

Motions

Motion A – Councillor Finch has submitted the following:

This Council recognises the urgent need for fairer access to mobility support for residents facing serious but time-limited health conditions, such as cancer treatment or recovery from major injury, who currently fall outside the eligibility criteria of the national Blue Badge scheme.

We note the growing support for the *KentOnline “Blue Badge Battle”* campaign, including cross-party backing from all 18 Kent MPs, who have called for a temporary Blue Badge concession scheme to support those in genuine need.

This Council further notes that:

- The Department for Transport’s current guidance restricts eligibility to conditions expected to last at least three years, which excludes many residents enduring serious but non-permanent impairments;
- Medway Council already follows national guidance but is now, appropriately, in active discussions about the potential for a local scheme, as confirmed by Council officers;
- Introducing a carefully designed temporary concession scheme could offer vital short-term support while reinforcing Medway’s reputation as a compassionate, resident-focused authority.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Support, in principle, the creation of a **Medway-based temporary parking concession scheme** for residents with significant mobility impairments arising from serious but time-limited conditions.
2. Request that officers continue to work with Parking Services and other departments to develop a viable, clearly communicated local framework, with suitable eligibility criteria and enforcement guidance.
3. Urge the administration to bring forward proposals for this scheme via the appropriate governance routes, with an update to Full Council no later than January 2026.
4. Call on Medway’s MPs to raise this issue in Parliament and press for a national legislative amendment to embed such flexibility in the statutory Blue Badge scheme.

Motion B – Councillor Joy has submitted the following:

The Council welcomes the announcement that the Government has made to bring in further free school meals to the most disadvantaged children in Medway. The Council notes the positive reception from the administration over the increased £2.3bn worth of funding to education across the country.

The Council notes that the Shadow Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education has undertaken research on the issue of funding for schools through a survey of all local schools and academies with over thirty schools responding. This showed that the level of funding on offer is putting the future of our children at risk due to decisions made by the Government.

The Council notes the outcomes of this research, which highlights the following concerns:

1. **The increase in employer national insurance, that the Government stated would be fully funded for schools:** the reality is very stark, with the goal posts being moved to a rate per pupil. This is acceptable for schools with a full roll and a low average length of service of staff members, however with a lot of Medway schools, this is not the case, some with spaces in their year groups, others with long time experienced teachers which is causing shortfalls of up to £37,000 per year in funding.
2. **General annual grant (GAG) funding showing discrepancies of actual cuts to below inflation increases, ranging from cuts of 1.9% to increases of 2.0%, which is well below the inflation rate of 3.2%:** this in reality is a cut of 5% of schools budgets, while still being expected to meet the challenges of an increase in required SEND provision across all schools.
3. **The reality of the welcomed 4% increase for teachers pay, with schools having to find 1% of this from already stretched budgets:** this will force the primary sector to cut support staff to make budgets fit, which will result in less support for the most vulnerable in our schools and the secondary sector having to increase class size, which is proven to limit the chances of progress for our children. Money has been cut from renewing educational resources and deferring building maintenance as a result of this.
4. **Kent and Medway being some of the worst funded areas for children's education:** our schools have already been pushed to the brink and have been very lean with regards to finances, leaving little room for manoeuvre.

The Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Education to ask that the Government honours the original commitment to fully fund all employer national insurance increases to all Medway schools, fully fund the teacher pay award of 4% and request an urgent review of funding, ensuring that all children are treated fairly.

Motion C – Councillor Spalding has submitted the following:

Executives from Southern Water recently presented to and answered questions from an Overview and Scrutiny committee. While the planned investment in certain areas in Medway is welcomed, it does not appear to be sufficient nor coming online soon enough to meet current needs let alone future demand.

Not a week goes by without complaint from residents about low water pressure, sewage and wastewater disposal or burst pipes causing supply interruption as well as traffic disruption from the resulting repairs.

Now the Local Plan has been published, Southern Water, and all utility and service providers, should, in my opinion be reviewing their short and long terms plans so areas in immediate desperate need of improvement such as the villages within All Saints ward can receive the attention they require, while plans are made to cope with future development.

This Council requests the Chief Executive of the Council and Leader of the Council to jointly write to the Chief Executive of Southern Water to request Southern Water carries out an urgent review of its future plans for Medway and implements a strategy whereby current problems are addressed, and provision is made to satisfy future demand.