricketts, Mrs S Roots, Ms C Russell, Mr G R Samme, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, MBE, Dr G Sturley, Mr P Thomas, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr R Waters, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams, Mr D Wimble and Mr R Yates.

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

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

100. Apologies for Absence
(Item 1)

The Head of Democratic Services reported apologies from Mr Bill Barrett, Mr James Defriend, Mr Marc Logen, Mr Nigel Williams, Mr Peter Evans, Mr Mike Sole, Mr Colin Sefton, Mr John Moreland and Miss Amelia Randall.

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

1. In relation to Item 10, Motions for Time Limited Debate, the following declarations were made:

    i. Mr Streatfeild declared that he had a reserve liability.

    ii. Mr Mallon declared that he would be speaking as the Chair of the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority.

102. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2026

(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 July 2026 were a correct record and they be signed by the Chairman.

103. Chairman's Announcements

(Item 4)

1. The Chairman welcomed Members back following the summer recess and marked a number of significant anniversaries, including Merchant Navy Day, Battle of Britain Day and the 82nd anniversary of Operation Market Garden. Members observed a period of reflection in recognition of those who had served and sacrificed in defence of their country.

2. The Chairman updated Members on civic engagements undertaken by himself and the Vice-Chairman since the previous meeting, including attendance at the Chairman of Essex's annual reception, the East Sussex civic reception and Dover Merchant Navy Day, and highlighted a number of forthcoming engagements.

3. The Chairman paid tribute to Corporate Director Sarah Hammond, ahead of her retirement after 28 years of service to Kent County Council, recognising her significant contribution, particularly to Children's Services and Adult Social Care.

4. The Chairman welcomed tributes to the sad passing of four former Members: Mrs Margaret Stevens, Mr Paul Messenger, Ms Cheryl Hall and Mr Rodney Chambers.

5. Tributes to Mrs Margaret Stevens were made by Mr Brady, Ms Kemkaran, Mr Hook, Mr Thomas, Mr Hood and Mr Rayner.

6. Tributes to Mr Paul Messenger were made by Mr Rayner, Ms Kemkaran, Mr Hook, Mr Thomas, Mr Hood, Ms Nolan, Mr Shonk and Mr Wimble.

7. Tributes to Ms Cheryl Hall were made by Ms Nolan, Ms Kemkaran, Mrs Dean, Mr Thomas, Mr Hood, Mr Rayner and Mr Hespe.

8. Tributes to Mr Rodney Chambers were made by Mr Rayner, Ms Kemkaran, Mr Hook, Mr Thomas, Mr Hood and Mr Brady.

9. Mr Eustace proposed, and Mr Sian seconded, that the Council formally record the sense of loss it feels on the sad passing of Mrs Margaret

Stevens, Mr Paul Messenger, Ms Cheryl Hall and Mr Rodney Chambers and extends to their families and friends its heartfelt sympathy in their sad bereavement.

Agreed unanimously.

10. The Chairman held a one-minute silence in memory of Mrs Margaret Stevens, Mr Paul Messenger, Ms Cheryl Hall and Mr Rodney Chambers.

11. The Chairman reminded Members of the convention relating to the singing of the National Anthem at Council meetings, clarifying that only the first verse should be sung and reiterating that meetings remain in session until formally closed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED that the Council formally records the sense of loss it feels on the sad passing of Mrs Margaret Stevens, Mr Paul Messenger, Ms Cheryl Hall and Mr Rodney Chambers and extends to their families and friends its heartfelt sympathy in their sad bereavement.

104. Questions
(Item 5)

In accordance with Sections 14.17 to 14.24 of the Constitution, 15 questions were submitted by the deadline and 15 questions were put to the Executive. 10 questions were asked and replies given. A record of all questions and answers is available online with the papers for this meeting.

105. Report by Leader of the Council
(Item 6)

At the beginning of this item, the Chairman announced that the speaking times for the Leader and Opposition Group Leaders would be extended, in light of recent developments concerning Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The Chairman also declared that no points of order would be taken during this item.

1. The Leader began her speech by criticising the Government's approach to LGR, highlighting the short period between the Government's announcement and its subsequent decision to pause implementation.

2. The Leader reported that she had been appointed as a Deputy Director on the Board of Local Government Association (LGA) and highlighted the importance of the role in representing local government interests during a period of significant change.

3. The Leader had recently held lengthy discussions with the new Chief Executive of South East Water regarding concerns raised by residents and

welcomed his engagement with the Council's forthcoming Water Resilience Partnership Forum.

4. The Leader outlined the launch of the Delivery of Local Government Efficiency (DOLGE) Strategy and explained that its transition into the delivery phase would support the Council’s continued focus on achieving value for money across all services.

5. The Leader reported that she had presented her annual report to the Scrutiny Committee, covering a range of key issues including the Council's financial position, Adult Social Care, Education and the authority's long-term strategic priorities, and welcomed the opportunity to respond to Members' questions.

6. The Leader highlighted a number of engagements undertaken during July and August, including visits to Five Acre Wood School and the Kent Police Netball Community Project, and praised the contribution of both initiatives in supporting resilience, wellbeing and the development of young people.

7. Updates were provided on projects across the county, including progress at the Ebbsfleet Development site and the Road of Remembrance scheme in Folkestone, highlighting the positive impact these developments would have on local communities and residents.

8. The Leader reported that she had attended a self-defence class for women and girls and explained that participants had expressed concerns about their personal safety. She stated that many attendees linked those concerns to the presence of illegal migrants and asylum seekers in their communities and reiterated her previously stated concerns regarding the impact of illegal migration on the safety of women and girls.

9. The Leader had recently attended the launch of the newly formed London and South East University Group, created through the merger of the Universities of Kent and Greenwich.

10. The Leader provided an update on LGR and outlined the Government's announcement that implementation of the previously approved Option 4B for Kent would be paused pending a Government review.

11. The Leader reiterated her opposition to both LGR and Option 4B, arguing that it lacked sufficient evidence of long-term financial sustainability and would create significant challenges for the delivery of key services.

12. The Leader explained that she had written to the Secretary of State seeking clarification on the rationale for the decision and expressed concern that no response had been received.

13. The Leader highlighted the uncertainty created by the Government's change in position, including the implications for implementation

timescales, local elections and the future structure of local government in Kent and Medway.

14. The Leader expressed concern regarding the costs already incurred by councils in preparing for LGR and stated that Kent taxpayers should not bear the financial consequences of decisions taken by central Government.

15. The Leader emphasised that maintaining the delivery of essential services remained the Council's primary priority throughout the ongoing uncertainty surrounding LGR.

16. Finally, the Leader informed Members that the administration intended to issue a pre-action protocol letter to the Secretary of State regarding the 16 July LGR decision, in order to protect the Council's position and preserve its ability to pursue a judicial review challenge should that prove necessary.

17. Mr Hook, Leader of the Opposition, began by raising concerns about a recent protest in Dover, describing its impact on public safety and community confidence. He questioned the policing response to the event, particularly in relation to disruption caused to the port and surrounding area. He also stated that any agenda founded on racial or religious prejudice should be rejected and argued that intimidation and obstruction should not be permitted to influence public policy.

18. Mr Hook continued by expressing his appreciation for Kent's Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) volunteers, recognising their role in rescuing those in danger at sea. He condemned the harassment recently directed towards lifeboat crews, emphasised that rescue services should be provided irrespective of nationality, and stated that the RNLI deserved the Council's full support.

19. Mr Hook referred to a recent NHS consultation on fertility treatment services in Kent and Medway and welcomed the withdrawal of previously proposed cuts to fertility treatment provision. He reported that his Group had submitted a detailed response opposing further proposed changes and urged the administration to submit a consultation response opposing the proposals.

20. Mr Hook reiterated his Group's view that LGR should focus on devolving powers from central Government rather than changing Council boundaries. He expressed concern that Members were receiving updates through verbal reports rather than formal reports to Cabinet Committee and emphasised the importance of Member engagement given the long-term implications of any reorganisation proposals.

21. Finally, Mr Hook referred to the Council's Quarter 1 financial monitoring position, highlighting the forecast overspend for the current financial year and expressing concern about the implications for the Council's financial

resilience. He called on the Leader to ensure that the forecast position improved during the remainder of the year and that the Council achieved a balanced outturn.

22. Mr Thomas, Leader of the Restore Britain Kent Group, began by expressing disappointment that recent developments relating to LGR were not being debated by Full Council. He also commented on the Leader's recent appointment to the LGA Board, highlighting previous comments made towards the organisation.

23. Mr Thomas welcomed the forthcoming meeting of the Water Resilience Partnership and expressed hope that it would address important water supply infrastructure issues, replace leaking mains, upgrade equipment and help ensure a secure and reliable supply.

24. On DOLGE, Mr Thomas commented on the transition to the delivery phase and argued that efficiencies and savings would first need to be identified in order for the programme to deliver its objectives.

25. Mr Thomas welcomed the Leader's visit to Five Acre Wood School and highlighted the continued expansion of the school to meet increasing demand.

26. On illegal migration, Mr Thomas referred Members to Restore Britain's national policy on mass deportation as setting out his Group's position on the issue.

27. Mr Thomas expressed concern that the agenda contained few substantive items and questioned whether this reflected a lack of business being undertaken by the administration or a reluctance to bring matters before Full Council for debate.

28. Mr Thomas welcomed Government funding to increase vehicle capacity at the Port of Dover and expressed support for measures to alleviate pressure on Kent's road network and reduce the need for Operation Brock. He also emphasised the importance of transparency when using associated services including accurate declarations.

29. Finally, Mr Thomas reiterated his opposition to LGR and criticised the administration's approach to the process. He questioned the Leader's characterisation of recent developments as a success, raised concerns about the costs incurred in preparing for LGR, and praised a fellow Restore Britain Kent Councillor for their continued scrutiny of the issue.

30. Mr Hood, Leader of the Green Group, began by criticising the disruption caused by a recent protest in Dover, arguing that it had negatively affected local communities, the port and the county's economy. He expressed concern about participants wearing balaclavas and highlighted reports that a number of those arrested at immigration protests had previous convictions for domestic violence. He criticised what he regarded as a lack

of condemnation from the administration and argued that the protest had disrupted ferry services and other legitimate activity.

31. Mr Hood congratulated Dr Ingrid Dodd on her election as Dover District Council's first Green Councillor and highlighted the increase in her vote share. He also commented on the role that Reform UK had played in motivating support for other parties in the election.

32. Regarding LGR, Mr Hood agreed with the Leader's concerns regarding the uncertainty it had created for Council employees. He emphasised the importance of providing clarity for officers whose careers could be affected by any future changes.

33. Finally, Mr Hood advocated for an Assembly for Kent as an alternative approach to Local Government Reform. He argued that such a model could retain county-wide delivery of complex services, avoid the creation of councils that may face financial challenges, reduce costs and protect local identities. He further suggested that, given Kent's size and strategic importance, an Assembly should be granted greater devolved powers and representation alongside mayoral authorities at a national level.

34. Mr Rayner, Leader of the Conservative Group, began by criticising the Government's approach to LGR, arguing that the process had been rushed, disjointed and ultimately detrimental to local government in Kent. He stated that the uncertainty surrounding the proposals had diverted attention and resources away from other opportunities to improve services for residents.

35. Mr Rayner thanked officers across Kent County Council, Medway Council and the district councils for their work in responding to Local Government Reform proposals and expressed the hope that their efforts would not prove to have been in vain.

36. Finally, Mr Rayner expressed concern about the forecast budget overspend and highlighted rising diesel prices, increasing grain and food costs, and pressures on mortgage holders. He urged the administration to take urgent steps to reduce unnecessary expenditure and introduce emergency spending measures before the next meeting of Full Council.

37. Mr Brady, Leader of the Labour Group, began by welcoming the Youth Guarantee and emphasised the importance of supporting young people into education, training and employment. He expressed concern about the number of young people not in education, employment or training in Canterbury and called on Kent County Council (KCC) to do more to support the Youth Guarantee.

38. Mr Brady welcomed forthcoming changes to the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme, stating that the removal of time restrictions on concessionary bus passes would improve independence, reduce

transport costs and help disabled residents remain connected to their communities.

39. Referring to the recent disorder in Dover, Mr Brady highlighted the importance of tackling radicalisation in Kent. He welcomed the establishment of the Countering Violent Extremism Hub and called on KCC to play a leading role in protecting communities from extremism and promoting community cohesion.

40. Mr Brady highlighted the importance of KCC supporting the Government's Rough Sleeping programme to help people move away from homelessness and into appropriate accommodation and support. He also encouraged the Council to engage with new community energy funding opportunities and promote the recently announced hospitality grant scheme.

41. Finally, Mr Brady referred to the Government's review of LGR and stated that the current pause in the process was intended to allow further consideration of the proposals. He reported that officers had welcomed the additional time and suggested that the revised timetable could result in a delay to implementation.

42. In response, the Leader criticised Members' understanding of LGR and explained that a judicial review challenge could only be brought once a decision had been made by central Government. She stated that other authorities had progressed further through the process and incurred significant costs before being able to pursue legal action and maintained that Kent's position was not unusual.

43. The Leader strongly criticised central Government's handling of LGR, arguing that the process had been managed poorly and inconsistently and that KCC had been treated unfairly.

44. The Leader argued that stronger action by central Government on illegal migration would reduce public concern and the perceived need for protests on the issue. She criticised Opposition Groups for their response and boycott of the Council's previous declaration of an illegal migration emergency and expressed broader criticism of the Labour Government's approach to migration and national policy.

45. The Leader argued that the previous administration's record in office undermined any criticisms of the current administration's approach to financial management and service delivery.

46. The Leader criticised comments regarding the Dover protests and rejected suggestions that Kent County Council was responsible for events connected to them. She also challenged claims made by the Opposition regarding their role in securing service improvements and questioned their understanding of the Council's responsibilities and achievements.

47. The Leader highlighted the administration's achievements since taking office, including improvements to bus services, highways maintenance, Adult Social Care and library provision. She criticised the Opposition for what she characterised as permissive approaches to migration and other national policy issues.

48. Finally, the Leader expressed concern about social media responses to a Member's visit to a Sikh temple. She condemned what she described as racist and discriminatory comments and raised concerns about the handling of the matter within the political group concerned.

RESOLVED to note the Leader's Report.

106. Planning Applications Committee - Terms of Reference changes
(Item 7)

Prior to the motion being proposed and seconded, the Chairman advised Council that he was aware of an amendment that had been developed on this item but he had ruled that it had not been processed prior to the relevant deadline and would therefore not proceed.

1. Mr Wimble proposed and Mr Chapman seconded the motion that:

   "County Council is asked to:

   a. Agree that the proposed amendments to the Planning Applications Committee Terms of Reference be approved.
   b. Agree that the name of the Planning Applications Committee be amended to Planning and Regulation Committee.
   c. Agree that the proposed amendments to the Appendix to the Constitution incorporating the new planning scheme of delegation be approved.
   d. Delegate to the Monitoring Officer the implementation of these changes on 31 October 2026."

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

For (43)

Mr J Baker, Mr M Brown, Mr C Burwash, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr J Finch, Mrs B Fordham, 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 T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mr M Paul, Mrs B Porter, Mrs S Roots, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Dr G Sturley, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr R Waters, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Against (23)

Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr M Brice, Mr D Burns, Mr A Cecil, Mrs T Dean, Mr M Ellis, 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 M Munday, Mr H Rayner, Mr A Ricketts, Ms C Russell, Mr G R Samme, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, Mr P Thomas and Mr R Yates.

Abstain (3)

Mr A Brady, Ms C Nolan and Mr T Prater.

Motion carried.

RESOLVED that Council:

a. Agrees that the proposed amendments to the Planning Applications Committee Terms of Reference be approved.
b. Agrees that the name of the Planning Applications Committee be amended to the Planning and Regulation Committee.
c. Agrees that the proposed amendments to the Appendix to the Constitution incorporating the new planning scheme of delegation be approved.
d. Delegates to the Monitoring Officer the implementation of these changes on 31 October 2026.

107. Treasury Management Year End Report
(Item 8)

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

   "Council is asked to note the report."

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

RESOLVED that Council notes the report.

108. Proportionality Update
(Item 9)

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

   "The County Council is asked to:

   (a) APPROVE the amendment to the Committee sizes and the allocation of committee and sub-committee places between the political groups;

(b) DELEGATE authority to the Head of Democratic Services to implement any time delayed changes, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer."

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

For (69)

Mr J Baker, 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, Mrs T Dean, Mr S Dixon, Mr M Ellis, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr J Finch, Mr R Ford, Mrs B Fordham, 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, Mr S Jeffery, Ms L Kemkaran, Miss I Kemp, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr M Munday, Ms C Nolan, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mr M Paul, Mrs B Porter, Mr T Prater, Mr H Rayner, Mr A Ricketts, Mrs S Roots, Ms C Russell, Mr G R Samme, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, Dr G Sturley, Mr P Thomas, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr R Waters, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams, Mr D Wimble and Mr R Yates.

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Motion carried.

RESOLVED that Council:

(a) APPROVES the amendment to the Committee sizes and the allocation of committee and sub-committee places between the political groups;
(b) DELEGATES authority to the Head of Democratic Services to implement any time delayed changes, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer.

109. Motions for Time Limited Debate
(Item 10)

1. Mr Streatfeild proposed and Mr Hook seconded the motion that:

"This County Council resolves to:

1. Recommend that the Executive establish a Veterans Community Resilience Task and Finish Group to examine and identify the responsibilities the Council will have under the upcoming Armed Forces Bill and request the outcomes of this to be reported to the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee.

2. Request that the Executive works with the Health and Wellbeing Board to explore and develop appropriate workstreams to better tackle veteran related health inequality, in line with the Armed Forces Covenant commitments to ensure that veterans and serving personnel are not disadvantaged in accessing health and relevant support services.
3. Request that the Kent & Medway Civilian-Military Partnership Board (KMCMPB), working with relevant partners, map the skills, experience and interests of veterans locally and identify practical ways in which veterans can contribute to domestic resilience, including emergency preparedness, community response, recovery support, mentoring, youth engagement, neighbourhood resilience, volunteering and civic leadership.
4. Encourage the Executive and relevant services to work with the Integrated Care Board, NHS partners, primary care, veterans' charities and local voluntary organisations to review and, where appropriate, strengthen pathways for veterans into physical health support, mental health and wellbeing services, suicide prevention and postvention support, rehabilitation, social prescribing, employment assistance and peer support.
5. Recommend that the Deputy Leader, works with partners across the Kent and Medway Resilience Forum to explore the development of a local Veterans Community Resilience Framework setting out how veterans can be brought together, supported and enabled to contribute safely and appropriately to local resilience activity, without replacing statutory emergency services or professional responders.
6. Recommend that the Deputy Leader explore the establishment of annual Veteran Community Resilience Days across the authority area, bringing together veterans, reservists, former regular personnel with Reserve Liability, emergency services, employers, cadet forces, community groups and local residents.
7. Ensure that the above referenced Veteran Community Resilience Days are designed to promote wellbeing and social connection; raise awareness of support services; encourage volunteering and civic participation; celebrate military service and local heritage; maintain bonds of comradeship and esprit de corps; and support pathways into Reserve service, mentoring, community leadership and resilience activity where appropriate.
8. Note the work already completed by the Kent & Medway Civilian-Military Partnership Board to identify veterans who may be isolated, under-supported, or facing service-related health needs, and request the KMCMPB, via its Health and Wellbeing Task Group, explore any connection between veteran deaths and military service to help inform the development of improved support options.
9. Encourage the Executive and relevant services to work with Kent-based Gurkha veterans, Gurkha community organisations and the Gurkha Welfare Trust, building on the established KCC commitments to support veterans under the Armed Forces Covenant, to identify the needs, strengths and contribution of

Gurkha veterans and their families in Kent; improve culturally competent signposting into welfare, housing, health, benefits, translation, employment and social support; and ensure that Gurkha veterans are actively included in Armed Forces Covenant delivery, community resilience planning and local commemorative and civic activity.

10. Encourage the Executive and relevant services to work with Royal British Veterans Enterprise (RBVE) in Aylesford, recognising its long-standing work supporting veterans and their families through welfare provision, housing, employment, training, volunteering and community-building; and explore practical partnerships to strengthen referral pathways, employment support, skills development, supported accommodation links and opportunities for veterans to move towards independent living, purposeful activity and sustained work.
11. Request that progress on the above recommendations, in addition to any other Committee reporting on portfolio specific elements, is reported back to Full Council within twelve months as part of the Armed Forces Covenant reporting."

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

For (69)

Mr J Baker, 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, Mrs T Dean, Mr S Dixon, Mr M Ellis, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr J Finch, Mr R Ford, Mrs B Fordham, 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, Mr S Jeffery, Ms L Kemkaran, Miss I Kemp, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr M Munday, Ms C Nolan, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mr M Paul, Mrs B Porter, Mr T Prater, Mr H Rayner, Mr A Ricketts, Mrs S Roots, Ms C Russell, Mr G R Samme, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, Dr G Sturley, Mr P Thomas, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr R Waters, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams, Mr D Wimble and Mr R Yates.

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Motion carried.

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Recommends that the Executive establish a Veterans Community Resilience Task and Finish Group to examine and identify the responsibilities the Council will have under the upcoming Armed Forces Bill and requests the outcomes of this to be reported to the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee.
2. Requests that the Executive works with the Health and Wellbeing Board to explore and develop appropriate workstreams to better tackle veteran related health inequality, in line with the Armed Forces Covenant commitments to ensure that veterans and serving personnel are not disadvantaged in accessing health and relevant support services.
3. Requests that the Kent & Medway Civilian-Military Partnership Board (KMCMPB), working with relevant partners, map the skills, experience and interests of veterans locally and identify practical ways in which veterans can contribute to domestic resilience, including emergency preparedness, community response, recovery support, mentoring, youth engagement, neighbourhood resilience, volunteering and civic leadership.
4. Encourages the Executive and relevant services to work with the Integrated Care Board, NHS partners, primary care, veterans' charities and local voluntary organisations to review and, where appropriate, strengthen pathways for veterans into physical health support, mental health and wellbeing services, suicide prevention and postvention support, rehabilitation, social prescribing, employment assistance and peer support.
5. Recommends that the Deputy Leader, works with partners across the Kent and Medway Resilience Forum to explore the development of a local Veterans Community Resilience Framework setting out how veterans can be brought together, supported and enabled to contribute safely and appropriately to local resilience activity, without replacing statutory emergency services or professional responders.
6. Recommends that the Deputy Leader explore the establishment of annual Veteran Community Resilience Days across the authority area, bringing together veterans, reservists, former regular personnel with Reserve Liability, emergency services, employers, cadet forces, community groups and local residents.
7. Ensures that the above referenced Veteran Community Resilience Days are designed to promote wellbeing and social connection; raise awareness of support services; encourage volunteering and civic participation; celebrate military service and local heritage; maintain bonds of comradeship and esprit de corps; and support pathways into Reserve service, mentoring, community leadership and resilience activity where appropriate.
8. Notes the work already completed by the Kent & Medway Civilian-Military Partnership Board to identify veterans who may be isolated, under-supported, or facing service-related health needs, and requests the KMCMPB, via its Health and Wellbeing Task Group, explore any connection between veteran deaths and military service to help inform the development of improved support options.

9. Encourages the Executive and relevant services to work with Kent-based Gurkha veterans, Gurkha community organisations and the Gurkha Welfare Trust, building on the established KCC commitments to support veterans under the Armed Forces Covenant, to identify the needs, strengths and contribution of Gurkha veterans and their families in Kent; improve culturally competent signposting into welfare, housing, health, benefits, translation, employment and social support; and ensure that Gurkha veterans are actively included in Armed Forces Covenant delivery, community resilience planning and local commemorative and civic activity.
10. Encourages the Executive and relevant services to work with Royal British Veterans Enterprise (RBVE) in Aylesford, recognising its long-standing work supporting veterans and their families through welfare provision, housing, employment, training, volunteering and community-building; and explore practical partnerships to strengthen referral pathways, employment support, skills development, supported accommodation links and opportunities for veterans to move towards independent living, purposeful activity and sustained work.
11. Requests that progress on the above recommendations, in addition to any other Committee reporting on portfolio specific elements, is reported back to Full Council within twelve months as part of the Armed Forces Covenant reporting.

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

"This Council resolves to:

1. Support the continued policy of promoting lower speeds by design by working with developers through the planning and highway adoption processes to ensure that new residential developments are designed to operate with 20mph speed limits as the norm, except on appropriate arterial routes.
2. Support work to ensure that where developments have been designed to function safely and effectively with 20mph speed limits, Kent Highways makes the strongest possible recommendation for the subsequent designation of those limits through the Traffic Regulation Order process.
3. Recognise the positive contribution of the Vision Zero programme and commit to supporting the safety of Kent residents by seeking a continuation and extension of its principles and objectives, with a view to enabling successor councils to adopt and incorporate Vision Zero within their future transport and community safety strategies.
4. Call on the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to work with the appropriate teams within the Growth, Environment and Transport Directorate to identify feasible locations for 20mph zone extensions in residential areas and town centres across Kent, and to present the findings to the Growth, Environment and Transport

Cabinet Committee, as well as providing each Member with information relating to the division they represent.
5. Call on the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to allocate an appropriate budget to support the expansion of 20mph schemes across Kent.
6. Call on the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to explore the technical and legal feasibility of establishing a long-term target of 20mph limits on 75% of Kent's residential roads by 2030 and report on the outcomes to the Growth, Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee.
7. Recommend that, subject to technical viability, the Cabinet Member develop a Strategy to deliver against the 2030 target."

4. Following the debate, the Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 3 to the vote and the voting was as follows.

For (16)

Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mrs T Dean, Mr M Ellis, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr S Jeffery, Mr M Munday, Ms C Nolan, Mr T Prater, Mr A Ricketts, Mr G R Samme, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild and Mr R Yates.

Against (48)

Mr J Baker, Mr B Black, Mr M Brown, Mr D Burns, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr J Finch, Mrs B Fordham, 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, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mr M Paul, 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 R Waters, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Abstain (5)

Mr O Bradshaw, Mr R Ford, Miss I Kemp, Mr H Rayner and Ms C Russell.

Motion lost.

5. Mr Bradshaw proposed and Mr Ford seconded the motion that:

"This Council Resolves:

1. To request that the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport commission a feasibility study into extending free concessionary bus travel for eligible pass holders before 9:30am on local bus services within Kent.
2. That the feasibility study should assess:

a) The anticipated financial implications for Kent County Council;
b) The impact on bus operator capacity and service provision;
c) Potential health and wellbeing benefits, including improved access to healthcare and reduced social isolation;
d) Potential economic benefits to town centres, local businesses and the voluntary sector;
e) Potential environmental benefits arising from increased public transport use.

3. That the study should involve appropriate engagement with relevant stakeholders, including bus operators, NHS partners, district and borough councils, Age UK, Healthwatch Kent and other community organisations to gather necessary information.
4. That the Cabinet Member be asked to report the findings and recommendations of the feasibility study to the appropriate Committee within six months, including outlining any options for implementation and funding should a viable proposal be identified."

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

For (17)

Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mr D Burns, Mrs T Dean, Mr R Ford, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr S Jeffery, Miss I Kemp, Mr M Munday, Ms C Nolan, Mr P Stepto, Mr P Thomas and Mr R Yates.

Against (48)

Mr J Baker, Mr M Brown, Mr C Burwash, Mr A Cecil, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr S Dixon, Mr M Ellis, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr J Finch, Mrs B Fordham, 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 T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mr M Paul, Mrs B Porter, Mr H Rayner, Mr A Ricketts, Mrs S Roots, Ms C Russell, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Dr G Sturley, Mr A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr R Waters, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Abstain (4)

Mr A J Hook, Mr T Prater, Mr G R Samme and Mr R G Streatfeild.

Motion lost.

110. National Anthem
(Item 11)

The Chairman invited Members to join in the singing of the National Anthem. After this concluded, the Chairman closed the meeting.