

**Motions**

**Motion A - Councillor Gulvin has submitted the following:**

**Background:**

1. Voluntary groups in Medway are responsible for a significant proportion of the cleanliness of Medway's environment. Voluntary groups more generally contribute greatly to the upkeep of our parks and other open spaces which are enjoyed by our residents.
2. The hours worked by Medway's volunteers are a significant and underappreciated resource. At a time when budgets are tight, their contribution is worth more than ever to us all.
3. In Lordswood and Walderslade, the local litter picking group over the last two and a half years have made a huge contribution to making the area clean and tidy. It is a great shame that they are no longer able to provide this service to our community.

**Full Council resolves to:**

1. Thank voluntary groups for the work they do here in Medway.
2. Request the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration to engage with the Lordswood and Walderslade litter picking group to resolve the present situation which has halted their operations.

**Motion B – Councillor Spalding has submitted the following:**

Medway Council should scrap plans to introduce Red Routes into Medway and use part of the cost savings to fund Christmas Lights this year, not just in the five towns but also in the rural communities as well.

**Motion C – Councillor Pearce has submitted the following:**

This Council welcomes and supports the inclusion of the proposed East Coast Wetlands designation, covering wetland habitat from the Humber to the Thames and Medway estuaries, on the UK's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites.

Inclusion on this exclusive list is the first step towards joining UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) World Heritage List, which recognises cultural and natural heritage across the globe considered to be of outstanding universal value to humanity.

The application was initiated in 2022 by the RSPB, National Trust and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), with endorsement from local authorities and The Crown Estate, following a report authored by marine and coastal habitat consultants ABPmer - which highlighted the area as one of the world's most important places for nature.

This Council will work with a group of partners to enable a full proposal to be developed, alongside local communities and conservation organisations, and submit this to UNESCO for consideration over the coming years.

## **Motion D – Councillor Maple has submitted the following:**

### **Full Council notes that:**

1. Local government fulfils a vital role and should be funded in such a manner as to enable it to continue to do so.
2. Since 2010, Medway Council has seen a 91% reduction to its revenue support grant from Government.
3. Councils now face a funding gap of £3.19 billion for 2023-24. In Medway this is set to be between £7m and £15m.
4. The gap is likely to increase to £5 billion in 2024-25 without considering increased energy costs and inflationary pressures. In Medway this is set to be £39m.

### **Full Council believes that:**

1. Councils will be confronted with the unacceptable choice of cutting services.
2. Councils will have to use already worryingly declining reserves to balance their budgets.
3. Councils will be forced to sell off valuable assets, which can only be used to help balance budgets once.

### **Full Council resolves to:**

Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ensure that adequate funding is provided to local authorities as part of the Autumn Statement, in order to ensure that local authority budgets are future-proofed against the need to cut jobs and services in the short, medium and long term.