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, 16 July 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 B Fordham, Mrs G Foster, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr S Heaver, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr S Jeffery, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Rich Lehmann, Mr M Logen, 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 Wibberley, Mr N Williams, Mrs P Williams, Mr D Wimble and Mr R Yates

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr J Cook (Head of Democratic Services), Ms P Der Man (Head of Law - Monitoring Officer) and Canon P Bruinvels CC (Kent County Council Civilian-Military Liaison Adviser and Military Expert)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

82. The Lord's Prayer
(Item 1)

The meeting started with a reading of the Lord’s Prayer, led by Reverend Canon Peter Bruinvels CC.

83. Apologies for Absence
(Item 2)

The Head of Democratic Services reported apologies from Mr Mark Ellis, Mr Maxwell Harrison, Mrs Sarah Hudson, Mr Andrew Kennedy, Mr Thomas Mallon, Miss Isabella Kemp and Mrs Trudy Dean.

84. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Significant Interests in items on the agenda
(Item 3)

1. In relation to Item 9, Kent Mineral Sites Plan, the following declarations were made:

    i. Mr Fraser Moat declared that his family business had an ongoing business relationship with the company involved in the item and therefore he would not be taking part in the item.
    ii. Mr Jeffery declared that he had previously been the Chair of the Save Oaken Wood campaign.
    iii. Ms Russell declared that she worked both in the quarrying industry and in environmental compliance.

85. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2026
(Item 4)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 May 2026 were a correct record and they be signed by the Chairman.

86. Corporate Parenting Panel - Minutes for noting
(Item 5)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel on 17 February 2026 and 21 April 2026 be noted.

87. Chairman's Announcements
(Item 6)

1. The Chairman welcomed tributes in relation to the sad passing of Miss Ann Widdecombe, who was a MP for Maidstone and The Weald from 1987 until 2010.

2. Tributes to Miss Widdecombe were made by Ms Kemkaran, Mr Hook, Mr Thomas, Mr Rayner, Mr Hood, Ms Nolan, Mr Burwash, Mrs Palmer and Mr Jeffery.

3. Mr Eustace proposed, and Mr Sian seconded, that the Council formally record the sense of loss it feels on the sad passing of Miss Widdecombe and extends to her 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 Miss Ann Widdecombe.

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

5. The Chairman shared his congratulations to the 37 Kent recipients of honours from the King's Birthday Honours list 2026.

6. The Chairman thanked Ms Jamie Palmer for her work within the Civic Office.

7. The Chairman reported that recent engagements had included two Royal visits to Kent, attendance at commemorations in Ramsgate marking the 86th anniversary of Operation Dynamo, and participation in Armed Forces Week activities, including hosting the flag-raising ceremony at County Hall and attending events in Deal. The Chairman also attended a commemorative concert in Deal performed by the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines in memory of the 11 Royal Marines murdered in the Deal bombing in 1989. The concert was a solemn occasion recognising the sacrifices made in service to the country.

8. The Chairman shared that the Vice-Chairman had attended a number of Royal engagements and had met both the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester during recent civic duties.

9. Members were informed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had attended a range of civic and community events, including receptions hosted by the Lord-Lieutenant for newly elected mayors and chairmen, mayor-making ceremonies across the county, Kent Ambassadors briefings and activities, the Bishop of Rochester's Summer Garden Party, the Kent County Show, and events held as part of Adult Careers Week.

10. The Chairman reported on a recent Kent Ambassadors' visit which included visits to Domaine Evremond, East Kent College, The Yarrow Hotel and Discovery Park. Members heard that common themes emerging from the visits included investment in young people, skills development, adult education and the growth of Kent's food, drink and tourism sectors.

11. The Chairman advised that citizenship ceremonies continued to be held regularly and thanked former Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen who had assisted with these events.

12. Congratulations were extended to Members who had recently assumed new civic leadership positions and responsibilities across local councils within Kent.

13. The Chairman informed Members of a minor amendment to the Council's flag flying policy. Two additional commemorative flag days would be incorporated, Waterloo Day on 18 June in recognition of the British Army and Battle of Britain Day on 15 September in recognition of the Royal Air Force. These additions complemented the existing observance of Trafalgar Day and Merchant Navy Day. As Waterloo Day had already

passed in the current year, the Army flag would instead be flown on 2 November 2026 to commemorate El Alamein Day.

14. The Chairman announced that the Holocaust Educational Trust had been selected as the Chairman's Charity of the Year. The charity worked to educate young people and communities about the Holocaust. Its work included educational programmes, teacher training and survivor testimony. The Chairman confirmed that representatives of the Trust would attend a future meeting to provide further information on its activities.

15. The Vice-Chairman introduced his chosen Charity of the Year, Spadework. He explained that he had become familiar with the organisation through local community engagement and had supported its work through his Member Grant funding.

16. Ms Smith, Community Fundraiser at Spadework, provided an overview of the charity's work and thanked the Council for selecting Spadework as one of its Charities of the Year. Members heard that Spadework had supported people across Kent for more than 40 years, promoting inclusion, belonging and wellbeing through services for adults with learning disabilities, people living with dementia, individuals experiencing mental health difficulties, those affected by bereavement, and their carers. Members were informed that the charity helped people develop confidence, independence and social connections through a range of activities and that income generated through its garden centre, café, farm shop and charity shop supported its work while creating opportunities for volunteering and skills development. The importance of partnership working was highlighted, and the opportunity to work with Kent County Council during the coming year was welcomed.

17. The Chairman thanked Ms Smith for her presentation and stated that Members looked forward to receiving a future update on the charity's activities and achievements.

18. The Chairman reminded Members to complete any outstanding mandatory training, including emergency evacuation training. He advised Members to review communications issued by the Governance Division regarding training requirements.

19. The Chairman concluded by reminding Members of proper Full Council protocol including advice to address all remarks through the Chair and that Members should not criticise the motives of any Officer or Member, in accordance the Constitutional requirements.

88. Questions
(Item 7)

In accordance with Sections 14.15 to 14.22 of the Constitution, 19 questions were submitted by the deadline and 18 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.

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

1. The Leader began by providing an update on key activities and developments since the previous meeting. The Leader explained that, despite ongoing uncertainty surrounding Local Government Reorganisation, Members and officers had continued to focus on the delivery of services to residents across Kent.

2. The Leader reported that the Council had continued to prioritise service delivery, including the maintenance of highways, support for vulnerable children, provision of adult social care, operation of libraries, and wider community services.

3. The public budget consultation had been launched to seek residents' views on spending priorities and the allocation of approximately £2.8 billion of public funding. The consultation was intended to inform future financial planning and ensure that residents' views were reflected in decision-making.

4. An update was provided on matters affecting Kent's tourism sector. The Leader reported that representations had been made to Government regarding support for businesses and the wider visitor economy.

5. The Leader advised that correspondence had been sent to the Secretary of State for Transport regarding anticipated impacts of the European Union Entry/Exit System and the effect of traffic management arrangements on Kent residents, businesses and visitors. Efforts to identify alternative arrangements and reduce disruption were continuing.

6. There was ongoing engagement with Government and rail operators to explore opportunities for the return of international rail services to Kent stations, including discussions regarding the installation of Entry/Exit System facilities.

7. The Leader reported that disruptions to water supplies experienced in parts of Kent during May had prompted the establishment of the Kent Water Resilience Partnership. The partnership would meet for the first time in October and would provide strategic leadership and coordination to improve water resilience across the county.

8. The Leader noted that discussions had been arranged with the newly appointed leadership of the local water provider to support collaborative working on water resilience issues.

9. Councillors had participated in community litter-picking activities and that the Council continued to promote environmental responsibility and cleaner public spaces.

10. The Leader advised that the first Kent County Council Fly-Tipping and Waste Conference had been held in Ashford. The event brought together partner organisations to share expertise and support the development of a county-wide fly-tipping action plan. A partnership would continue to meet regularly to monitor progress and address emerging issues.

11. The Leader highlighted activities undertaken during Armed Forces Week and Armed Forces Day, including attendance at events across Kent and a visit to a veterans' support facility near Maidstone. The facility was intended to provide support and assistance to military veterans experiencing a range of challenges.

12. The Council had hosted representatives from other local authorities following local elections, providing an opportunity to share experience and learning relating to council governance and efficiency.

13. The Leader reported on continued development of the Council's efficiency and organisational improvement work, noting that its approach had attracted interest from local government organisations more widely.

14. The Leader provided feedback from attendance at the Local Government Association Conference, including participation in a session regarding opportunities for young people to engage with and work in local government.

15. An update was given following a visit to a Family Hub in Maidstone. Members were informed of the range of support services available to families, children and young people, including support from pregnancy through to early adulthood, with additional provision for those with special educational needs and disabilities.

16. The Leader reported that correspondence had been exchanged with Kent Police regarding policing matters and community confidence.

17. Kent County Council had attended the Kent County Show under the theme of supporting families and shaping futures. Council staff had engaged with residents and provided information on a wide range of services, including family support, fostering, adult social care, libraries, skills training, community wellbeing and trading standards.

18. Mr Hook, Leader of the Opposition, began by criticising the decision to reduce the time allocated for Opposition Group Leaders to respond to the Leader's Report.

19. Mr Hook welcomed the Chairman’s decision to mark Battle of Britain Day and Waterloo Day, highlighting the importance of international cooperation

in both events. He also congratulated the England football team and praised Gravesend-raised Marc Guéhi for his contribution to the national side.

20. Mr Hook referred to the unanimously agreed Entry/ Exit System (EES) motion passed at the previous meeting and expressed disappointment that no action plan had been produced ahead of the summer period. He criticised the Administration’s response to the issue and stated that responsibility for any resulting disruption on Kent’s roads would rest with the Administration.

21. Mr Hook spoke about the importance of inclusion in achieving community unity and highlighted support for local Pride events. He expressed support for LGBT residents and called for the Council to reinstate the practice of flying the Pride flag, highlighting that a petition in support of this had been signed at Canterbury Pride.

22. Mr Hook stressed the importance of supporting vulnerable residents requiring medical care and referred to discussion at the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) on proposed In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) service changes. He criticised comments made by a member of the Administration regarding IVF and called on the Leader to condemn those remarks and distance herself from them.

23. Finally, Mr Hook referred to the recent Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) inspection and commended the work of teachers, SENCOs and headteachers. He welcomed the forthcoming publication of the Ofsted report and its assessment of progress and areas for further improvement.

24. Mr Thomas, Leader of the Restore Britain Kent Group, began by emphasising the importance of constructive dialogue and good working relationships between political groups.

25. Referring to the Quarterly Performance Report, Mr Thomas welcomed the Section 25 Assurance Statement and its recognition of the need for members to address the Council’s financial challenges and ensure the authority’s finances remain robust.

26. On the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), Mr Thomas highlighted risks identified in relation to funding gaps, the unapproved SEND Reform Plan and the need to deliver significant savings. He warned that failure to address these issues could have serious implications for the Dedicated Schools Grant and the Council’s reserve levels.

27. Regarding water resilience in Kent, Mr Thomas stressed the need for investment in underground pipe infrastructure, surface reservoirs and boosters, arguing that tangible action was required to address long-term water supply challenges.

28. Mr Thomas welcomed recent engagement on tackling fly- tipping and argued that the perpetrators, rather than innocent landowners and farmers, should bear the cost of the clean-up. Referring to the Kent County Show, he also highlighted the value of school farms and called for continued support to help them grow and reopen where they had closed.

29. Mr Thomas highlighted the potential financial impact of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and the associated pressure on reserves in the short term.

30. Finally, Mr Thomas raised concerns about the employment of political assistants and referred to a recent funding request from within his group that had been declined.

31. Mr Rayner, Leader of the Conservative Group, raised concerns on the potential impact of future hostilities on critical infrastructure, particularly electricity generation and freshwater supplies in Kent. He encouraged the Administration to support training for Members and communities to improve resilience and preparedness in the event of disruption to local electrical infrastructure.

32. Mr Rayner also referred to the importance of household and community resilience during periods of disruption to food supply and distribution networks. He encouraged the Administration to work with parish and town councils and other community organisations to provide guidance and support to residents in the event of disruption to essential services, including communications and internet connectivity.

33. Finally, in reference to LGR, Mr Rayner expressed the hope that any future changes to local government structures would be supported by effective coordination between authorities on matters such as highways and related services.

34. The Leader of the Council addressed the Chamber explaining that the Government had announced its decision on Local Government Reorganisation in Kent and Medway. She advised that the area would be served by four new unitary councils from April 2028 under the model referred to as Option 4B.

35. The Leader expressed disappointment that details of the announcement had entered the public domain before being formally presented to the Council and highlighted that the information had been subject to a strict embargo.

36. The Leader offered an apology to staff who had become aware of the announcement through media reporting rather than through official Council communications.

37. Members were informed that the Government's decision did not reflect the option previously supported by Kent County Council.

38. The Leader advised that the Council would take time to consider the implications of the decision for Kent, including the proposed implementation arrangements and timescales.

39. It was emphasised that the Council's immediate priority remained the delivery of services to residents, the continued support of its workforce throughout the transition period, and the maintenance of services relied upon by the public.

40. Members were advised that information relating to the announcement would be published on the Council's website and social media channels.

41. The Leader considered that it would be inappropriate for detailed debate on the matter to take place at the meeting, highlighting that there was a dedicated Cabinet Committee to consider issues relating to Local Government Reorganisation.

42. Mr Hood, Leader of the Green Group, addressed the Council and referred to recent county events and issues affecting the authority.

43. He explained that, although advance briefings for opposition leaders were no longer provided prior to meetings of the full Council, he had attended a number of recent engagements and events which had informed his understanding of current matters affecting the authority.

44. He referred to attendance at the Kent County Show and welcomed the wide range of livestock, produce, food and drink on display, highlighting the importance of Kent's agricultural sector and local producers.

45. He also referred to attending a conference on fly-tipping, where discussion had focused on partnership working between agencies to address environmental crime and the impact of organised criminal activity on communities and the environment.

46. Reference was made to community clean-up initiatives undertaken by local groups and volunteers and the contribution these activities made to local environmental improvements.

47. Mr Hood commented on proposals relating to Local Government Reorganisation and expressed concerns regarding the potential impact on local democratic representation and the size of electoral divisions.

48. He paid tribute to officers of the Council and acknowledged the uncertainty that proposed local government changes could create for employees. He recognised the contribution made by staff in delivering services to residents across the county.

49. He expressed the hope that forthcoming announcements regarding local government arrangements would provide greater certainty for officers and support the continued resilience and quality of public services.

50. Mr Brady, Leader of the Labour Group, began by emphasising the importance of recognising positive developments locally and nationally. He highlighted various key achievements of the Labour Government over the previous 2 years, including record investment in public services, reductions in NHS waiting times, falls in net migration and knife crime and lower childcare costs.

51. Mr Brady stated that debate should allow for the consideration of alternative viewpoints and that Members should be able to challenge differing perspectives respectfully and without disruption. Finally, he advocated for respectful and balanced discussion within the chamber, with a focus on constructive challenge and avoiding personal criticism of Members.

52. The Leader of the Council responded to comments made during the preceding debate and provided closing remarks on a range of matters raised by Members.

53. The Leader explained that a number of issues had been raised by different political groups and observed that several points appeared contradictory. Reference was made to comments concerning attendance at events and engagement with Members, with the Leader highlighting that concerns about limited contact were raised alongside examples of regular attendance and invitations to various events and meetings.

54. The Leader also commented on references made to Local Government Reorganisation and expressed the view that conclusions regarding the future of council staff were premature, given that the process had only recently been announced.

55. In response to comments relating to invitations to council events and forums, the Leader stated that examples had been provided of invitations and attendance at a number of council-led events and activities.

56. The Leader further responded to comments regarding achievements and performance, noting that a number of achievements had been cited during the debate.

57. The Leader concluded by addressing the Administration's approach to inclusivity and explained the council's flag-flying policy. It was stated that the flag of Kent was flown to represent all residents of Kent, the flag of St George was flown to represent England and the Union Flag was flown to represent the United Kingdom. The Leader stated that this was intended to ensure that all residents were represented and included.

90. Kent Minerals Sites Plan
(Item 9)

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

"The County Council is asked to:

1.
   (i) Approve, and publish, a Pre-Submission Draft of the updated Kent Mineral Sites Plan (Appendix A) for representations on soundness and legal compliance;
   (ii) Agree to submit the Pre-Submission Draft of updated Kent Mineral Sites Plan to Government for Independent Examination into its soundness and legal compliance following the representation period;
   (iii) Agree to request the examination Inspector to recommend changes ('main modifications') needed to ensure the soundness of the Kent Mineral Sites Plan; and
   (iv) Delegate powers to the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment & Transport to, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member,

      a. Approve any non-material changes to the Pre-Submission Draft Kent Mineral Sites Plan and its supporting documents before publication or submission.
      b. Agree main modifications with the Inspector and to publish them for representations on soundness and legal compliance;
      c. Approve any non-material changes to the draft Kent Mineral Sites Plan;

2. Note the timetable for preparation of the Kent Mineral Sites Plan 2026 set out in the updated Kent Minerals and Waste Development Scheme at Appendix B."

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

For (37)

Mr M Brown, Mr W Chapman, Mr B Collins, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mrs B Fordham, Mrs G Foster, Mr B Fryer, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr R Mayall, Mr T Mole, Mr M Mulvihill, Mr P Osborne, Mrs C Palmer, Mr R Palmer, Mr M Paul, Mrs B Porter, Mr H Rayner, 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 R Waters, Mr P Webb, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Against (31)

Mr J Baker, Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mr D Burns, Mr C Burwash, Mr P Chamberlain, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mr R Ford, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr S Jeffery, Mr J Moreland, Miss D Morton, Mr M Munday, Ms C Nolan, Mr T Prater, Miss A Randall, Mr A Ricketts, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, Mr N Wibberley, Mr N Williams and Mr R Yates.

Abstain (4)

Mr B Barrett, Mr A Cecil, Mr J Defriend and Mr M Logen.

Motion carried.

RESOLVED that Council:

1.
   (i) Approves, and publishes, a Pre-Submission Draft of the updated Kent Mineral Sites Plan (Appendix A) for representations on soundness and legal compliance;
   (ii) Agrees to submit the Pre-Submission Draft of updated Kent Mineral Sites Plan to Government for Independent Examination into its soundness and legal compliance following the representation period;
   (iii) Agrees to request the examination Inspector to recommend changes ('main modifications') needed to ensure the soundness of the Kent Mineral Sites Plan; and
   (iv) Delegates powers to the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment & Transport to, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member,

      a. Approves any non-material changes to the Pre-Submission Draft Kent Mineral Sites Plan and its supporting documents before publication or submission.
      b. Agrees main modifications with the Inspector and to publish them for representations on soundness and legal compliance;
      c. Approves any non-material changes to the draft Kent Mineral Sites Plan;

2. Notes the timetable for preparation of the Kent Mineral Sites Plan 2026 set out in the updated Kent Minerals and Waste Development Scheme at Appendix B.

91. Quarterly Performance Report - Year End 2025/26
(Item 10)

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

   "Council is asked to:

NOTE the Performance Report”

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

RESOLVED that Council:

NOTES the Performance Report.

92. Water Resilience in Kent
(Item 11)

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

“County Council is asked to:

I. NOTE the increasing frequency and impact of water supply disruption in Kent and the significant implications for residents, businesses, public services and future growth

II. ENDORSE the Council’s leadership, convening and advocacy role in working with Government, regulators, water companies, district and borough councils, businesses and community partnerships to improve water resilience.

III. SUPPORT the development of KCC’s 25-year Water Resources Strategy and the integration of water resilience into planning, infrastructure, emergency response and economic development activity.

IV. SUPPORT the establishment of the Kent Water Resilience Partnership as the principal county-wide forum for identifying priorities, securing commitments and developing a shared action plan.

V. NOTE that the recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee Short Focused Inquiry will be considered through the appropriate governance route, with accepted actions incorporated into the wider resilience programme.”

2. Mr Sole proposed and Mr Hook seconded the following amendment to the recommendation set out in paragraph 1:

“County Council is asked to:

I. NOTE the increasing frequency and impact of water supply disruption in Kent and the significant implications for residents, businesses, public services and future growth

II. ENDORSE the Council's leadership, convening and advocacy role in working with Government, regulators, water companies, district and borough councils, businesses and community partnerships to improve water resilience.

III. SUPPORT the development of KCC's 25-year Water Resources Strategy and the integration of water resilience into planning, infrastructure, emergency response and economic development activity.

IV. SUPPORT the establishment of the Kent Water Resilience Partnership as the principal county-wide forum for identifying priorities, securing commitments and developing a shared action plan.

V. NOTE that the recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee Short Focused Inquiry will be considered through the appropriate governance route, with accepted actions incorporated into the wider resilience programme.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGE the important role of the Council's Flood Risk and Water Management Committee and ensure that regular progress reports on the Water Resources Strategy and the Kent Water Resilience Partnership, are made to that Committee."

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

For (27)

Mr B Black, Mr O Bradshaw, Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mr D Burns, Mr R Ford, Mrs M Forthergill, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr S Jeffery, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Ms C Nolan, 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, Mr P Thomas, Mr N Williams and Mr R Yates.

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 B Fordham, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, 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, 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.

Abstain (0)

Amendment lost.

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

For (72)

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, 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 S Heaver, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr S Jeffery, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, 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, Mr N Wibberley, Mr N Williams, Mrs P Williams, Mr D Wimble and Mr R Yates.

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Motion carried.

RESOLVED that Council:

I. NOTES the increasing frequency and impact of water supply disruption in Kent and the significant implications for residents, businesses, public services and future growth

II. ENDORSES the Council’s leadership, convening and advocacy role in working with Government, regulators, water companies, district and borough councils, businesses and community partnerships to improve water resilience.

III. SUPPORTS the development of KCC’s 25-year Water Resources Strategy and the integration of water resilience into planning, infrastructure, emergency response and economic development activity.

IV. SUPPORTS the establishment of the Kent Water Resilience Partnership as the principal county-wide forum
for identifying priorities, securing commitments and developing a shared action plan.

V. NOTES that the recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee Short Focused Inquiry will be considered through the appropriate governance route, with accepted actions incorporated into the wider resilience programme.

93. Urgent Decisions Annual Report
(Item 12)

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

   "Council is asked to:

   NOTE the Report"

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

RESOLVED that Council:

NOTES the Report.

3. The Chairman proposed that, under s14.48 of the Constitution, Council resolve to extend the meeting beyond 4:30pm and it was put to the vote it was agreed by a majority.

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

94. Motions for Time Limited Debate
(Item 13)

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. Mr Chapman proposed and Mr Paul seconded the following amendment to the motion set out in paragraph 1:

“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~~ Flood Risk and Water Management 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.“

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

4. Following the debate, the Chairman put the substantive motion set out in paragraph 2 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, 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 S Heaver, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr S Jeffery, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, 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, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams, Mr D Wimble and Mr R Yates.

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Motion carried.

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Welcomes the Water Supply Short Focused Inquiry (SFI) report, thanks the Members and Officers involved for their work examining the water outages in Winter 2025/2026 and notes the requirement for the Executive to provide a response to the report and its recommendations to the Scrutiny Committee in due course but also recognises that there are a range of other water related issues that merit immediate consideration by the Council.

2. Recommends 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. Recommends 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. Recommends 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. Recommends 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. Requests 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. Recommends that the Flood Risk and Water Management 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. Recommends 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.

5. Mr Dixon proposed and Mr Evans seconded the motion that:

   “The Council resolves to agree the following principles

The Council will:

(a) Comply with the Equality Act 2010 and the General and Specific Duties placed on it by that legislation, but shall not extend any activity(ies) whatsoever beyond the statutory duties.

(b) Not support any divisive ‘Diversity, Equity and Inclusion’ agenda, which may penalise people without specific protected characteristics.

(c) Positively promote, encourage and support aspects of Kent life that unite people, rather than those that divide and not promote, encourage and support those that divide people.

(d) Strongly oppose discrimination of any type and on any grounds against all persons, take steps where appropriate to root it out and shall take firm action whenever it is found.

(e) Be a meritocracy, where opportunities are open to all persons based on ability, contribution and talent, and shall not pander to any difference, but shall treat all persons with equal care and consideration.

(f) Be an equal opportunities employer, welcoming and unprejudiced, responsive to the needs of the staff and the requirements of the Service.

(g) Ensure that Equality Impact Assessments are produced for all policies and key decisions in order to comply with current legislation.

(h) Not favour ‘positive action’ ever being taken to give advantage to any group(s) or individual(s).

(i) Ensure that its promotional and recruitment images and literature are proportionate and representative of the demography of Kent and are lawful so far as is reasonably possible.

(j) Ask the Chief Executive to review the use of resources in pursuance of the principles identified by resolutions (a) – (i) of this Motion.

(k) Ask the Chief Executive, subsequent to the above review, to update the Leader of any related governance processes that may be required for policies or strategies so as to reflect the principles set out within this motion as may be appropriate to give effect to resolutions (a) – (h).”

6. Mr Chapman proposed and Mr Paul seconded, that in accordance with section 14.72 of the Constitution, the motion set out in paragraph 5 be immediately put to the vote without further debate.

7. The Chairman put the motion in paragraph 6 to the vote and the voting was as follows.

For (47)

Mr J Baker, Mr B Black, 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, Mr R Ford, Mrs B Fordham, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, 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, 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 (21)

Mr O Bradshaw, Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr S Jeffery, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Ms C Nolan, Mr T Prater, Miss A Randall, Mr A Ricketts, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, Mr P Thomas and Mr R Yates.

Abstain (2)

Mr D Burns and Ms C Russell.

Motion carried.

RESOLVED that the County Council agree that the motion in paragraph 5 be put to the vote without further debate.

8. The Chairman put the motion in paragraph 5 to the vote and the voting was as follows.

For (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 J Defriend, Mr S Dixon, Ms S Emberson, Mr J Eustace, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr J Finch, Mr R Ford, Mrs B Fordham, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, 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, 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 (18)

Mr A Brady, Mr M Brice, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr S Jeffery, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Ms C Nolan, Mr T Prater, Miss A Randall, Mr A Ricketts, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild and Mr R Yates.

Abstain (5)

Mr O Bradshaw, Mrs M Fothergill, Mr H Rayner, Ms C Russell and Mr P Thomas.

Motion Carried.

RESOLVED that Council:

(a) Complies with the Equality Act 2010 and the General and Specific Duties placed on it by that legislation, but does not extend any activity(ies) whatsoever beyond the statutory duties.

(b) Not support any divisive ‘Diversity, Equity and Inclusion’ agenda, which may penalise people without specific protected characteristics.

(c) Positively promotes, encourages and supports aspects of Kent life that unite people, rather than those that divide and not promote, encourage and support those that divide people.

(d) Strongly opposes discrimination of any type and on any grounds against all persons, takes steps where appropriate to root it out and shall take firm action whenever it is found.

(e) Be a meritocracy, where opportunities are open to all persons based on ability, contribution and talent, and shall not pander to any difference, but shall treat all persons with equal care and consideration.

(f) Be an equal opportunities employer, welcoming and unprejudiced, responsive to the needs of the staff and the requirements of the Service.

(g) Ensures that Equality Impact Assessments are produced for all policies and key decisions in order to comply with current legislation.

(h) Not favour ‘positive action’ ever being taken to give advantage to any group(s) or individual(s).

(i) Ensures that its promotional and recruitment images and literature are proportionate and representative of the demography of Kent and are lawful so far as is reasonably possible.

(j) Asks the Chief Executive to review the use of resources in pursuance of the principles identified by resolutions (a) – (i) of this Motion.

(k) Asks the Chief Executive, subsequent to the above review, to update the Leader of any related governance processes that may be required for policies or strategies so as to reflect the principles set out within this motion as may be appropriate to give effect to resolutions (a) – (h).

9. Mrs Fothergill proposed and Mr Thomas seconded the motion that:

"This Council notes that:

- Kent contains some of the United Kingdom's most productive agricultural land and that the protection of Best and Most Versatile farmland (Grades 1, 2 and 3a) is essential for food security, the rural economy and the long-term sustainability of the county's countryside.

- Kent's agricultural and agrifood sectors make a significant contribution to the county's economy, employment and national food production.

- Kent County Council is due to approve its Position Statement on Solar Developments through Cabinet Member Decision 26/00026, supporting a balanced approach to renewable energy whilst encouraging solar generation to be prioritised on rooftops, commercial buildings, car parks and brownfield land over greenfield and agricultural land.

- Kent County Council has recognised that the cumulative impact of multiple solar developments and the potential impact on food security require careful consideration.

This Council resolves to request that the Executive;

1. Ensure that Kent County Council's consultee responses to planning applications for large-scale solar developments consistently reflect the approved Position Statement on Solar Developments, with particular regard to proposals involving Best and Most Versatile agricultural land, significant landscape harm or unacceptable cumulative impacts, and ensuring that infrastructure considerations such as secured grid connectivity are robustly assessed.

2. Continue working collaboratively with District and Borough councils and other relevant bodies to monitor the cumulative impact of large-scale solar development proposals across Kent and provide periodic briefings to Members on emerging applications and trends.
3. Bring forward a report to the relevant Committee by the end of 2026 providing an update on the implementation of the Position Statement on Solar Developments, including any operational, resource or policy considerations arising from Kent County Council's consultee role."

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

For (7)

Mr O Bradshaw, Mr R Ford, Mrs M Fothergill, Miss A Randall, Mr H Rayner, Ms C Russell and Mr P Thomas.

Against (54)

Mr J Baker, Mr M Brice, 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 J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Mr A J Hook, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, 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, Mr M Paul, Mrs B Porter, Mr A Ricketts, 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 A Thorp, Mr D Truder, Mr R Waters, Mr P Webb, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Wimble.

Abstain (10)

Mr B Black, Mr A Brady, Mr D Burns, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr S Jeffery, Ms C Nolan, Mr T Prater, Mr P Stepto and Mr R Yates.

Motion lost.

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

"The County Council resolves to call on the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to:

1. Review the implementation of the council's post-16 SEND transport policy to ensure it supports every post-16 young person with SEND who needs help to get to school safely receives the support that they need.
2. Collate and report on information to better assess and explain the true impact of KCC's post-16 transport policy, including:

a. Among young people who applied for more than a PTB but were refused, how many of them are safely attending education.
b. Whether any shortfall between the PTB and the actual cost of transport to families is affordable is for the affected families.

3. Review the appeal and right of review arrangements for families who can show that the fixed Personal Transport budget does not meet the reasonable cost of safe transport to make it as clear and simple as possible.
4. Review all post-16 SEND transport decisions already made under the current model, in relation to the application and impact of the existing policy and report the findings to the relevant Cabinet Committee.
5. Report back to the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee, no later than 17 November 2026, on the action taken on points above."

12. Mrs Fordham proposed and Mr Evans seconded the following amendment to the motion set out in paragraph 11:

"The County Council resolves to call on the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to:

1. Review the implementation of the council's post-16 ~~to ensure it supports every post-16 young person with SEND who needs help to get to school safely receives the support that they need~~ SEND transport policy following the first term of operation, to ensure that eligible post-16 young people with SEND receive appropriate support to access education.
2. Collate and report on information to better assess and explain the true impact of KCC's post-16 transport policy following the first term of operation, including:
   a. Among young people who applied for ~~more than a PTB but were refused, how many of them are safely attending education~~ and were offered a Personal Transport Budget, but subsequently sought a review or appeal of a transport decision, information on attendance outcomes, where available.
   b. Whether any ~~shortfall between the PTB and the actual cost of transport to families is affordable is for the affected families~~ concerns relating to Personal Transport Budgets have been raised by affected families, and how individual circumstances have been considered through the Council's review and appeals processes.
3. Review the appeal and right of review arrangements for families who can show that the fixed Personal Transport budget does not meet the reasonable cost of safe transport to make it as clear and simple as possible.
4. Review all post-16 SEND transport decisions already made under the current model, in relation to the application and impact of the existing policy and report the findings including any emerging themes arising from reviews and appeals, to the relevant Cabinet Committee.

5. Report back to the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee, no later than 17 November 2026, on the action taken on points above.”

13. Following the debate, the Chairman put the amendment set out in paragraph 12 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 B Fordham, Mrs G Foster, Mr M Fraser Moat, Mr B Fryer, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Ms L Kemkaran, 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, 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, Mr N Wibberley, 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 R Ford, Mr S Heaver, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr S Jeffery, Mr J Moreland, Mr M Munday, Ms C Nolan, Miss A Randall, Mr A Ricketts, Mr G R Samme, Mr C Sefton, Mr M Sole, Mr P Stepto, Mr R G Streatfeild, Mr P Thomas and Mr R Yates.

Abstain (2)

Mrs M Fothergill and Mr T Prater.

Amendment carried.

14. The Chairman put the substantive motion set out in paragraph 12 to the vote and the voting was as follows:

For (70)

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, 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 S Heaver, Mr J Henderson, Mr C Hespe, Mr M A J Hood, Mr A J Hook, Mr S Jeffery, Ms L Kemkaran, Mr A Kibble, Mr P King, Mrs M Lawes, Mr M Logen, 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, 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, Mr N Wibberley, Mrs P Williams, Mr D Wimble and Mr R Yates.

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Substantive motion carried.

RESOLVED that Council resolves to call on the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to:

1. Review the implementation of the council's post-16 SEND transport policy following the first term of operation, to ensure that eligible post-16 young people with SEND receive appropriate support to access education.
2. Collate and report on information to better assess and explain the true impact of KCC's post-16 transport policy following the first term of operation, including:

    a. Among young people who applied for and were offered a Personal Transport Budget, but subsequently sought a review or appeal of a transport decision, information on attendance outcomes, where available.
    b. Whether any concerns relating to Personal Transport Budgets have been raised by affected families, and how individual circumstances have been considered through the Council's review and appeals processes.

3. Review the appeal and right of review arrangements for families who can show that the fixed Personal Transport budget does not meet the reasonable cost of safe transport to make it as clear and simple as possible.
4. Review all post-16 SEND transport decisions already made under the current model, in relation to the application and impact of the existing policy and report the findings including any emerging themes arising from reviews and appeals, to the relevant Cabinet Committee.
5. Report back to the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee, no later than 17 November 2026, on the action taken on points above.

95. National Anthem
(Item 14)

Members were invited to join in the singing of the National Anthem. In course of the Item, the Chairman directed some Members to cease disrupting the meeting.

After the National Anthem concluded as the final agenda item, the Chairman closed the meeting.