

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, 19 March 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, Mr M Ellis, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P 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, Ms L Kemkaran, Ms I Kemp, Mr A Kennedy, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Rich Lehmann, Mr M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Mr J Moreland, 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, Ms A Randall, Mr H Rayner, Mr A Ricketts, 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 R Waters, Mr P Webb, Mr N Williams, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble

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

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the pre-election guidance issued by Democratic Services and reminded Members that the Council was in a pre-election period. Members were advised to exercise appropriate caution during the meeting, particularly in relation to political discussion, to ensure that Council business was not used in a way that could be perceived as influencing the by-election. The Chairman confirmed that the meeting would be managed accordingly to ensure compliance with the guidance while enabling constructive debate.
2. In response to point of order concerning the consideration of Motion One during the pre-election period, the Chairman confirmed that relevant advice had been sought and that the motion would therefore proceed.

56. Apologies for Absence (Item 1)

The Democratic Services Manager reported apologies from Mr Stuart Jeffery, Mr Nick Wibberley and Mrs Trudy Dean.

57. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Significant Interests in items on the agenda

(Item 2)

Comments relevant to this item were raised during the introduction.

Responding to a Member query regarding Declarations of Interests related to health matters, the Monitoring Officer advised that this should be managed outside of the meeting.

1. The Monitoring Officer advised Members that no further declaration of interest was necessary in respect of twin hatting, given that this information was already included in the Register of Interests.
2. In relation to item 13, the Chairman declared that a similar motion had been brought to Swale Borough Council, where he was a Member.
3. Mrs Palmer also declared in relation to Item 13, that she was a Member of Swale Borough Council, where a similar motion had been put forward.

58. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2026 and, if in order, to be approved as a correct record

(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 February 2026 be approved as a correct record.

59. Corporate Parenting Panel - Minutes for noting

(Item 4)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel on 9 December 2025 be noted.

60. Chairman's Announcements

(Item 5)

1. With great sadness the Chairman informed Members of the death of Ms Becki Bruneau, Mr Grahame Weston and Mr Roger Latchford.
2. Ms Bruneau was a KCC Member for Tunbridge Wells South from 2021 until 2025.

3. Mr Weston was a KCC Member for Tonbridge East from 1997 until 2005.
4. Mr Latchford was a KCC Member for Birchington and villages 2013 until 2017 and leader of the UKIP group.
5. The Chairman advised that tributes to Mr Latchford would be taken at a future meeting as notification of his sad passing had only been received at short notice.
6. Tributes to Ms Bruneau were made by Mrs Hudson, Ms Kemkaran, Mr Ellis, Mrs Fothergill, Mr Hood and Mr Brady.
7. Tributes to Mr Weston were made by Ms Kemkaran, Mr Rayner, Mr Hook, Mr Thomas, Mr Hood and Mr Brady.
8. Mr Palmer proposed, and Mr Evans seconded, that the Council formally record the sense of loss it feels on the sad passing of Ms Becki Bruneau and Mr Grahame Weston and extends to their family and friends its heartfelt sympathy to them in their sad bereavement.

Agreed unanimously.

9. The Chairman held a one-minute silence in memory of Ms Becki Bruneau, Mr Grahame Weston and Mr Roger Latchford.
10. The Chairman wished to place on record his thanks for the work undertaken to deliver the Reserves and Cadets Day event on 24 February. He recognised the efforts of the team involved and gave particular thanks to Lieutenant Grey and Lieutenant Peter Con for their contribution in engaging local businesses and coordinating the arrangements for the event.

61. County Council Questions
(Item 6)

In accordance with Sections 14.15 to 14.22 of the Constitution, 17 questions were submitted by the deadline and 16 questions were put to the Executive. 11 questions were asked and replies given. A record of all questions and answers is available [online](#) with the papers for this meeting.

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

At points during the timed speeches, time was taken considering associated procedural matters and advice was given to Council by the Monitoring Officer. Group Leaders highlighted at that this impacted on their speaking rights during the item.

1. The Leader of the Council introduced her update and began by expressing a hope that the meeting would proceed without disruption. It was emphasised that the Council Chamber was a place for the discussion of serious matters.
2. The Leader referred to the recent outbreak of Meningitis B in Canterbury, expressing sadness at the deaths of two young people. Condolences were offered on behalf of the Council to the families affected, together with good wishes to those receiving treatment.
3. The work carried out by Kent County Council in partnership with the UK Health Security Agency was highlighted, particularly in tracing and contacting those affected and establishing medical hubs. Appreciation was expressed to Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health, for his efforts.
4. Attention was drawn to the ongoing situation in the Gulf and the movement of British service personnel to a state of high readiness. The Leader expressed her good wishes for all service men and women.
5. An update was given on the Administration's focus on coastal towns and villages, including the creation of a cabinet portfolio for coastal regeneration. It was reported that Sir Michael Marmot was now contributing to work on health inequalities and that the East Kent coast had become the first designated Marmot Coastal Region.
6. The Leader described a recent event in Dover at which volunteers, charities, health professionals and counsellors gathered to reaffirm their commitment to supporting coastal communities.
7. The Budget, which was approved on 12 February, was reported as providing stability for the Council. It was highlighted that the Kent County Council element of Council Tax had been set at 3.99% and that the Budget reflected a new approach, encompassing system modernisation, improved efficiency and organisational reshaping.
8. The Leader explained that the Budget had been set against the backdrop of Local Government Reorganisation. The Council's proposed Option 1A for Kent and Medway was outlined, along with the reasons why this model was considered strategically appropriate.
9. Members were advised that Central Government had invited expressions of interest for Foundation Strategic Authorities. The Leader said that submitting an expression of interest during the ongoing consultation on reorganisation could risk confusion and conflict with the Council's existing business case. The Leader highlighted that the matter would be debated later in the meeting.
10. Turning to highways, the Leader reported strong performance in winter resilience measures and outlined the spring programme, which would include assessments of pothole repairs, surface dressing programmes, and increased drainage and verge maintenance.

11. It was confirmed that funding had been secured to repair and reopen Folkestone's Road of Remembrance after its closure due to a major landslip. Work was expected to commence early in the summer.
12. The Leader reported on a meeting held in January with adult social care providers to discuss rising costs. It was explained that adult social care represented nearly half of the Council's entire budget and highlighted the pressures arising from increasing service costs since 2021.
13. The Leader highlighted the need for a fairer long-term funding settlement for Kent from Central Government. Pressures within children's services were outlined, including support for former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and the number of looked-after children placed in Kent by other authorities. Reference was also made to Ofsted's recent assessment of the Council's care leavers service and the reasons for the Council's challenge to the rating.
14. The Leader welcomed the Government's decision to write off 90% of historic special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) deficits and said this would assist long-term financial stability.
15. Progress across Children, Young People and Education services was reported, including the delivery of almost 4,000 new wraparound childcare places since September. The clearance of the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) backlog was highlighted, with almost 80% of plans now completed within 20 weeks. There was improved timeliness of assessments, leaving only a small number of cases exceeding 20 weeks and there was a successful secondary transfer round, including improved outcomes for families on the Isle of Sheppey and efficiencies delivered through the Synergy review.
16. Work to support local businesses was outlined, including the Council's first Supplier Day held at the Detling Showground. The event was attended by more than 700 people and over 300 businesses and provided an opportunity to present the Council's Commercial Strategy for 2026–28 and future procurement opportunities.
17. The Leader reported that Kent Trading Standards had prevented more than three million illegal vapes from entering the country over the past five years. Partnership work with local retailers to prepare for upcoming regulations was outlined, along with the launch of Local Vape Action partnerships in Tunbridge Wells, Ashford and a forthcoming third area.
18. The Leader concluded by observing that the year had begun with a high level of activity.
19. Mr Hook, Leader of the Opposition, expressed his condolences to the families of the two young people who died as a result of the Meningitis B outbreak, including a student from a school in his division. He thanked KCC's Public Health staff, and encouraged Members to share key Public

Health information, including spreading awareness for meningitis symptoms such as high fever and a stiff neck.

20. Turning to care leavers and adult social care, Mr Hook stated that social care services benefited not only the individuals receiving it but also their families and wider communities. The importance of adult social care as a core Council service was also emphasised, along with recognition that many residents may require support in later life.
21. Reference was made to the event in Dover with Professor Michael Marmot, whose presentation highlighted significant health inequalities between coastal and inland areas and between more and less affluent communities. Mr Hook welcomed Kent's decision to adopt the Marmot principles and looked forward to contributing to future work in this area.
22. Mr Hook thanked colleagues from all political groups who attended the event marking the fourth anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, highlighting the powerful testimonies shared by Ukrainian residents. He also extended his good wishes to Mr Burwash ahead of his forthcoming trip to Ukraine.
23. Mr Hook welcomed the announcement of the Playground Festival, offering 153 early years events at the end of May, and stressed the importance of early childhood development. He also raised concerns about delays in assessments for young children with special educational needs.
24. Finally, Mr Hook recognised the beginning of Eid and extended good wishes to Kent's Muslim residents, expressing appreciation for Kent's diverse communities and the equal contributions made by people of all faiths.
25. Mr Thomas, Leader of the Restore Britain Kent Group, also gave his condolences and support in light of the Meningitis B outbreak, offering thoughts and prayers to affected families, thanking Public Health officers and partner organisations and welcoming the cross-party cooperation shown.
26. Mr Thomas then raised concern about a perceived adversarial approach from the Reform Administration. He explained that Members had not been given the opportunity to hear the wider context of the Leader's remarks and emphasised that the Chamber was a place for debate rather than pre-emptive announcements. He asked that motions be debated in the Chamber before being publicised, particularly during the pre-election period and reminded Members they were elected to serve the needs of Kent's residents.
27. Mr Thomas addressed concerns about the cost-of-living crisis, issues on highways and roads and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in which he expressed agreement with the Leader that it should not proceed at this time. He also commented on SEND deficits and the need for faster

progress on EHCP processes, offering to continue working with the Cabinet Member to improve this area.

28. On KCC's recent Supplier Day event, Mr Thomas relayed feedback that adding a pillar for education and skills to the commercial strategy would be beneficial.
29. Finally, Mr Thomas remarked on behaviour in the Chamber and commented on upcoming press coverage of the meetings proceedings.
30. Mr Rayner, Leader of the Conservative Group, began by expressing sympathy on behalf of the Conservative Group, to the families and friends of the young people who died in the Meningitis B outbreak in East Kent and to those currently hospitalised.
31. Mr Rayner responded to the Leader's report by criticising the Administration for its inexperience in Local Government and lack of strategic thinking.
32. Mr Rayner stated that KCC had previously operated a Utilities Liaison Committee which met regularly with major utility providers to share early information and address infrastructure concerns. He stated this arrangement had been discontinued under the current Administration, reducing KCC's strategic oversight and adversely affecting residents. He referred to recent water outages and a notification from South East Water regarding limited supply capacity in their upcoming Local Plans. Mr Rayner concluded by arguing that this demonstrated a failure by KCC to act effectively as a strategic authority.
33. Mr Hood, Leader of the Green Group, spoke on behalf of his group and expressed condolences to the family and friends of the two young people who had died following the Meningitis B outbreak associated with the Chemistry nightclub. Mr Hood urged anyone who had attended the club on 5, 6 or 7 March to obtain the necessary antibiotics. He thanked all those involved in the response to the incident and emphasised that protecting residents from harm was of utmost importance to all Members.
34. Mr Hood raised concerns regarding the Administration's approach to wider matters within the Authority.
35. Mr Brady, Leader of the Labour Group, repeated key public health messaging in relation to the rapidly developing Meningitis B outbreak affecting Canterbury and wider Kent. He offered condolences to the families of those who had died or were hospitalised and thanked public health teams for their response. He continued by informing Members of the over 7,500 doses of preventative antibiotics that had been administered by the previous afternoon. Mr Brady highlighted the antibiotic collection points set up around Canterbury and Kent and the targeted vaccination programme in student university halls. Additionally, Mr Brady reiterated the symptoms residents should be aware of and stressed the importance of seeking urgent medical attention. He also reassured residents that UKHSA, NHS teams, Public Health, the University of Kent, Canterbury City Council and

partners were working to contain the outbreak and urged anyone potentially exposed to act quickly and remain vigilant. Finally, Mr Brady the need for clear, factual communication and encouraged local media to focus on these messages, stating that this should take priority at such a critical time.

36. The Leader of the Council expressed thanks to the Leaders of the Opposition Groups for their participation in daily briefings during the week on the meningitis situation in Canterbury, provided by Dr Anjan Ghosh. The Leader also welcomed the condolences expressed by other Group Leaders to the families of the deceased.
37. RESOLVED that the Leader's Report be noted.

63. Member Allowances Scheme
(Item 8)

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

“Council is asked to:

- a) Note this report;
- b) Note the report of the Member Remuneration Panel and thank the Panel Members for their work; and
- c) Agree the changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme as set out in Appendix 2, this scheme to be in place until 31 March 2030 including:
 - i. Increase for 2026/2027 to the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances of 3.8%
 - ii. Annual indexation mechanism to be the CPIH figure for October
 - iii. The annual scheme to be agreed with the annual budget for the year and coming into effect at the beginning of each financial year;
 - iv. The Co-opted Member Allowance remain the same in 2026/27 as 2025/26, but increase at the same rate as the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances in subsequent years.
 - v. The Independent Persons allowance be changed to a fixed per annum payment of £700.
 - vi. The Dependents' Carers' Allowance at the current level and compared annually with the Real Living Wage. Where the Real Living Wage is higher, then the Dependents' Carers' Allowance will be increased to the same level.
 - vii. That the Selection and Member Services Committee be asked to keep the arrangements under review and report to full Council (including a further report from the Member Remuneration Panel) where any future changes are recommended.”

2. Mr Heaver proposed and Mr Hood seconded the following amendment:

“Council is asked to:

- a) Note this report;
 - b) Note the report of the Member Remuneration Panel and thank the Panel Members for their work; and
 - c) Agree the changes to the Members’ Allowances Scheme as set out in Appendix 2, **but given the severe budgetary pressures on the Council** this scheme to be **in-place postponed** until 31 March 2030~~28~~ including:
 - i. Increase for 2026/2027 to the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances of 3.8%
 - ii. Annual indexation mechanism to be the CPIH figure for October
 - iii. The annual scheme to be agreed with the annual budget for the year and coming into effect at the beginning of each financial year;
 - iv. The Co-opted Member Allowance remain the same in 2026/27 as 2025/26, but increase at the same rate as the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances **in subsequent years from 31 March 2028.**
 - v. The Independent Persons allowance be changed to a fixed per annum payment of £700.
 - vi. The Dependents’ Carers’ Allowance at the current level and compared annually with the Real Living Wage. Where the Real Living Wage is higher, then the Dependents’ Carers’ Allowance will be increased to the same level.
 - vii. That the Selection and Member Services Committee be asked to keep the arrangements under review and report to full Council (including a further report from the Member Remuneration Panel) where any future changes are recommended.”
3. Following the debate, the Chairman put the amendment set out in paragraph 2 to the vote and the voting was as follows.

For (19)

Mr B Barrett, Mr B Black, Mr A Brady, Mr D Burns, Mr M Ellis, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Ms S Hudson, Mr A Kennedy, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Ms C Nolan, Mr T Prater, Miss A Randall, Mr A Ricketts, Ms C Russell, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto and Mr P Thomas.

Against (47)

Mr J Baker, 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 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, 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, Mr M Paul, Mrs B Porter, Mr H Rayner, 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, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Abstain (8)

Mr O Bradshaw, Mr M Brice, Mr R Ford, Mr A J Hook, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr R G Streatfield and Mr N Williams.

Motion lost.

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

For (45)

Mr J Baker, Mr M Brown, Mr C Burwash, 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 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 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, 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, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Against (26)

Mr B Barrett, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr M Brice, Mr D Burns, Mr M Ellis, Mr R Ford, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mrs S Hudson, Miss I Kemp, Mr A Kennedy, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Mr T Prater, Miss A Randall, Mr H Rayner, Mr A Ricketts, 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 (5)

Mr A Brady, Mr A Cecil, Mr A J Hook, Ms C Nolan and Mr N Williams.

Motion Carried.

5. RESOLVED that Council:

- a) Note this report;
- b) Note the report of the Member Remuneration Panel and thank the Panel Members for their work; and
- c) Agree the changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme as set out in Appendix 2, this scheme to be in place until 31 March 2030 including:
 - i. Increase for 2026/2027 to the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances of 3.8%
 - ii. Annual indexation mechanism to be the CPIH figure for October

- iii. The annual scheme to be agreed with the annual budget for the year and coming into effect at the beginning of each financial year;
- iv. The Co-opted Member Allowance remain the same in 2026/27 as 2025/26, but increase at the same rate as the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances in subsequent years.
- v. The Independent Persons allowance be changed to a fixed per annum payment of £700.
- vi. The Dependents' Carers' Allowance at the current level and compared annually with the Real Living Wage. Where the Real Living Wage is higher, then the Dependents' Carers' Allowance will be increased to the same level.
- vii. That the Selection and Member Services Committee be asked to keep the arrangements under review and report to full Council (including a further report from the Member Remuneration Panel) where any future changes are recommended.

64. Treasury Management - Mid-Year Update 2025/26
(Item 9)

1. Mr Collins proposed and Mr Chamberlain seconded that:

“The Council is asked to note the report.”

2. Members praised the report and thanked Officers for the level of technical detail provided.
3. Following the debate, the Chairman put the motion set out in paragraph 1 and it was agreed unanimously.
4. RESOLVED that County Council notes the report.

65. KCC's Position on Government's Foundation Strategic Authority Expression of Interest Invitation
(Item 10)

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

“Council is asked to:

- 1) Note the Leader's decision not to submit, or support the submission of, an expression of interest for a Foundation Strategic Authority for Kent and Medway at this time.
- 2) Note that KCC officers will continue to support joint working and planning across LGR and devolution with all Kent and Medway councils, notwithstanding the Leader's position on the EoI.

3) Note the Leader's call on the Secretary of State to bring forward the final LGR decision for Kent and Medway significantly ahead of the current mid-July 2026 timetable."

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

For (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 L Evans, Mr P 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 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, 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, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Against (22)

Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mr D Burns, Mr M Ellis, Mr R Ford, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr A J Hook, Mrs S Hudson, Miss I Kemp, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Ms C Nolan, Mr T Prater, Mr A Ricketts, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr R G Streatfeild, Mr P Thomas and Mr N Williams.

Abstain (8)

Mr B Barrett, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A Kennedy, Miss A Randall, Mr H Rayner, Ms C Russell and Mr P Stepto.

Motion Carried.

3. RESOLVED that Council:

- 1) Note the Leader's decision not to submit, or support the submission of, an expression of interest for a Foundation Strategic Authority for Kent and Medway at this time.
- 2) Note that KCC officers will continue to support joint working and planning across LGR and devolution with all Kent and Medway councils, notwithstanding the Leader's position on the EoI.
- 3) Note the Leader's call on the Secretary of State to bring forward the final LGR decision for Kent and Medway significantly ahead of the current mid-July 2026 timetable.

66. Proportionality and Committee allocations *(Item 11)*

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

“Council is asked to:

- (a) DETERMINE total number of Committee places; the allocation of those places between the political groups; and the allocation of places on certain bodies, as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (b) DELEGATE authority to the Democratic Services Manager, in consultation with the Group leaders and the Monitoring Officer, to adjust and confirm the allocation of committee places as necessary in order to conform to overall proportionality requirements; and to confirm external Joint Committee appointments where required.”

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

3. RESOLVED that Council:

- (a) DETERMINE total number of Committee places; the allocation of those places between the political groups; and the allocation of places on certain bodies, as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (b) DELEGATE authority to the Democratic Services Manager, in consultation with the Group leaders and the Monitoring Officer, to adjust and confirm the allocation of committee places as necessary in order to conform to overall proportionality requirements; and to confirm external Joint Committee appointments where required.

67. Pay Policy Statement
(Item 12)

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

“Council is asked to:

NOTE the report and APPROVE the publication of the attached Pay Policy Statement.”

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

For (71)

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, Mr J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Mr M Ellis, Ms S Emberson, Mr L Evans, Mr P 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 J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Mr A J Hook, Mrs S Hudson, Ms L Kemkaran, Miss I Kemp, Mr A Kennedy, 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, Ms C Nolan, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mr M Paul, Mrs B Porter, Mr T Prater, Miss A Randall, Mr H Rayner, Mr A Ricketts, Mrs S Roots, Ms C Russell, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr T L Shonk, Mr D Sian, Mr M Sole, 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, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Against (3)

Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood and Mr N Williams.

Abstain (2)

Mr R Ford and Mr B Barrett

Motion Carried.

3. RESOLVED that Council:

NOTE the report and APPROVE the publication of the attached Pay Policy Statement.

68. Motions for Time Limited Debate
(Item 13)

At the commencement of the item the Leader of the Opposition raised a Point of Order arguing the position that the Motion for Time Limited Debate was not compatible with the pre-election guidance. All Members of the Liberal Democrat, Conservative, Green and Restore Britain Kent groups departed the Chamber prior to the motion being put.

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

“Kent County Council declares an Illegal Migration Emergency in Kent. The County is the frontier for the influx of illegal migrants via small boats into the UK.

Kent residents and taxpayers are dealing with the consequences of illegal migration in terms of

- Cost (financial)
- Culture
- Community Cohesion
- Crime

Therefore, the Council calls on the Leader of the Council to:

- a) Demand the Government stops the arrival of migrants by small boats immediately

- b) Seek to ensure that the Government provides full funding to cover the costs to the County Council and partner public agencies in dealing with the consequences of illegal migration, and
- c) Press for Kent's emergency services, resilience structures and emergency planning to be appropriately supported and funded to deal with this crisis."

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

For (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 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 M Logen, Mr T Mallon, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Miss D Morton, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C 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, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Motion carried.

3. RESOLVED that:

Kent County Council declares an Illegal Migration Emergency in Kent. The County is the frontier for the influx of illegal migrants via small boats into the UK.

Kent residents and taxpayers are dealing with the consequences of illegal migration in terms of

- Cost (financial)
- Culture
- Community Cohesion
- Crime

Therefore, the Council calls on the Leader of the Council to:

- a) Demand the Government stops the arrival of migrants by small boats immediately
- b) Seek to ensure that the Government provides full funding to cover the costs to the County Council and partner public

agencies in dealing with the consequences of illegal migration,
and

- c) Press for Kent's emergency services, resilience structures and emergency planning to be appropriately supported and funded to deal with this crisis
4. The Chairman confirmed the outstanding motions had been withdrawn and the item was therefore concluded.