

Medway Council
Meeting of Medway Council
Thursday, 27 February 2025
7.00pm to 11.19pm

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 Nestorov) The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Hamandishe) Councillors Anang, Animashaun, Barrett, Bowen, Brake, Browne, Campbell, Clarke, Cook, Coombs, Crozer, Curry, Doe, Etheridge, Fearn, Field, Finch, Gilbourne, Gulvin, Gurung, Hackwell, Hamilton, Howcroft-Scott, Hubbard, Hyne, Jackson, Jones, Joy, Kemp, Lammas, Lawrence, Mahil, Mandaracas, Maple, McDonald, Murray, Myton, Nestorova, Paterson, Peake, Pearce, Perfect, Louwella Prenter, Mark Prenter, Price, Sands, Shokar, Spalding, Spring, Stamp, Tejan, Mrs Turpin, Van Dyke, Vye, Wildey and Williams
In Attendance:	Richard Hicks, Chief Executive Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director, Legal and Governance Wayne Hemingway, Head of Democratic Services Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officer Phil Watts, Chief Operating Officer

722 Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Filmer.

723 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

The Monitoring Officer had provided Members with detailed advice regarding the issue of Members' interests and had agreed a number of dispensations to all Members of the Council to participate, debate and vote on the budget reports, where a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or an Other Significant Interest (OSI) arose from the circumstances set out in paragraph 4 of his written advice.

Councillor Spalding declared a DPI in relation to agenda item nos. 7 (Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025/2026) and 9 (Capital and Revenue Budget 2025/26). This was with regards Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Councillor Spalding left the room during discussion and determination of item no.7. He remained in the room during discussion of item 9 but did not participate in determination of these items.

Council, 27 February 2025

The following Members declared interests in agenda item No.9 (Capital and Revenue Budget 2025/26) as they owned more than one property in Medway, either personally or through business / charitable interests. These Members had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer: Councillors Brake, Browne, Coombs, Gulvin, Hackwell, Hamandishe, Nestorov, Nestorova, Tejan and Mrs Turpin.

The following Members declared interests in agenda item No.9 (Capital and Revenue Budget 2025/26) as governors / having positions of management control within schools / academy trusts in Medway. These Members had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer: Councillors Cook, Field, Joy, Lawrence, McDonald, Nestorov, Peake and Perfect.

The following Members declared interests in agenda item No.7 (Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025 / 2026) as they were in receipt of council tax reduction / exemption. These Members had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer: Councillors Crozer and Price.

The following Members declared interests in agenda item No.9 (Capital and Revenue Budget 2025/26) due to their positions as trustees of charities in Medway. These Members had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer: Councillors Brake, Hackwell, Maple, Paterson, Price and Mandaracas.

Councillor Crozer declared an OSI in Agenda item No.9 (Capital and Revenue Budget 2025/26) as he was the Chair of AMAT UK and advised that he had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer.

Councillor Gilbourne declared an OSI in Agenda item No.9 (Capital and Revenue Budget 2025/26) as he and his wife were allotment holders at Chapel Lane allotments and advised that he had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer.

Councillor Mandaracas declared an interest in relation to agenda item No.9 (Capital and Revenue Budget 2025/26) as she is a Council tenant. A dispensation had been granted by the Monitoring Officer.

Other interests

Councillor Van Dyke declared an interest in relation to agenda item No.11 (Pay Policy Statement 2025 / 2026) as she was in receipt of a pension from the Unison trade union.

724 Record of meeting

The record of the Full Council meeting held on 23 January 2025 was approved and signed by Worshipful the Mayor as correct.

725 Mayor's announcements

The Worshipful The Mayor of Medway welcomed the three new Councillors, David Finch, Liubov Nestorova and John Vye to their first Council meeting, since having been elected earlier in February 2025.

The Mayor said that it was now three years since the war in Ukraine had begun. Medway had welcomed nearly 800 Ukrainians who had fled the war, offering them safety and support under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

The Mayor reminded Members of the Annual Mayor's Ball, which would take place on 11 April 2025. Tickets were available from his office.

The Mayor proposed to suspend Council Rule 11.1.1 in respect of time limits on speeches in relation to agenda item 9 (Capital and Revenue Budget 2025/26 to allow one Member from each Group to speak for an unlimited time. The normal time limits would then apply. This was agreed.

726 Leader's announcements

The Leader welcomed the three new Councillors to Medway and gave a message of solidarity that Medway stood with Ukraine.

The Leader provided an update on devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. It had been disappointing that Medway and the 13 other areas had not been successful in their request to join the Devolution Priority Programme. He congratulated neighbouring Essex and Sussex which had had their applications accepted. Council Members and officers were thanked for their work on Medway's submission which the Leader considered to have been excellent.

Local authorities had been invited by the Government to consider participating in local government reorganisation. The first key milestone was 21 March 2025 which was deadline for an initial declaration to be submitted. A more detailed submission would be due by 28 November 2025.

A report would be submitted to the Cabinet meeting on 11 March 2025 to provide an update on local government reorganisation and devolution, setting out the next steps for developing plans for local government reorganisation in Kent and Medway. A special meeting of Full Council would be held ahead of the 28 November deadline.

727 Nomination of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2025 / 2026

It was noted that the Conservative Group had accepted the right to nominate a candidate for the Mayoralty in 2025/2026. Councillor Clarke was nominated as the candidate to be the Mayor for 2025/2026 and Councillor Spring as the candidate to be the Deputy Mayor.

728 Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025 / 2026

Background:

This report set out the proposed changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS), which reflected income bands being uprated for Consumer Price Inflation, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report. The Council was asked to approve the changes for the 2025/26 financial year.

The report also referred to the permanent discretionary policy for care leavers which sat outside of the Council tax Reduction scheme and formed a significant part of the Council's Local Offer to care leavers.

A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) had been completed for the proposed Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2025/26 and was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

The report had been considered by the Cabinet on 11 February 2025, details of which were set out in section 6 of the report.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, supported by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Murray, proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

Decisions:

- a) The Council noted the decisions of the Cabinet, as set out at section 6 of the report.
- b) The Council agreed to adopt the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) 2025/26, reflecting income bands uprated for CPI, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- c) The Council noted the impact of the Care Leavers Discretionary Council Tax Policy agreed in February 2023.

729 Treasury Management Strategy 2025 / 2026

Background:

This report presented the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for the 2025/26 financial year. The Treasury Management Strategy incorporated within it the Treasury Management Policy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy.

The Strategy had been prepared in line with CIPFA's Local Authority Treasury Management Code and set out the Council's borrowing requirement and strategy in respect of investments. It also provided details of the Council's current portfolio position and set out the prudential and treasury indicators that would be used to monitor and measure treasury performance.

Council, 27 February 2025

The report had previously been considered by the Audit Committee on 28 January 2025 and by the Cabinet on 11 February 2025, the comments and decisions of which were set out in sections 5 and 6 of the report.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken on the Treasury Management Strategy, as set out in Appendix B to the report.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, supported by Councillor Browne, proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

Decisions:

- a) The Council noted the comments of the Audit Committee, as set out in section 5 of the report and the decisions of the Cabinet, as set out in section 6 of the report.
- b) The Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25, as set out in Appendix A to the report.

730 Capital and Revenue Budget 2025 / 2026

Background:

The Mayor advised that Members of the Council who had two or more months of council tax arrears would not be permitted to vote on the Council budget.

This report set out Cabinet's proposals for the Capital and Revenue Budget for 2025/26. In accordance with the Constitution, Council was required to approve the Capital and Revenue Budget, rent increases and Council Tax for 2025/26.

The Cabinet had considered initial budget proposals on 19 November 2024. On 18 December 2024 the Government published the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. Details of the funding announcements and their impact on Medway Council's budget were set out in a report considered by the Cabinet on 14 January 2025.

The majority of allocations for Medway for 2024/25 had been confirmed as per those in the Provisional Settlement, so the extent to which the announcements impacted Medway's Budget was minimal. This had been set out in an Addendum Report to the Proposed Budget presented to Cabinet on 11 February 2025.

It was noted that the Cabinet had determined not to support the recommendation made by the Employment Matters Committee on 29 January 2025 that the offer of a leisure membership discount be made to Medway Councillors.

In accordance with the budget and policy framework rules within the Constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees had then considered the

Council, 27 February 2025

Cabinet's proposals prior to Cabinet's consideration of the draft budget on 11 February 2025.

It was noted that an overarching Diversity Impact Assessment, as set out in Appendix 11 to the report, summarised the results of Diversity Impact Assessments. These had been completed for each of the services affected by the proposed budget changes.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, supported by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Murray, proposed the recommendations set out in the report, subject to the following alteration:

Revised recommendation 1.2 as follows [change is shown as a bold underline]

“Approve the general fund gross, income and net revenue estimates as summarised in Table 1 of this report in the revised sum of £496.441 million, including the following addition to be funded from reserves, (noting that an announcement on Government funding for this purpose is currently awaited):

£50,000 – VE and VJ celebrations.”

Revised recommendation 1.3 as follows:

“Approve the recommendations of the Employment Matters Committee on 29 January 2025 as set out in Section 7 of this report:

- a) a 5% increase for all staff on MedPay terms and conditions, which includes those on MedPay Performance, Progression Pay Scheme as well as those who are on the legacy scheme.
- b) not to increase sleep-in payments.
- c) not to return to National Joint Council pay scales currently, but keep negotiations open on this matter.
- d) an additional ‘wellbeing’ day to be awarded on a colleague’s birthday to be taken on the day or close to the birthday as agreed with line management.
- e) to offer a salary sacrifice Cycle to Work scheme with a scheme partner for an initial term of two years.
- f) to implement a shared cost Additional Voluntary Contribution scheme with My Money Matters, formerly AVC Wise for an initial term of three years.
- g) to offer a 50% discount on annual single premier membership to our leisure centres annual admission membership and a 25% discount on family and joint memberships, with no monthly membership falling below £20, for Medway Council employees only to Medway Leisure

Council, 27 February 2025

Centres.

- h) to align the Children and Adults social care pay scales, for the reasons set out in Appendix 4 to the report [presented to Employment Matters Committee on 29 January 2025].
- i) to align the Joint National Committee Youth and Community Workers terms and conditions except for automatic increments, as agreed at [Employment Matters] Committee on 4 December 2024.

Please note: recommendations 1.1 and 1.4-1.14 remain as set out in pages 186-187 of the Agenda".

Councillor Hackwell, supported by Councillor Lawrence, proposed the following amendment:

Amendment to recommendation 1.2:

"Approve the general fund gross, income and net revenue estimates as summarised in Table 1 of this report in the sum of £496,441 £489,873 million, **thereby achieving savings of £6.568million and reducing the requirement for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from £18.484million to £11.916million achieved by:**

<u>Savings</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Reduce staff salary increase from 5% to 2.5%, and introduce a provision of £500,000 skills shortage allowance for hard to recruit posts</u>	<u>2,481,000</u>
<u>Nil pay rise for Chief Executive, Directors and Assistant Directors</u>	<u>89,000</u>
<u>Reduce increase in Councillors' Allowances from 5% to 2.5% (in line with revised staff salary increase)</u>	<u>25,000</u>
<u>Reduce Medway 2.0 Programme</u>	<u>250,000</u>
<u>Staff Reduction</u>	<u>1,800,000</u>
<u>Reduction in LGR team</u>	<u>300,000</u>
<u>Delay Children's Services aiming for Outstanding (Ofsted)</u>	<u>1,581,000</u>
<u>Annual Reduction in interest on EFS @4.50%</u>	<u>385,000</u>
Total savings	6,911,000

<u>New spend</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Enhance School Holiday Clubs</u>	<u>100,000</u>
<u>Re-introduce free swimming for Under 11s after school, term time only, Monday-Friday</u>	<u>53,000</u>
<u>Free parking for 30 minutes in the following car parks:</u>	<u>190,000</u>
<u>Cricketers (Rainham)</u>	
<u>Longley Road (Rainham)</u>	
<u>Littlewoods (Gillingham)</u>	
<u>Jeffery Street (Gillingham)</u>	

Commercial Road (Strood)	
Total new spend	343,000”

Amendment to recommendation 1.3:

“Approve the recommendations of the Employment Matters Committee on 29 January 2025 as set out in section 7 of the report subject to amending recommendation 1.3a to read:

a) a 2.5% increase for all staff on MedPay terms and conditions, which includes those who are on the legacy scheme.”

Amended recommendation reads:

Amendment to recommendation 1.2:

“Approve the general fund gross, income and net revenue estimates as summarised in Table 1 of this report in the sum of £489.873million, thereby achieving savings of £6.568million and reducing the requirement for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from £18.484million to £11.916million achieved by:

Savings	£
Reduce staff salary increase from 5% to 2.5%, and introduce a provision of £500,000 skills shortage allowance for hard to recruit posts	2,481,000
Nil pay rise for Chief Executive, Directors and Assistant Directors	89,000
Reduce increase in Councillors' Allowances from 5% to 2.5% (in line with revised staff salary increase)	25,000
Reduce Medway 2.0 Programme	250,000
Staff Reduction	1,800,000
Reduction in LGR team	300,000
Delay Children's Services aiming for Outstanding (Ofsted)	1,581,000
Annual Reduction in interest on EFS @4.50%	385,000
Total savings	6,911,000

New spend	£
Enhance School Holiday Clubs	100,000
Re-introduce free swimming for Under 11s after school, term time only, Monday-Friday	53,000
Free parking for 30 minutes in the following car parks: Cricketers (Rainham) Longley Road (Rainham) Littlewoods (Gillingham) Jeffery Street (Gillingham) Commercial Road (Strood)	190,000
Total new spend	343,000”

Council, 27 February 2025

Amendment to recommendation 1.3:

“Approve the recommendations of the Employment Matters Committee on 29 January 2025 as set out in section 7 of the report subject to amending recommendation 1.3a to read:

- a) a 2.5% increase for all staff on MedPay terms and conditions, which includes those who are on the legacy scheme.”

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

For – Councillors Anang, Barrett, Brake, Clarke, Doe, Etheridge, Fearn, Finch, Gilbourne, Gulvin, Hackwell, Hyne, Joy, Kemp, Lammas, Lawrence, Perfect, Spring, Tejan, Vye and Wildey. (21)

Against – Councillors Animashaun, Bowen, Browne, Campbell, Cook, Coombs, Crozer, Curry, Field, Gurung, Hamandishe, Hamilton, Howcroft-Scott, Hubbard, Jackson, Jones, Mahil, Mandaracas, Maple, McDonald, Murray, Myton, Nestorov, Nestorova, Paterson, Peake, Pearce, Louwella Prenter, Mark Prenter, Price, Sands, Shokar, Stamp, Mrs Turpin, Van Dyke and Williams. (36)

Abstain: None

The amendment was lost.

Note: Councillor Spalding did not take part in the recorded vote.

Councillor Pearce, supported by Councillor Mrs Turpin, proposed the following amendment:

Amendment to recommendation 1.2:

“Approve the general fund gross, income and net revenue estimates as summarised in Table 1 of this report in the sum of £496.441million subject to the following amendments:

<u>Savings</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Remove “Additional permanent resource to meet growing service demand for marketing support to help services meet objectives and income targets”</u>	<u>424,000</u>
<u>Remove “Additional resource to support devolution and local government reorganisation”</u>	<u>450,000</u>
Total savings	874,000

<u>New spend</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Add free swimming for under 16s and over 60s</u>	<u>414,759</u>
<u>Add free parking at country parks</u>	<u>210,000</u>
<u>Add the reintroduction of the English and Dickens Festivals</u>	<u>138,490</u>

Council, 27 February 2025

<u>Add additional funding for pothole repairs</u>	55,375.50
<u>Add additional funding for Public Rights of Way</u>	55,375.50
Total new spend	874,000”

Amended recommendation reads:

Amendment to recommendation 1.2

“Approve the general fund gross, income and net revenue estimates as summarised in Table 1 of this report in the sum of £496.441million subject to the following amendments:

Savings	£
Remove “Additional permanent resource to meet growing service demand for marketing support to help services meet objectives and income targets”	424,000
Remove “Additional resource to support devolution and local government reorganisation”	450,000
Total savings	874,000

New spend	£
Add free swimming for under 16s and over 60s	414,759
Add free parking at country parks	210,000
Add the reintroduction of the English and Dickens Festivals	138,490
Add additional funding for pothole repairs	55,375.50
Add additional funding for Public Rights of Way	55,375.50
Total new spend	874,000”

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

For – Councillors Crozer, Finch, Pearce, Sands, Mrs Turpin, Vye and Williams. (7)

Against – Councillors Anang, Animashaun, Barrett, Bowen, Brake, Browne, Campbell, Clarke, Cook, Coombs, Curry, Doe, Etheridge, Fearn, Field, Gilbourne, Gulvin, Gurung, Hackwell, Hamindishe, Hamilton, Howcroft-Scott, Hubbard, Hyne, Jackson, Jones, Joy, Kemp, Lammas, Lawrence, Mahil, Mandaracas, Maple, McDonald, Murray, Myton, Nestorov, Nestorova, Paterson, Peake, Perfect, Louwella Prenter, Mark Prenter, Price, Shokar, Spring, Stamp, Tejan, Van Dyke and Wildey. (50)

Abstain: None

Note: Councillor Spalding did not take part in the recorded vote.

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

Council, 27 February 2025

For – Councillors Animashaun, Bowen, Browne, Campbell, Cook, Coombs, Crozer, Curry, Field, Gurung, Hamandishe, Hamilton, Howcroft-Scott, Hubbard, Jackson, Jones, Mahil, Mandaracas, Maple, McDonald, Murray, Myton, Nestorov, Nestorova, Paterson, Peake, Louwella Prenter, Mark Prenter, Price, Shokar, Stamp, and Van Dyke. (32)

Against – Councillors Anang, Barrett, Brake, Clarke, Doe, Etheridge, Fearn, Finch, Gilbourne, Gulvin, Hackwell, Hyne, Joy, Kemp, Lammas, Lawrence, Pearce, Perfect, Sands, Spring, Tejan, Mrs Turpin, Vye, Wildey and Williams. (25)

Abstain - None

Note: Councillor Spalding did not take part in the recorded vote.

On being put to the vote the proposal was agreed.

Decision:

- a) The Council approved the general fund gross, income and net revenue estimates, as summarised in Table 1 of the report in the revised sum of £496.441million, including the following addition to be funded from reserves (noting that an announcement on Government funding for this purpose was currently awaited):

£50,000 – VE and VJ celebrations.
- b) The Council approved the recommendations of the Employment Matters Committee on 29 January 2025 as set out in Section 7 of the report, subject to the agreed alteration to recommendation 1.3 g, decision no. 7 below [the effect of the alteration is that discounted Medway leisure centre membership would only be available to Council officers and not to Councillors]:
 - 1) a 5% increase for all staff on MedPay terms and conditions, which includes those on MedPay Performance, Progression Pay Scheme as well as those who are on the legacy scheme.
 - 2) not to increase sleep-in payments.
 - 3) not to return to National Joint Council pay scales currently, but keep negotiations open on this matter.
 - 4) an additional ‘wellbeing’ day to be awarded on a colleague’s birthday to be taken on the day or close to the birthday as agreed with line management.
 - 5) to offer a salary sacrifice Cycle to Work scheme with a scheme partner for an initial term of two years.
 - 6) to implement a shared cost Additional Voluntary Contribution

Council, 27 February 2025

scheme with My Money Matters, formerly AVC Wise for an initial term of three years.

- 7) to offer a 50% discount on annual single premier membership to our leisure centres annual admission membership and a 25% discount on family and joint memberships, with no monthly membership falling below £20, for Medway Council employees only to Medway Leisure Centres.
- 8) to align the Children and Adults social care pay scales, for the reasons set out in Appendix 4 to the report [presented to Employment Matters Committee on 29 January 2025].
- 9) to align the Joint National Committee Youth and Community Workers terms and conditions except for automatic increments, as agreed at [Employment Matters] Committee on 4 December 2024.

c) The Council approved the recommendations set out at Section 12 of the report with regard to the Housing Revenue Account and detailed in the following appendices:

- The proposed increase in rents as set out at Appendices 5A and 5B;
- The proposed service charges as set out at Appendix 5C;
- The budget proposed as summarised at Appendix 5D;
- The 30 year business plan projections at Appendix 5E.

d) The Council approved the recommendations of the Cabinet on 11 February 2025 for the following additions and removals from the Capital Programme, as set out in Section 11.2 of the report, as follows:

- 1) The addition to the Capital Programme of £43,647 of capital budget to the Hoo Dining and Changing scheme. £14,672 is to be funded from s106 developer contributions (MC/17/0962) and the remainder is to be funded from unallocated Basic Need grant.
- 2) The addition to the Capital Programme of £52,950 of capital budget to be allocated to the Maritime Academy Science Block scheme, funded by borrowing in advance of s106 developer contributions (MC/21/2225) which had not yet been received.
- 3) The removal from the Capital Programme of £2.4million for the Sir Joseph Williamson's SEND scheme from the Capital Programme. The service would request a new capital addition once an alternative grammar provision had been identified.
- 4) The removal from the Capital Programme of the remaining budget of £7,992 from the Building Maintenance scheme as this was now complete.

Council, 27 February 2025

- 5) The removal of the remaining budget of £100,000 from the Mobile Library scheme as this was no longer required with the addition of the Library Improvement Fund scheme to the Capital Programme.
- 6) The addition of £559,000 to the Mountbatten House Purchase scheme, funded by prudential borrowing, to cover the costs of holding the building for onward sale to Medway Development Company (MDC).
- e) The Council noted the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's precept requirement, as set out in Section 13.2 of the report.
- f) The Council noted the Kent Fire and Rescue Service precept requirement, as set out in Section 13.3 of the report.
- g) The Council noted the Parish Council precept requirements of £740,954, detailed in Section 13.4 of the report, noting that these reflected an anticipated precept for the Parish of St Mary Hoo of £18,486.
- h) The Council approved the basic rate of Council Tax at Band D for 2025/26, before adding the Police, Fire and Parish precepts, at £1,842.32, an increase of 4.994%, as set out in Section 14.1 of the report.
 - i) The Council adopted the formal Council Tax Resolution and schedule of Council Tax charges for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix 6A to the report, subject to incorporating the following amendments arising from the Full Council meeting:
Amount in paragraph 3(a), Appendix 6A becomes £641,649,954
Amount in paragraph 3(b), Appendix 6A becomes £471,230,960
 - j) The Council approved fees and charges, as recommended by Cabinet as part of the budget proposals, in the booklet 'Medway Council - Fees and Charges 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 7 to the report.
- K) The Council approved the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy, set out at Appendix 8 to the report.
- l) The Council approved the Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief Policy at Appendix 10 to the report.
- m) The Council noted the findings of the Diversity Impact Assessment, as set out in Appendix 11 to the report, and the proposal to continue, where necessary, to report through quarterly monitoring any further unidentified or unintentional impact.

731 One Medway Council Plan 2024 - 2028, 2025 - 2026 Key Performance Indicator Refresh

Background:

The report provided the Cabinet with the 2025-26 key performance indicator refresh for the One Medway Council Plan (OMCP) 2024-28.

The OMCP had been agreed at Full Council on 15 May 2024. It set out the Council's priorities over the next four years and included the indicators used to track performance. These indicators were refreshed annually.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken and was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

The report had previously been considered by the Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 January 2025 and by the Cabinet on 11 February 2025 and the comments of the Committee and decisions of the Cabinet were set out at sections 5 and 6 of the report respectively.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, supported by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, Councillor Curry, proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

Decisions:

- a) The Council noted the outcome and comments of the Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in section 5 of the report and the decisions of the Cabinet, as set out in section 6 of the report.
- b) The Council agreed the proposed changes to the key performance indicators that would be used to track performance of the One Medway Council Plan in 2025-26, as set out in Appendix 1 and section 3.7 to the report.
- c) The Council agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree new key performance indicators and interim targets where applicable, as set out in paragraph 3.8 of the report.

732 Pay Policy Statement 2025 / 2026

Background:

This report provided details of the Pay Policy Statement (PPS) for the financial year 2025/26, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011. It was noted that the PPS must be approved by a resolution of Full Council before it came into force and had to be prepared and approved before 31 March 2025 for the following financial year.

Council, 27 February 2025

The report had been considered by the Employment Matters Committee on 29 January 2025, details of which were set out in paragraphs 3.8 to 3.10 of the report.

The Chairperson of the Employment Matters Committee, Councillor Mark Prenter, supported by Councillor Bowen, proposed the recommendations, as set out in the report.

Decision:

The Council approved the Pay Policy Statement 2025/2026, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

733 Allocation of Committee Seats

Background:

This report set out the position regarding the overall allocation of seats on committees following the outcome of the recent by-elections and the subsequent creation of a new political group on the Council.

The result of these changes was that the Labour and Co-operative Group had lost five committee seats and no longer held a majority on all committees. This Group was also no longer entitled to three additional seats on the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee that facilitated a majority on the Committee.

Whilst the Conservative Group's and Independent Group's entitlement to committee seats was unchanged there were a couple of minor changes to which committees those seats were on. The Reform UK Group was entitled to four committee seats.

There were seven unallocated seats, none of the political groups nor the three Independent Members were entitled to these seats.

Councillor Peake, supported by Councillor Jones, proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

Decisions:

- a) The Council noted the review of the allocation of seats on the committees of the Council, as set out in section 4 of the report.
- b) The Council agreed the allocation of seats on the committees of the Council, as set out in Appendix B to the report.
- c) The Council agreed the allocation of seats to the bodies set out in paragraphs 4.7, 4.8.1 and 4.8.2 of the report.

Council, 27 February 2025

- d) The Council noted that the Chief Executive would use his delegated authority to make changes to committee memberships as a consequence of these changes.

Mayor

Date:

Wayne Hemingway, Head of Democratic Services

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