

**Medway Council**  
**Meeting of Medway Council**  
**Thursday, 21 July 2022**  
**7.15pm to 11.49pm**

**Record of the meeting**

**Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next Full Council meeting**

**Present:** The Worshipful The Mayor of Medway (Councillor Aldous)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Barrett) Councillors Adeoye, Ahmed, Brake, Browne, Buckwell, Carr, Mrs Diane Chambers, Rodney Chambers, OBE, Chitty, Clarke, Cooper, Curry, Doe, Edwards, Fearn, Sylvia Griffin, Hackwell, Howcroft-Scott, Hubbard, Mrs Josie Iles, Jarrett, Johnson, Kemp, Khan, Lammas, Lloyd, Mahil, Maple, Murray, Opara, Osborne, Pendergast, Prenter, Price, Purdy, Sands, Andy Stamp, Chrissy Stamp, Tejan, Thompson, Thorne, Tranter, Mrs Elizabeth Turpin, Rupert Turpin, Van Dyke, Wildey and Williams

**In Attendance:** Neil Davies, Chief Executive  
Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director, Legal and Governance  
Wayne Hemingway, Head of Democratic Services  
Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officer

**110 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Etheridge, Filmer, Gulvin, McDonald, Patterson and Potter.

**111 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests**

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

Councillor Doe declared an OSI in any reference to Medway Development Company Ltd because he is the company Chairman. Councillor Doe relied on a dispensation agreed by the Councillor Conduct Committee to enable him to take part in related discussion and voting.

## **Council, 21 July 2022**

### Other interests

Councillor Cooper declared an interest in agenda item No.8 (Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places) as she is a governor of Rivermead School. Councillor Cooper remained in the room during discussion and consideration of the item.

### **112 Record of meeting**

The records of the meetings held on 21 April 2022 and 18 May 2022 were approved and signed by The Worshipful Mayor of Medway as correct.

### **113 Mayor's announcements**

The Worshipful The Mayor of Medway announced that Roger Malden, a former Civic and Ceremonial Officer, had recently passed away. Mr Malden had worked for the Council for a number of years before retiring in 2015, having continued to help on a number of occasions until 2019. On behalf of the Council, the Mayor offered condolences to his family.

The Mayor said she was saddened by the killing of the former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and that she would be sending condolences to the cities of Ito and Yokosuka, which Medway had close ties with.

The Mayor welcomed visiting councillors from The Maldives, the Deputy High Commissioner and the 2nd Secretary from The Maldives' High Commission.

### **114 Leader's announcements**

There were none.

### **115 Petitions**

#### **Public:**

There were none.

#### **Member:**

Councillor Maple referred to a public petition, that had already been submitted to Democratic Services, in relation to Knowle Road and Lambourne Way. This related to a number of traffic related concerns.

Councillor Cooper submitted a petition on behalf of members of the public. The petition related to vehicles causing an obstruction at the car park for bungalows in Grange Road, Gillingham. The petition called on the Council to install appropriate signage.

**116 Public questions**

**Question A - Vivienne Parker of Chatham asked the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following:**

“Given there are a lot of Medway people who are living in fuel poverty and cannot afford to heat their homes, what is the Council doing to increase the pitifully low number of Medway families who will benefit from Council grants to improve the fuel efficiency of their homes?”

Councillor Doe thanked Ms Parker for her question. He said that the Council was engaged with a number of Government schemes to assist households with grants. The rollout of these had been slower in 2022/23, mainly due to a national strain on resources to undertake specialist assessments, but it was expected to accelerate as assessors moved from previous programmes to the Sustainable Warmth programme.

Medway had an allocation of £2.9m for this programme, although Medway Council did not hold the funding or administer the grant, this was done on a regional level by a third party, Warmworks. The Council did signpost residents for assessment and, where eligible, for works.

Councillor Doe was pleased to confirm that the Council had recently appointed a Senior Sustainable Warmth Officer, who had responsibility for promoting this grant opportunity. Medway would also be working to maximise knowledge of available funding and promote other available grants and schemes to residents.

Medway Council was responsible for administering the Government’s energy rebates through the Council Tax system. To date, it had made £150 payments to more than 80,000 households and continued to work to distribute this funding to all eligible households. Medway would shortly be launching a discretionary scheme to support those households who were not eligible for the main scheme but needed support.

Councillor Doe concluded that the Council continued to provide support to vulnerable households through the Government’s Household Support Fund, including helping with energy costs, water and food and home essentials. £321,000 had been distributed so far through this fund and a further £750,000 had been allocated for pensioners on low incomes and in receipt of Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction. Residents who may need support were encouraged to make an application online or via one of the Council’s Community Hubs.

## Council, 21 July 2022

### **Question B – Alan Wells of Chatham submitted the following to the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer:**

“In recent months there has been a number of fly tipping incidents in Strood Rural.

The sites targeted that I know of are:

Off Berwick Way approaching Medway City Estate (now cleared). In particular, the land between Hasted Road and Islingham Farm Road approaching the Wainscott Bypass, as well as other sites in the Frindsbury, Wainscott, and Upnor area.

I have seen for myself huge mounds of construction and commercial waste illegally dumped on an industrial scale in the area, which is affecting the immediate environment. Fly-tipping has a detrimental effect on the look and feel of our area and the dumpers, must have made multiple visits, to these sites. Rural paths and views are blocked by lorry loads of commercial and industrial waste.

As reported on KM Online, Medway has the highest amount of fly tipping in Kent, with 5,141 reported incidents, 2019/20, <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/kent/news/revealed-the-fly-tipping-capital-of-kent-247392/>, with residents and landowners forced to deal with the potential health and environmental hazards the rubbish represents. Environmental crime should not be tolerated, and our green spaces should be there to be enjoyed by the whole community.

The Council could install CCTV at the fly-tipping hotspots and introduce a 'Caught on Camera' campaign across Medway to deter and identify fly-tippers, and act to reduce incidents of fly-tipping. This type of approach has proven successful elsewhere, with a 'Wall of Shame' campaign, where video and images of fly-tipping are published on the Council's website, asking residents to help identify the perpetrators. The locations of the cameras based on fly-tipping complaints are monitored to understand reduction in fly-tipping at the sites with CCTV, but also to see if there are any adverse impacts such as fly-tipping increasing elsewhere.

What actions are the Council going to undertake to ensure compliance with environmental legislation, and to crack down on fly tipping?”

### **Question C - Stuart Bourne of Rainham asked the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following:**

“In 2021 Medway Council helped plant 13,842 new tree whips using funds from the Forestry Commission's Urban tree challenge fund. Since then, Medway Council and its councillors have repeatedly used this as an example to the public of what the Council has achieved to offset our carbon and fight against the climate emergency. Even now, nearly two years later, this large figure of

## **Council, 21 July 2022**

13,842 new trees is used on the Council's website, in your press releases and across your social media.

My question is simple. How many of those 13,842 trees are still alive?"

Councillor Doe thanked Mr Bourne for his question. He said that for any mass woodland planting, a level of natural failure would always be anticipated. For standard woodland planting, more trees were planted closer together than were required to grow to maturity and through a process of natural selection and selective thinning, the woodland was managed properly as it grew.

An assessment would be made during the second growing season of all the planted areas and action would be taken to address any issues identified. There had been some minor vandalism to some of the planted areas that was being addressed. Work would also include the removal of tree guards and stakes where they were no longer needed and the new trees had established themselves.

Councillor Doe said that this full assessment work had not yet been completed. Therefore, an exact failure rate could not be given currently. The Council was always looking for available funding to be able to plant more trees.

**Question D – Sean Carter of Gillingham submitted the following to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe:**

"Why does Medway Council's housing department not deal with housing repairs and housing issues, for example they are not available or hang up the phone?"

**Question E - Alan Stockey of Rainham asked the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following:**

"From a recent survey of buses seen in Rainham during peak school transit hours, it is evident that bus companies supporting Rainham and the MySchool Bus Service (Arriva and ASD) are deploying a significant number of older vehicles (18-22 year old EURO III) and ASD's buses were exclusively EURO III; as well as regularly leaving buses idling in AQMAs and outside school premises.

The Medway Bus Improvement Plan (2021-2026) includes reference to reduction of smoky and higher polluting buses through Medway's AQMAs as well as progressive introduction of less polluting vehicles (EURO V and above).

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm whether bus companies have committed to Medway Council that the measures in the plan will be met, including what is Medway Council's position on including minimum emission requirements in future contract negotiations, such that cleaner air corridors can be created for children walking and cycling to school at peak times?"

## Council, 21 July 2022

Responding on behalf of Councillor Filmer, Councillor Hackwell thanked Mr Stockey for his question. He said that Medway Council aimed to continue investing in the bus network and to work with operators to facilitate newer Euro V and VI buses as and when there was more industry stability and further funding opportunities became available.

Arriva had advised that newer vehicles would be rolled out on the 145 route later in 2022. This would contribute positively towards Medway's Bus Service Improvement Plan, alongside the National Bus Strategy.

Councillor Hackwell said that due to the current pressures on the bus industry and the gradual recovery following the pandemic, it was unlikely that there would be large scale investment in new buses soon.

Bus operator licencing guidelines required that all buses were subject to an annual MOT. Vehicles over 12 years old were also subject to a 6-week inspection, including servicing requirements, to ensure that all buses operating on Medway's roads were legally compliant with emissions standards.

**Question F - Paul O'Neill of Chatham submitted the following to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty:**

"New proposed laws will introduce a new criminal offence where a person resides or intends to reside on any public or private land without permission. Currently Medway does not provide adequate temporary traveller sites which leads to inappropriate areas being used by travellers.

The Council could acquire land for this purpose, for example, it could use compulsory purchase powers to acquire the site on Gillingham Business Park behind Aldi.

How does the Council intend to fulfil its requirements to the traveller community in the local plan?"

**Question G - Mark Jones, on behalf of Medway Trades Union Council, asked the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services, Councillor Brake, the following:**

"We understand NHS Commissioners are undertaking a review of the proposed reconfiguration of stroke services, locally, as determined by the former Secretary of State (Sajid Javid), which could mean twelve months delay in implementing stroke services reorganisation. We believe that under the current proposal, Medway Maritime Hospital wouldn't provide urgent care, but will offer rehabilitation services.

Will the Portfolio Holder assure us that Medway Council are actively pressing, during the latest review and beyond, for - at minimum - the adoption/ retention of those stroke services which it had been determined, would be based locally?"

## Council, 21 July 2022

Councillor Brake thanked Mr Jones for his question. He said that as soon as the Council had become aware of proposals to reduce the number of acute hospitals providing stroke treatment and care across Kent and Medway, from six to three, it had supported action to retain acute stroke services at Medway Hospital. This action had included legal challenges that went all the way to the High Court. However, on 4 November 2021, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care had determined that the proposed reconfiguration of stroke services across Kent and Medway could take place. This decision meant that Medway hospital would not become one of the three specialist stroke hospitals in Kent and Medway.

Councillor Brake said that an Integrated Stroke Delivery Network was overseeing the transformation of stroke care within Kent and Medway. This body had an implementation plan, which included a detailed risk log. It was now working through the current process of reorganisation of all aspects of stroke treatment and care across Kent and Medway. Medway Council was fully represented within the Integrated Stroke Delivery Networks' various workstreams. The Director of Public Health and other officers were members of this network. This demonstrated that Medway Council was advocating for the needs of the Medway population. Additional NHS investment in therapy and stroke rehabilitation services were earmarked for Medway and the Council continued to press for these services to be delivered promptly.

**Note:** As Mr Wells, Mr Carter and Mr O'Neill were not present at the meeting, the Mayor stated that they would receive written responses to their questions, 7B, 7D and 7F respectively, in accordance with Council Rule 8.6.

### 117 Leader's report

#### Discussion:

Members received the Leader's Report. The following issues were discussed:

- The development of the new integrated care model in Kent and Medway that aimed to transform NHS and Social Care provision and the development of the Kent and Medway Care Strategy.
- Covid-19 community testing, including that Medway had been the first local authority area in the South East to offer this.
- Improvements made to Council's Children's Services and the commitment to improving the lives of children in Medway.
- Completion of the Innovation Park Medway southern site improvement works and the submission of a Levelling Up funding bid in support of the southern and northern sites.
- Phases 1-3 of the Rochester Riverside development were nearing completion, with 331 units already occupied for phases 1 and 2. Work on a new school site had commenced in July 2021.
- The Council acquisition of the former Debenhams building in Chatham High Street using £2.2million of Future High Street Fund allocations. A Capital Additions request to enable development of the site would be considered later in the meeting.

## Council, 21 July 2022

- Delivery of the Healthy Living Centre in Chatham, including the addition of £10million to the Council's capital programme.
- Housing Infrastructure Fund public consultation was taking place from June to July 2022 in relation to Hoo Wetlands and the Lodge Hill Countryside site.
- The award of £263,000 of Heritage Lottery development funds to allow a bid to be made for £2.5million of funding to run a series of projects on the Hoo Peninsula.
- Concern about the increased cost of living and the impact of taxes.
- The award shortlisting of Medway's Public Health team for work to help expectant mothers and their babies to remain healthy.
- Concerns around bullying allegations and the responsibility that Councillors had towards one another.
- The Medway Housing Delivery Test, including that defined housing needs had not been met by this standard.
- Suggestion that vouchers for children to be provided meals during the summer holidays should be available to all those eligible for free school meals rather than only those attending a summer activity programme.

### 118 Overview and scrutiny activity

#### Discussion:

Members received a report on overview and scrutiny activity and raised the following issues during debate:

- Recommendations that had been made to Cabinet by the Business Support and Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committees. These related to governance, accountability and project governance.
- The importance of the transition process from children's services to adult services and the difficulties arising from mental health challenges. The importance of this was highlighted in the context of Medway aspiring to be a child friendly city.
- The development and improvement of mental health services in Medway.
- The Parent and Carer Forum conference in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, held on 4 July 2022, was commended.
- The progression of the Member Task Group looking at access to GP appointments. The first meeting was considered to have been successful.
- The importance of women's health being considered by Overview and Scrutiny.
- Good support provided locally to refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine but also concern that the Council had taken legal action against the Government to prevent it having to take on further Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.
- The impact of bullying on mental health.

## Council, 21 July 2022

It was noted that a report titled, "Member's Item: Gillingham Football Club (GFC) School" had been considered by the Children and Young People at its meeting on 8 June 2022. This had been omitted from the Overview and Scrutiny activity report submitted to Council due to an administrative error.

### **Decision:**

The Council noted the report.

## **119 Members' questions**

### **Question A – Councillor Johnson asked the Portfolio Holder for Education and Schools, Councillor Potter, the following:**

"Given the government's derisory increase of 7p to the funding for Universal Infant Free School Meals and the consequent threat to the quality of meals for Medway's young people and the risk to school meals providers' long-term viability and willingness to continue contracts, what action has he taken to ensure that Medway's young people have a healthy daily school meal in September?"

Responding on behalf of Councillor Potter, Councillor Mrs Josie Iles thanked Councillor Johnson for his question. She said that the Council was working with school catering contractors to ensure that children and young people were getting, healthy, nutritious meals and were working within the Food Plan and Government guidelines.

All catering contractors provided food for life silver menus as they were all part of the Soil Association. Contractors were governed by the conditions set by the Soils Association regarding ingredient quality.

Contractors had been permitted to uplift the meal price from September and they were working with schools to pass the increased funding onto providers to help cover the additional costs, enabling the continued provision of a healthy meal.

### **Question B – Councillor Edwards asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jarrett, the following:**

"Fair taxation is vital to making sure that local government can run decent and well-funded public services. Yet research commissioned by the Fair Tax Foundation showed that between 2014 and 2019, UK public procurement contracts worth £37.5bn were won by businesses with connections to a tax haven. If they choose to, progressive councils can help tackle this by promoting responsible tax conduct through their own procurement processes.

Will Medway Council join the 20+ councils across the UK that have so far signed the Fair Tax Foundation's Councils for Fair Tax declaration?

## **Council, 21 July 2022**

Signing the declaration would involve Medway Council leading by example in its own tax conduct, demanding greater transparency from suppliers, and joining calls for more meaningful powers to tackle tax avoidance amongst suppliers when buying goods and services. Doing so would no doubt be popular with Medway residents, with polls showing that almost two-thirds of the public agree that the government and local councils should consider a company's ethics and how they pay their taxes, as well as value for money and quality of service, when undertaking procurement. We are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis and need every pound of tax possible to support local people and local services. I hope that Medway Council will commit to being part of the solution."

Councillor Jarrett thanked Councillor Edwards for her question. He said that the Council's Selection Questionnaire had been used on all tenders since 2017 that were valued at £100,000 or greater. Sections relating to discretionary and mandatory exclusion inclusive of tax requirements set out how due diligence was currently conducted.

The questionnaire set out reasons for exclusion from the procurement process. This included evidence of convictions related to specific criminal offences, including, but not limited to bribery, corruption, conspiracy, terrorism, fraud and money laundering or having been the subject of a binding legal decision which found a breach of a legal obligations to pay tax or social security obligations.

Councillor Jarrett said that these factors were already considered during the procurement process, that a strict no tolerance policy was exercised and that this was set out within the procurement process.

### **Question C – Councillor Khan asked the Portfolio Holder for Education and Schools, Councillor Potter, the following:**

"Given the extreme financial pressures facing the Early Years Sector, what discussions has the Portfolio Holder held with local providers to ensure the long-term viability of local services?"

Responding on behalf of Councillor Potter, Councillor Mrs Josie Iles thanked Councillor Khan for her question. She said that Medway's Early Years Sufficiency team had an overview of places for the youngest children. Their focus was on ensuring sufficiency across the local area, maintaining communication with a range of childcare providers and passporting funding to these eligible bodies.

Local Authority officers within the Sufficiency team convened a regular Early Years Leaders' Forum. This provided an opportunity for a range of operational matters to be discussed, including effective financial management and how to access funding to support the long-term viability of providers.

The Sufficiency team also managed the Medway Online Family Information Directory. This supported families by providing information about available Early Years provision and a range of signposting to services.

## **Council, 21 July 2022**

Councillor Iles was pleased to report that there continued to be a sufficiency of places available for the youngest children in Medway. There had been a small increase recently following the introduction of five new providers.

### **Question D – Councillor Maple asked the Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services – Lead Member, Councillor Mrs Josie Iles, the following:**

“Medway Labour and Cooperative Group supports the work of Council staff to continue to ensure that Medway’s Children’s Services improve rapidly and sustainably. We welcome the positive steps that the service has taken. However, as the most recent Ofsted Monitoring Visit Letter establishes, too many staff supporting the improvement are temporary because funding for them is temporary. Why is this?”

Responding on behalf of Councillor Potter, Councillor Mrs Josie Iles thanked Councillor Maple for his question. She said that the most recent Ofsted Monitoring Visit letter for Children’s Services referred to improved workforce stability and capacity in the 16 Plus service, but that several posts remained temporary.

The reason for the temporary posts within the 16 Plus service was due to the need for further analysis to determine what capacity was needed in the service. This followed the extension of its remit following the inspection in 2019. Since the inspection, additional Council funding had supported additional posts to enable manageable caseloads while the diagnostic work was carried out. This work had now concluded and work was underway to outline the proposals for ensuring a correct service size going forward. This included support for earlier transition planning, as promoted by Ofsted in their recent Monitoring Visit letter.

### **Question E – Councillor Curry asked the Portfolio Holder for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships, Councillor Rodney Chambers OBE, the following:**

“The delivery date for projects under the Housing Infrastructure Fund was originally 2024, this has now been extended to 2025. If the Portfolio Holder can no longer be confident that the 2025 date is achievable what will be the consequences of missing this target?”

Councillor Chambers said that the Housing Infrastructure Fund team continued to keep the programme under regular review, with formal reviews undertaken each quarter. Design Freeze had been achieved, enabling the impacts of the schemes to be assessed and mitigated. The second major consultation had now concluded, with the results due to be shared shortly. The next two environmental schemes were now being consulted on and the programme continued to make good progress. Any major programme delays which could not be contained within the overall timeframe would need to be negotiated with Homes England.

## **Council, 21 July 2022**

**Question F – Councillor Adeoye asked the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, the following:**

“The Horsted Valley is one of the most important areas of Medway for both landscape and biodiversity. As well as supporting a rich and diverse range of habitats and important wildlife species, it has stunning views and beautiful walks.

Would the Council be prepared to apply to have this area designated as a Local Nature Reserve under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act?”

Councillor Doe thanked Councillor Adeoye for her question. He said that an application for such a designation was under consideration. This would build upon the work that had been completed over the last few years at what was an important site for nature and people’s enjoyment of nature. The work had included improvements to paths, new interpretation panels celebrating the natural and built heritage of the area and an extensive programme of tree planting.

The establishment of a new Friends Group had been supported and the site’s designation as a Local Nature Reserve would be explored over the coming year. Those who had not yet visited the area were encouraged to do so.

**Question G – Councillor Osborne asked the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer, the following:**

“Can the Council confirm the annual revenue and capital itemised spend on the Medway Tunnel since 2010/11 in a table by year; and the total sum over that period that was not funded through government grant?”

Responding on behalf of Councillor Filmer, Councillor Hackwell thanked Councillor Osborne for his question. He said that since 2010/11, the total revenue spend had been £7.4million and the total capital spend, £6.85million. This was a total spend of £14.2m.

In February 2020, the Council had received a £5million Government grant from the Department for Transport in relation to its successful Challenge Fund bid, the A289 Medway Tunnel Project. In 2020/21 and 2021/2022 the spend on this project had been £784,000. This brought the total not funded via Government grant to £13.4million.

## Council, 21 July 2022

[The table shown below was distributed at the meeting.]

<b>Medway Tunnel Expenditure</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Revenue Expenditure</b>	<b>Capital Expenditure</b>
2010/2011	£861,000	£831,766
2011/2012	£766,754	£1,463,932
2012/2013	£641,405	£127,538
2013/2014	£451,586	£317,082
2014/2015	£479,350	£292,317
2015/2016	£499,659	£418,580
2016/2017	£501,734	£476,511
2017/2018	£360,457	£371,090
2018/2019	£554,091	£537,121
2019/2020	£424,520	£648,614
2020/2021	£926,494	£1,069,350
2021/2022	£942,615	£296,852
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£7,409,665</b>	<b>£6,850,753</b>
<b>REV + CAP</b>	<b>£14,260,418</b>	
<b>Government Grant Spend (Challenge Fund)</b>	<b>£784,334</b>	
<b>Total Not Funded via Government Grant</b>	<b>£13,476,084</b>	

### **Question H – Councillor Chrissy Stamp asked the Portfolio Holder for Education and Schools, Councillor Potter, the following:**

“In view of rising costs on schools, which include extremely high and quickly-rising energy costs, and the constrained budgets which they have faced over the period of Conservative government, the Portfolio Holder should be monitoring school budgets, informing local MPs of the need for increased funding and mitigating the potentially adverse impact on educational opportunity. What action has he taken in these regards?”

Responding on behalf of Councillor Potter, Councillor Mrs Josie Iles thanked Councillor Chrissy Stamp for her question. She recognised that in view of the increase in energy costs, governors, trusts and accountable bodies were monitoring budgets carefully to ensure the priority continued to be providing an excellent quality of education so that all children and young people could achieve their potential in schools.

In May 2022, the Department for Education (DfE) had asked schools to undertake a survey about gas and electricity charges and for information about contractual arrangements with energy companies. The aim of this was to

## **Council, 21 July 2022**

consider what additional support may be provided. The survey had closed on 2 June 2022. This would be followed up by the Portfolio Holder.

The DfE currently provided guidance through a Sustainability Framework that provided tips for sustainability in schools, suggested practical ways for schools to become more sustainable, whilst also saving money.

### **Question 1 – Councillor Howcroft-Scott asked the Portfolio Holder for Adults’ Services, Councillor Brake, the following:**

“The Government unveiled its long-awaited food strategy, which was a response to food adviser Henry Dimbleby’s independent review into our food system. With the cost-of-living crisis driving even more families into food poverty, we needed a comprehensive plan that would help tackle our country’s growing hunger problem.

The Government’s response ignored many of the independent review’s key recommendations, like expanding the eligibility of key food schemes like Free School Meals and Healthy Start.

If the Government’s own food adviser says that the Government’s response is “not a strategy”, is “not radical enough” and “needs to be much bolder”, then questions must be asked about how seriously the Government is taking the hunger crisis that threatens to envelop even more families as inflation soars. In the context of rising childhood obesity and today’s challenging economic climate, what is Medway Council’s response to combat hunger?”

Councillor Brake thanked Councillor Howcroft-Scott for her question. He said that Medway had a long-established food programme that was focussed on supporting and sustaining its more disadvantaged communities. The aim of the Medway Food Partnership was to reduce food poverty, improve access to healthy food, promote healthier eating and provide the residents of Medway with the skills and education to help them live healthier lives.

There were currently over 100 local stakeholders within the local Food Partnership. Members included the private and public sector as well as voluntary and charitable organisations. A dedicated subgroup within the Food Partnership specifically focussed on poverty, food security and the provision of emergency food. Areas had been mapped out across Medway where food provision and access were most challenging and a relationship with FareShare was well established. This organisation provided surplus and subsidised food collected from retailers. Work was currently being undertaken to establish a food hub within Medway.

In terms of specific support to vulnerable families, Councillor Brake said that Medway delivered the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. Thousands of children from low-income households were able to access free activities and nutritious food during holiday periods.

## Council, 21 July 2022

Addressing childhood obesity was a priority for Medway. Comprehensive plans were in place to address this difficult issue, with the Medway Can programme being a good example of direct action. Promotion of this campaign was encouraged.

### **Question J – Councillor Opara asked the Portfolio Holder for Business Management, Councillor Hackwell, the following:**

“Across Medway many well-meaning residents have taken the initiative to set up voluntary groups, such as the Lordswood and Walderslade Community Litter Group, in order to eliminate litter and present the streets of Medway clean, together with the never ending efforts of our own street scene team and community wardens. It is however frustrating to see that many times this good work is often tarnished by those who have little or no respect for the environment or the cleanliness of our streets. The Council could continue to do more to show that the efforts of our volunteers and employees are respected.

Considering that numerous assets, including vehicles and large media screens, are owned by Medway Council, I would like to know why are the fines for throwing litter and fly tipping not clearly advertised on these assets for all to see? This would not only act as a deterrent against the inconsiderate practice of littering and fly tipping but would also have a significant impact on keeping Medway clean and attractive for both residents and visitors, thereby rewarding those who give their time to keep Medway clean.”

Councillor Hackwell thanked Councillor Opara for her question. He said that the Council was fortunate to have established groups of volunteer litter pickers across Medway, whose achievements he considered to be remarkable. Their success was regularly acknowledged and celebrated through social media, via a monthly newsletter and in the Council magazine, Medway Matters. During the 2022 Spring clean, 507 bags or three tonnes of litter had been collected.

Consideration had been given to how the achievements of volunteers could be further celebrated. Ideas proposed included volunteer groups having the option of ‘thank you’ certificates to acknowledge the contribution made to the environment and community. In partnership with Medway Norse, groups and organisations that had participated in a litter pick would also be invited to an annual ‘thank you’ event in October/November.

Since 2018, the Council had adopted the message “Love Medway, Hate Litter”, which had been displayed on litter bins, signage and 38 street cleansing vehicles operated by Medway Norse.

Councillor Hackwell advised that he had submitted a motion to this meeting to acknowledge the work of litter pickers and to propose that the Council committed to advertising littering and other related fines on Council assets. He called on Councillors to support this.

## **Council, 21 July 2022**

### **Question K - Councillor Cooper submitted the following to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services – Lead Member, Councillor Mrs Josie Iles:**

"It is estimated that 700,000 people in the United Kingdom are on the autism spectrum, which is more than 1 in 100. If we include their immediate families, autism is a part of the daily lives of around 2.8 million people in Britain.

Young people with autism face very specific problems when it comes to going to school, and it is vital that we as a local government do all we can to help them. We have had information in the most recent agenda items at both Children and Young People's and Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committees that Autism has been highlighted as the most prevalent cause for Children and Young People transitioning from Children to Adult Services.

Medway Council has taken steps to assign the role of 'care leavers champion' or 'education champions' to people involved in the Council set up. Given the prevalence of autism in society, would the Portfolio Holder agree with me that it is time that we have an Autism Champion at Medway Council who could be the focal point of work we do in the community related to autism?"

### **Question L - Councillor Van Dyke submitted the following to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jarrett:**

"The government has just appointed a national ambassador for Women's health following a call for evidence that shows there is gender bias within NHS services, which means that women's health issues are taken less seriously and frequently deprioritised. Is the Leader of the Council prepared to appoint a Women's health ambassador for Medway to show our support for ensuring that women in our community receive the high quality health services they deserve?"

### **Question M - Councillor Murray submitted the following to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services – Lead Member, Councillor Mrs Josie Iles:**

"A recent survey presented to Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee in an item about the transition process for young people with mental health problems contained the shocking news that 82% of children and young people in Medway have experienced difficulty with their mental health and wellbeing and over a third of young people are currently receiving treatment and support for mental health issues. Furthermore, schools report the highest ever level of mental health problems amongst their pupils.

Does the Portfolio Holder agree that this undermines Medway's ambition to be a child friendly city, while explaining what she intends to do to ensure that the new strategy being rolled out to tackle these issues will be properly funded?"

## **Council, 21 July 2022**

### **Question N - Councillor Hubbard submitted the following to the Portfolio Holder for Education and Schools, Councillor Potter:**

“Maritime Academy should have been located on Strood Riverside. That town centre site has great access for those walking, cycling, or using public transport. The school’s site on Frindsbury Hill, expected to open in 2024, will just add to the levels of traffic congestion and pollution.

I am dismayed at the ongoing changes for students starting at the Academy this September. Temporary arrangements were in place to use the vacant Stoke Primary site. Money was spent. Financial costs incurred. Proposed bussing arrangements, delivering and collecting some 200 students a day, were in place. The last-minute intervention by the Government’s Department of Education (DfE) stopping the use of Stoke has resulted in a scramble to get the alternate site at Twydall Primary, ready in time.

The Government’s lead on this project is simply not good enough. Council staff have done their best and I am confident that the Academy’s staff will deliver their educational best. Do you believe that the DfE should have been on top of matters much earlier, rather than letting matters fester, that in turn led to the disruption of plans at a very late stage?”

### **Question O – Councillor Mahil submitted the following to the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services, Councillor Filmer:**

“As in previous years Kent County Council is offering a free bus service for under 16s. The benefits of such a scheme are clear in relation to the environment, but even more so in relation to the health and wellbeing of the children and young people, our local communities and Medway’s economy.

Can the Portfolio Holder please explain why Medway Council is, once again, not part of this scheme?”

### **Question P - Councillor Browne submitted the following to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jarrett:**

“The risk of another pandemic has been removed from Medway’s risk register on the grounds that there is now sufficient resilience and expertise within the Council to tackle another pandemic should one arise.

Notwithstanding the good work that has been done and the skills that staff have gained from their experiences does the Leader agree with me that while there is still so much to learn about the development of Covid and its long-term effects that removing risk of a pandemic from the register diminishes awareness of the dangers of another pandemic and leaves the Council and our residents in a needlessly vulnerable position?”

**Question Q – Councillor Price submitted the following to the Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services – Lead Member, Councillor Mrs Josie Iles:**

“What action has the Portfolio Holder taken to ensure that the administration of SEND funding for the Medway Early Years Sector is efficient and effective?”

Note: The Mayor stated that since the time allocation for Member questions had been exhausted, written responses would be provided to questions 10K – 10Q.

**120 Splashes Sports Centre**

**Background:**

This report advised that in July 2021, the Cabinet had agreed to instruct officers to develop detailed proposals for a new Splashes Sports Centre in Rainham to provide modern, family-friendly sports and physical activity facilities in the east of Medway, complementing other Council sports facilities.

Following Cabinet’s decision, the previous sports centre had been demolished and a professional design team appointed through open tender to design a fun, family-friendly sports centre on the site of the previous centre. This had been funded using the £5m funding for Splashes redevelopment within the existing capital budget.

The latest report had been considered by the Cabinet on 7 June 2022. The Cabinet had recommended full Council to approve an addition of £12.850million to the Splashes Redevelopment Scheme in the Capital Programme to enable development of the new Splashes Sports Centre.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, supported by Councillor Kemp, proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

Councillor Maple, supported by Councillor Edwards, proposed the following amendment:

delete the following:

11.1 ~~“The Council is asked to approve an addition of £12.850million to the Splashes Redevelopment Scheme in the Capital Programme to enable development of the new Splashes Sports Centre.”~~

and replace with:

11.1 “... notes the Cabinet decision on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022.”

11.2 “Council asks officers to prepare a detailed report on:

## Council, 21 July 2022

- a. What options there are to find the ongoing £918,953 revenue costs proposed in this agenda item.
- b. A estimate of the likely budget subsidy recognising increases in areas such as staffing and utilities since it was stopped.

This report to be received with the substantive Splashes report to the October 6th Full Council.”

- 11.3 “Furthermore, Council requests an up to date review of all Medway’s leisure and sports facilities to reassure Members on the condition of the buildings and associated infrastructure. This will be of benefit both to avoid similar problems to the one that led to the demolition of the Splashes complex and help with the review of our estate needed for our Climate Action Plan. This review will be received by the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee prior to Cabinet.”

Amended recommendations read:

- 11.1 “The Council notes the Cabinet decision on 7th June 2022.”

- 11.2 “Council asks officers to prepare a detailed report on:

- a. What options there are to find the ongoing £918,953 revenue costs proposed in this agenda item.
- b. A estimate of the likely budget subsidy recognising increases in areas such as staffing and utilities since it was stopped.

This report to be received with the substantive Splashes report to the October 6th Full Council.”

- 11.3 “Furthermore, Council requests an up to date review of all Medway’s leisure and sports facilities to reassure Members on the condition of the buildings and associated infrastructure. This will be of benefit both to avoid similar problems to the one that led to the demolition of the Splashes complex and help with the review of our estate needed for our Climate Action Plan. This review will be received by the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee prior to Cabinet.”

In accordance with Rule 12.5 of the Council Rules, a recorded vote on the amended proposal was taken.

For: Councillors Adeoye, Browne, Cooper, Curry, Edwards, Howcroft-Scott, Hubbard, Johnson, Khan, Lloyd, Mahil, Maple, Murray, Osborne, Prenter, Price, Andy Stamp, Chrissy Stamp and Van Dyke. (19)

## **Council, 21 July 2022**

Against: Councillors Ahmed, Aldous, Barrett, Brake, Buckwell, Carr, Mrs Diane Chambers, Rodney Chambers, Chitty, Clarke, Doe, Fearn, Griffin, Hackwell, Mrs Josie Iles, Jarrett, Kemp, Lammas, Opara, Purdy, Tejan, Thompson, Thorne, Tranter, Mrs Elizabeth Turpin, Rupert Turpin, Wildey and Williams. (28)

Abstain: Councillors Pendergast and Sands. (2)

The amendment was lost.

In accordance with Rule 12.5 of the Council Rules, a recorded vote on the substantive proposal was taken.

For: Councillors Ahmed, Aldous, Barrett, Brake, Buckwell, Carr, Mrs Diane Chambers, Rodney Chambers, Chitty, Clarke, Doe, Fearn, Griffin, Hackwell, Mrs Josie Iles, Jarrett, Kemp, Lammas, Opara, Purdy, Tejan, Thompson, Thorne, Tranter, Mrs Elizabeth Turpin, Rupert Turpin, Wildey and Williams. (28)

Against: None.

Abstain: Adeoye, Browne, Cooper, Curry, Edwards, Howcroft-Scott, Hubbard, Johnson, Khan, Lloyd, Mahil, Maple, Murray, Osborne, Pendergast, Prenter, Price, Sands, Andy Stamp, Chrissy Stamp and Van Dyke. (21)

### **Decision:**

The Council approved an addition of £12.850million to the Splashes Redevelopment Scheme in the Capital Programme to enable development of the new Splashes Sports Centre.

## **121 IPM Southern Site Development**

### **Background:**

This report asked the Council to agree the borrowing of £12million against future capital receipts to fund a building (£8million) and car park (£4million) on the Southern Site of the Innovation Park Medway (IPM).

The report advised that IPM had been awarded a total of circa £10.3m external funding from the Government's Local Growth Fund (LGF) and Growing Places Fund (GPF) through the Southeast Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) for the enabling infrastructure on the IPM site, in addition to the Council borrowing against future business rates.

The report stated that IPM was a priority project for Medway Council, which would provide over 60,000sqm of high-quality innovative business space on an area of land mainly within Medway Council ownership. The Delivery and Investment Plan, agreed by Cabinet in June 2019, had set out the approach to delivery of the site.

## **Council, 21 July 2022**

The report had previously been considered by the Cabinet on 5 July 2022. The Cabinet decision was set out at section 7 of the report.

The Portfolio Holder for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships, Councillor Rodney Chambers OBE, supported by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty, proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

### **Decision:**

The Council agreed that the borrowing of £12million be added to the Capital Programme for the design and build of S1.1 and S1.2 (as set out in Appendix 1 to the report) to accommodate the anchor tenant (as set out in option 3.1.2 of the report).

## **122 Addition to the Capital Programme for the Redevelopment of Debenhams**

### **Background:**

This report asked the Council to agree an addition to the Capital Programme, to facilitate the redevelopment of the former Debenhams site.

The report advised that the regeneration of the former Debenhams building provided a valuable opportunity to proactively diversify the high street, providing an active frontage and residential development in the heart of Chatham. The redevelopment of Debenhams would unlock a key strategic site in Chatham high street. It would enable a currently vacant brownfield site to be brought back into use and increase the provision of much needed residential use and diversification of commercial space. It was proposed that residential development be delivered above the ground floor commercial space.

An exempt appendix to the report set out details of the costs of the redevelopment of the Debenhams building.

The report had previously been considered by the Cabinet on 5 July 2022. The Cabinet decision was set out at section 5 of the report.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jarrett, supported by the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

Councillor Curry, supported by Councillor Adeoye, proposed the following amendment:

Add to the recommendations:

- 10.2 "Council agrees for a feasibility study to be produced looking at the move of Chatham Library/Community Hub from its current location to be part of the ground floor non-residential section of this development in the heart of Chatham High Street. This study will be received by the Regeneration,

## **Council, 21 July 2022**

Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee prior to Cabinet.”

Amended recommendations read:

- 10.1 The Council is recommended to approve the addition of £17,878,916 from short-term borrowing (to be repaid from future capital receipts generated by the site) to the Capital Programme for the redevelopment of the former Debenhams site.
- 10.2 Council agrees for a feasibility study to be produced looking at the move of Chatham Library/Community Hub from its current location to be part of the ground floor non-residential section of this development in the heart of Chatham High Street. This study will be received by the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee prior to Cabinet.

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

### **Decision:**

The Council approved the addition of £17,878,916 from short-term borrowing (to be repaid from future capital receipts generated by the site) to the Capital Programme for the redevelopment of the former Debenhams site.

## **123 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places**

### **Background:**

This report recommended that the Council agree a revised schedule of polling districts and polling places to reflect the new Ward boundaries that would come into place for the Local and Parish elections on 4 May 2023.

The report also updated the Council on the likely allocation of polling stations by the Returning Officer in preparation for those elections.

The Portfolio Holder for Business Management, Councillor Hackwell, supported by Councillor Buckwell, proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

### **Decision:**

The Council:

- a) Approved the scheme of Polling Districts and Polling Places, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, in respect of Parliamentary elections and to designate the Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places as the Polling Districts and Polling Places for Local Government elections.
- b) Noted the designation of all polling stations recommended by the Returning Officer as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

## **Council, 21 July 2022**

- c) Authorised the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Informal Working Group on Polling Districts and Polling Places to designate a Polling Place where no suitable polling station is available within the original Polling Place.
- d) Noted that the Chief Executive would consult with the Informal Working Group on Polling Districts and Polling Places if it is necessary to change any polling stations prior to the elections on 4 May 2023.

### **124 Scheme of Delegations - Regulatory Services**

#### **Background:**

This report sought Council approval to delegate authority to the Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive to amend non-executive functions within the Employee Scheme of Delegations, with regards to Regulatory Services in the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Directorate.

The report had been considered by the Cabinet on 10 May 2022. The Cabinet had agreed an officer delegation in relation to executive functions within the Employee Scheme of Delegations and recommended approval to Full Council of an officer delegation in relation to non-executive functions. The Cabinet decision was set out at section 5 of the report.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, Councillor Chitty, supported by the Portfolio Holder for Business Management, Councillor Hackwell, proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

#### **Decision:**

The Council agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive to exercise and to delegate to officers at an appropriate grade the non-executive functions set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report.

### **125 Health and Wellbeing Board - Review of Terms of Reference**

#### **Background:**

This report recommended proposed changes to the Health and Wellbeing Board's terms of reference and membership following the establishment of NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board on 1 July 2022.

The Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services, Councillor Brake, supported by the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

#### **Decision:**

The Council agreed the revisions to the Health and Wellbeing Board's terms of reference and membership, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

## **126 Use of Urgency Provisions**

### **Discussion:**

This report provided details of recent usage of urgency provisions contained within the Constitution.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jarrett, supported by the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Councillor Doe, proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

### **Decision:**

The Council noted the report with regards to the use of urgency provisions set out in the report.

## **127 Motions**

### **A) Councillor Sands, supported by Councillor Pendergast, submitted the following:**

“This Council, acting as landowner, commits to the following sites (in their entirety) remaining in the Council's ownership until further notice:

1. Capstone Farm Country Park site (approximately 281 acres).
2. Former Deangate Ridge Golf Course site (approximately 170 acres).
3. Great Lines Heritage Park site (approximately 170 acres).
4. Riverside Country Park site (approximately 247 acres).”

### **Decision:**

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was agreed.

### **B) Councillor Hackwell, supported by Councillor Lammas, Submitted the following:**

“This Council appreciates the initiative of those litter pickers across Medway who have set up voluntary groups to remove litter and restore Medway's clean streets together with the efforts of our own street scene team and our community wardens. We hope to reinforce the idea that residents and visitors to Medway should not litter and there will be consequences for their actions, helping to maintain Medway as a family & child-friendly city.

To support this aim, we, as a Council, commit to advertising the below fines on our Council owned assets:

- Maximum fine of £2,500 for littering
- Unlimited fine and/or prospect of 5 years imprisonment for flytipping
- Maximum fine for graffiti is unlimited and/or imprisonment

## Council, 21 July 2022

This Council agrees to advertising these fines on our assets, as appropriate and that this will have a marked impact on helping to keep Medway a clean and welcoming place.”

Councillor Curry, supported by Councillor Cooper, proposed the following amendment:

To add an additional paragraph to the end of the Motion:

“This Council further notes that the incidents of fly tipping and anti-social behaviour have increased since this Council moved away from its policy of one Council warden linked to each ward. Therefore, this Council commits to the reintroduction of a council warden linked to each ward.”

Amended Motion reads:

“This Council appreciates the initiative of those litter pickers across Medway who have set up voluntary groups to remove litter and restore Medway’s clean streets together with the efforts of our own street scene team and our community wardens. We hope to reinforce the idea that residents and visitors to Medway should not litter and there will be consequences for their actions, helping to maintain Medway as a family & child-friendly city.

To support this aim, we, as a Council, commit to advertising the below fines on our Council owned assets:

- Maximum fine of £2,500 for littering
- Unlimited fine and/or prospect of 5 years imprisonment for flytipping
- Maximum fine for graffiti is unlimited and/or imprisonment

This Council agrees to advertising these fines on our assets, as appropriate and that this will have a marked impact on helping to keep Medway a clean and welcoming place.

This Council further notes that the incidents of fly tipping and anti-social behaviour have increased since this Council moved away from its policy of one Council warden linked to each ward. Therefore, this Council commits to the reintroduction of a Council warden linked to each ward.”

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

### **Decision:**

On being put to the vote, the substantive motion was carried.

“This Council appreciates the initiative of those litter pickers across Medway who have set up voluntary groups to remove litter and restore Medway’s clean streets together with the efforts of our own street scene team and our community wardens. We hope to reinforce the idea that residents and visitors

## Council, 21 July 2022

to Medway should not litter and there will be consequences for their actions, helping to maintain Medway as a family & child-friendly city.

To support this aim, we, as a Council, commit to advertising the below fines on our Council owned assets:

- Maximum fine of £2,500 for littering
- Unlimited fine and/or prospect of 5 years imprisonment for flytipping
- Maximum fine for graffiti is unlimited and/or imprisonment

This Council agrees to advertising these fines on our assets, as appropriate and that this will have a marked impact on helping to keep Medway a clean and welcoming place.”

### **C) Councillor Murray, supported by Councillor Van Dyke, has submitted the following:**

“The Council notes that:

- The ongoing cost-of-living crisis has seen household fuel bills soar to the highest levels in history forcing people to decide whether to eat or heat their homes and excluding many from internet access because they can no longer afford the payments.
- The government’s planned rebate will do little to help to those living with meters in their rooms in HMOs or anyone who relies on pre-payment meters who already pay more. The rebate is being paid via household electricity bills and there is no decision on whether prepayments will be credited or vouchers issued. Furthermore, there is no obligation on landlords who include the cost of gas and electricity in tenants’ bills to pass the rebate on.
- Those excluded from the rebate are often from the most economically disadvantaged sectors of our community.
- The impact of the cost-of-living crisis on sick and disabled people has been grossly underestimated. According to Disability Rights UK spending on this group of people has been cut by £5 billion over the last decade and they are the hardest hit by Austerity. Since April 2017 new claimants have £30 per week less and Universal Credit has excluded the severe disability premium worth around £65 per week to those formerly entitled to it. Disabled people have higher household fuel costs because they often need additional heating and water or to have to run life saving equipment such as oxygen ventilators or dialysis machines.

To address these inequalities and ensure meaningful help is forthcoming the Council resolves to:

- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nadhim Zahawi, condemning the decision to exclude vulnerable people from meaningful support with

## Council, 21 July 2022

the cost-of-living crisis and calling for an emergency budget to address these inequalities by increasing cost of living help payments available to sick and disabled people with immediate effect and reinstating the £20 per week addition paid during the covid crisis for Universal credit claimants.

- Write to the three Medway MPs asking them to support the Council's call for an emergency budget.
- Produce and publicise an information leaflet for private sector landlords in Medway who charge for household fuel as part of rent urging them to pass on the rebate to their tenants especially those in shared houses or HMOs."

In accordance with Rule 12.4 of the Council Rules, a recorded vote on the motion was taken.

For: Councillors Adeoye, Browne, Cooper, Curry, Edwards, Howcroft-Scott, Hubbard, Johnson, Khan, Lloyd, Mahil, Maple, Murray, Osborne, Prenter, Price, Andy Stamp, Chrissy Stamp and Van Dyke. (19)

Against: Councillors Ahmed, Aldous, Barrett, Brake, Buckwell, Carr, Mrs Diane Chambers, Rodney Chambers, Chitty, Clarke, Doe, Fearn, Griffin, Hackwell, Mrs Josie Iles, Jarrett, Kemp, Lamma, Opara, Purdy, Tejan, Thompson, Thorne, Tranter, Mrs Elizabeth Turpin, Rupert Turpin and Wildey. (27)

Abstain: None

**Note:** In addition to the Councillors named in the minutes of agenda item no. 2, Apologies for Absence, Councillors Pendergast, Sands and Williams were not present for the recorded vote.

### **Decision:**

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was lost.

### **Mayor**

### **Date:**

### **Wayne Hemingway, Head of Democratic Services**

Telephone: 01634 332509

Email: [democratic.services@medway.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@medway.gov.uk)

### **Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officer**

Telephone: 01634 332715

Email: [democratic.services@medway.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@medway.gov.uk)