

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

To: County Council – 22 May 2025

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

Classification: Unrestricted

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

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

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

Recommendation

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

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Formal Return of those Councillor duly elected

Report Author:

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