



## Record of Cabinet decisions

**Tuesday, 27 August 2024**

**7.00pm to 7.58pm**

**Date of publication: 30 August 2024**

**Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 9 September 2024  
The record of decisions is subject to approval at the next meeting of the Cabinet**

<b>Present:</b>	Councillor Vince Maple	Leader of the Council
	Councillor Tracy Coombs	Portfolio Holder for Education
	Councillor Simon Curry	Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration
	Councillor Nina Gurung	Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture and Leisure
	Councillor Alex Paterson	Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement
	Councillor Louwella Prenter	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness
	Councillor Adam Price	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (including statutory responsibility)
	Councillor Zoë Van Dyke	Portfolio Holder for Business Management

**In Attendance:** Richard Hicks, Chief Executive  
Lee-Anne Farach, Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive  
Ruth Du-Lieu, Deputy Director of Place  
Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director, Legal and Governance  
Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officer  
Phil Watts, Chief Operating Officer

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mahil and Murray.

### **Record of decisions**

The record of the meeting held on 30 July 2024 was agreed by the Cabinet and signed by the Leader as correct.

## Cabinet, 27 August 2024

### Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

#### Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

#### Other significant interests (OSIs)

There were none.

#### Other interests

There were none.

### Protest of the 7 August 2024

#### **Background:**

This report provided the Cabinet with an overview of a protest that had taken place in Medway on the evening of Wednesday 7 August 2024. This had involved approximately 150 individuals, consisting of protestors and a group of anti-protestors. The situation had been successfully managed by Kent Police and had culminated in three arrests confirmed for public order offences. There had been no substantive violence, injuries or damage to property.

Thanks were given to colleagues across the Council, in particular the Community Safety and Communications teams and to Kent Police, for their work in addressing the protest and dealing with associated issues. It was highlighted that thuggery and anti-social behaviour were not acceptable in Medway.

#### ***Decision number:***

#### ***Decision:***

**The Cabinet noted and recognised the Authority's excellent record on community cohesion and the work of the Council, Kent Police, Partner agencies, Community & Faith Groups and our community in responding to the challenges of the events of the protest on the 7 August 2024.**

**The Cabinet noted and supported a workshop on community cohesion in Medway.**

**The Cabinet noted and supported a reflective exercise by officers and key partners in considering any lessons learnt from the management of the events of the 7 August 2024.**

#### **Reasons:**

To provide the Cabinet with an update on the protest that took place in Medway on 7 August 2024.

## Medium Term Financial Outlook 2024-2029

### Background:

This report set out initial projections of the Council's income and of the cost of services for 2025/26 and across the medium term.

The report provided details of initial projections which indicated a potential budget gap for 2025/26 of £28.844million, or £45.147million excluding Exceptional Financial Support (EFS). This cumulative projected gap rose to £114.205million across the medium term (£140.807million excluding EFS in 2025/26). Difficult decisions would be needed to ensure that the Council spent money and generated income efficiently.

Progress in reducing the projected gap would be reflected in the Draft Budget 2025/26 which would be presented to the Cabinet in November 2024.

It was noted that the new Government had highlighted the prospect of additional powers and resources being granted to local authorities. While the Council was keen to explore what this could mean in practice, Medway would not want to see the creation of an elected Mayor of Kent and Medway or for there to be local government reorganisation in Medway.

### **Decision number:**

### **Decision:**

**The Cabinet noted the initial projected budget requirement, the Council's resource assumptions, the resultant draft projected budget shortfall for 2025/26 of £45.147million and a cumulative £140.808million shortfall over the medium term.**

**108/2024**

**The Cabinet agreed the indicative 2025/26 directorate resource envelopes, as set out at Appendix 9b of the 2024/25 Budget report and in table 1 of the report, which assumed a further application for 'exceptional financial support'.**

**The Cabinet noted that directorate management teams would work with Portfolio Holders to identify savings and income generation proposals in order to balance the 2025/26 budget within the directorate resources envelopes.**

### **Reasons:**

The Medium Term Financial Outlook (MTFO) provides the framework that underpins the budget setting process for 2025/26 and beyond.

## Cabinet, 27 August 2024

### **Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Neighbourhood Plan - request to send to Referendum**

#### **Background:**

This report considered the outcomes of the independent examination of the Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Neighbourhood Plan. It set out the Examiner's assessment of the submitted plan, and his recommendations, which included a number of modifications to the plan to improve clarity and compliance with national planning policy.

The report explained that the Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Neighbourhood Area had formally been designated by the Council in December 2018 for the purposes of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The work had been led by the Neighbourhood Planning group set up by Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Parish Council.

Following iterative consultation, the Parish Council had submitted its draft plan to Medway Council in October 2023. The Council had published the draft plan for representations at Regulation 16 in January 2024. The plan had then been submitted for examination in Spring 2024.

It was recommended that the Cabinet accept the Examiner's recommendations and approve sending the plan to referendum.

#### ***Decision number:***

#### ***Decision:***

**109/2024**

**The Cabinet approved that the Neighbourhood Plan be modified in accordance with the Examiner's report, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, and that the Neighbourhood Plan as modified should proceed to Referendum.**

#### **Reasons:**

To enable timely decision making in the Neighbourhood Plan process.

### **Annual Fostering Report 2023-2024**

#### **Background:**

This report provided details of the work completed by the Fostering Service over the last year (April 2023 to March 2024), how it had met the needs of Medway's looked after children and detailed the work which should be undertaken in the coming year.

The annual report had been considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 August 2024, details of which were set in section 8 of the report.

## Cabinet, 27 August 2024

**Decision  
number:**

**Decision:**

**The Cabinet noted the comments made by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in section 8 of the report.**

**The Cabinet noted the Fostering Service Annual Report 2023-2024.**

**Reasons:**

The National Minimum Standards for Fostering (2011) require that Fostering Agencies report the activity of the fostering service to its governing bodies.

### **Adoption Partnership South East, Regional Adoption Agency Annual Report 2023/2024**

**Background:**

This Regional Adoption Agency, comprising of the London Borough of Bexley, Kent County Council and Medway Council had been formed in September 2020. Its Annual Report, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, provided information and an overview of the service, performance set against government targets and service and practice development for the period April 2023 to March 2024.

The report had previously been considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 August 2024 and its comments were set out in section 4 of the report.

**Decision  
number:**

**Decision:**

**The Cabinet noted the comments made by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in section 8 of the report.**

**The Cabinet noted the annual report, as set out at Appendix 1, which outlined the activity that had taken place across the Adoption Partnership South East between April 2023 – March 2024.**

**Reasons:**

Statutory guidance requires adoption agencies to report on adoption agency activity in the previous year.

## Cabinet, 27 August 2024

### Gateway 3 Contract Award: Assessment Bed Service

#### Background:

This report requested the Cabinet's agreement to approve the contract award for the Assessment Bed Service.

The report advised that the provision of the Assessment Bed Service was key to Medway Council achieving its strategic objective of ensuring adults maintained their independence in the community and lived healthy lives.

An exempt Appendix to the report set out financial analysis in relation to the procurement and recommended the provider the contract should be awarded to.

#### **Decision number:**

#### **Decision:**

**110/2024**

The Cabinet agreed to award the contract for the Assessment Bed Service to Agincare Homes Holdings Ltd as they had been evaluated as the most economically advantageous against the Council's award criteria as per the evaluation table set out in the Exempt Appendix.

#### Reasons:

The procurement of the Assessment Bed Service will deliver a service that will enable the following:

**Outcomes Focused Care** – To ensure the care received supports the achievement of individual outcomes to maximise independence, wellbeing and choice.

**Introduce an Alternative Pathway** – Working alongside existing rehabilitation and reablement services, to maximise options in our local health and social care system.

**Maximise Independence** – For residents, who, following a stay in the service return to their own home; requiring none, or some ongoing care, or discharged into alternative accommodation in the community e.g. extra care, or residential care.

**Digital Innovation/Transformation** – To ensure that patients returning home are supported to remain as independent with the use of assistive technology, such as Telecare or Telehealth equipment.

**Cabinet, 27 August 2024**

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**Leader of the Council**

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**Date**

**Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officer/Vanessa Etheridge, Democratic Services Officer**

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