

Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 21 October 2025

7.00pm to 8.40pm

Date of publication: 23 October 2025

Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 31 October 2025
The record of decisions is subject to approval at the next meeting of the Cabinet

Present:	Councillor Vince Maple	Leader of the Council
	Councillor Teresa Murray	Deputy Leader of the Council
	Councillor Tracy Coombs	Portfolio Holder for Education
	Councillor Simon Curry	Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration
	Councillor Harinder Mahil	Portfolio Holder for Economic and Social Regeneration and Inward Investment
	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	
	Adam Bryan, Director of Place	
	Lee-Anne Farach, Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive	
	Vicky Nutley, Head of Legal Services	
	Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officer	

Leader's Announcements

The Leader passed on the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Spring's, thanks to everyone who had helped him at the recent full Council meeting following a medical incident. The Leader wished the Deputy Mayor well for his recovery.

The Leader referenced a recent article in the Guardian Newspaper. He had written to the Leader of Kent County Council (KCC) seeking urgent clarification. This related to discrepancies in the KCC Cabinet's apparent view of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The letter had also expressed concern that accusations had

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been made of ignorance regarding LGR amongst the other councils in Kent and an allegation that the Leader of Kent had suggested that other Council Leaders did not like working with her because she was a woman.

Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Gurung.

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 26 August 2025, was agreed by the Cabinet and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

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.

Questions to the Cabinet

4 public questions and 1 Member question had been received and were taken as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Responses

It was noted that all questions responses would be reported for information at the next meeting.

Private Sector Licensing - [Additional and Selective Licensing Schemes]

Background:

The report sought approval to formally commence consultation for the recommended Additional Licensing Scheme in the nominated wards of Chatham Central and Brompton, Fort Pitt, Gillingham North, Gillingham South and Luton and Watling and Selective Licensing Schemes in the recommended wards of Chatham Central and Brompton, Fort Pitt, Gillingham North, Gillingham South, Luton, Strood North and Frindsbury and Watling.

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The report also requested the Cabinet to review the consultation outcomes and make a formal decision whether to approve a new discretionary licensing scheme to be effective from Summer 2026.

The report explained that the Housing Act 2004 gave local authorities powers to tackle poor property conditions in the private rented sector. The Act also introduced different types of landlord licensing schemes, with mandatory licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO). Additional Licensing allowed local authorities to introduce licensing for a wider range of HMOs. Selective Licensing allowed local authorities to implement licensing of all private rented properties, in order to address issues such as antisocial behaviour (ASB), poor housing quality and deprivation.

A Diversity Impact Assessment was attached at Appendix D to the report. An Exempt Appendix C set out estimated staffing costs.

Decision number:

Decision:

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| 144/2025 | The Cabinet approved Option 3, as set out in the report, for the introduction of an Additional and Selective Licensing Scheme in the wards set out in Appendix B to the report, for consultation. |
| 145/2025 | The Cabinet instructed officers to commission the statutory consultation requirements to implement a new licensing scheme, in addition to the mandatory licensing scheme, as prescribed by the Housing Act 2004. |
| 146/2025 | The Cabinet agreed that officers provide a further report at the April 2026 Cabinet meeting with a view to making a decision on whether or not to proceed with an Additional & Selective Licensing Scheme in Medway (in part or parts of the local authority area). |

Reasons:

To ensure that Cabinet has considered all options and consultation findings before deciding on whether or not to proceed with a new five-year discretionary Licensing Scheme/s.

Visitor Economy and Inward Investment Services

This report was withdrawn and was therefore not considered or determined by the Cabinet.

Disappointment was expressed that Locate in Kent and Visit Kent had closed. Staff at these organisations were thanked for their work as were officers at Medway and Kent County Council (KCC) for their innovative approach in responding to the challenges presented by these closures.

The report had been withdrawn from the agenda because Medway had been contacted after publication of the Cabinet agenda with a request from the KCC

Cabinet to increase Medway Council's financial contribution by 100%. Frustration was expressed regarding this late request but it was emphasised that Medway was open to further discussions with KCC.

Adoption Partnership South East, Regional Adoption Agency Annual Report 2024/2025

Background:

Adoption Partnership Southeast is a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) providing adoption services for Medway, Kent, and the London Borough Bexley.

The fifth RAA Annual Report provided information and an overview of the adoption service activity and practice development for the period April 2024 - March 2025.

The annual report provided information that would assist Members in respect of their responsibilities as Corporate Parents for Looked After Children. The agency was committed to fulfilling the requirements of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and the Children and Families Act 2014 by ensuring the provision of a high-quality adoption service which guaranteed the best possible standards of care, safety and protection for children or young people who were looked after and who needed adoptive placements.

The report was previously considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 October 2025, and the Cabinet thanked the Committee for its comments which were set out at section 8 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 to the report, which outlined the activity that had taken place across Adoption Partnership South East between April 2024 - March 2025.

Reasons:

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

Flag Flying Protocol - Council Buildings

Background:

This report set out the Flag Flying Protocol for consideration and approval. Policy approval would formalise the established practices relating to flag flying on Council buildings only.

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The report advised that the Protocol was consistent with the provisions of the One Medway Council Plan, in particular, the following value: “Respectful: Valuing Medway’s diversity, heritage and each other.”

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken in relation to the Protocol which was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

***Decision
number:***

Decision:

147/2025

The Cabinet approved the Flag Flying Protocol, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

148/2025

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council:

- a) To determine which flags should be flown on Council buildings.**
- b) To fly the Union Flag at half-mast to mark local commemorations or losses.**
- c) To remove flags in the event of poor weather and/or forecast poor weather.**

149/2025

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to amend the Flag Flying Protocol in the event that the Council hands back Upnor Castle to English Heritage, as referenced in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

Reasons:

Approval of the Policy will formalise the established practices relating to flag flying on Council buildings.

Review of the Taxi Tariff

Background:

The report presented the consultation results for the review of the taxi tariff in line with the Taxi Tariff Review Policy and sought approval of a new taxi tariff.

The report explained that ‘a district council may fix the rates or fares within the district for time as well as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle, to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages by means of a table (hereafter in this section referred to as a ‘table of fares’) made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section’.

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It was therefore at the discretion of the Council, as licensing authority, to set a tariff for licensed taxis operating within Medway. By fixing the fares, the Council was effectively setting the maximum fare that taxi drivers could charge. Legally, taxi drivers may charge less than this rate but may not charge more.

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

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|-----------------|---|
| 150/2025 | The Cabinet approved the integration of the Christmas and New Year tariffs into the tariff card. |
| 151/2025 | The Cabinet reviewed the responses and comments to the trade consultation, considered if there should be any amendments to the tariff card, in view of the preferences reflected in the consultation responses, as set out at 6.3 to the report and determined to amend the tariffs as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) The flag would stay at £4.00.ii) The yardage would decrease to 155 yards.iii) The waiting time would decrease to 34 seconds. |
| 152/2025 | The Cabinet approved changes to the taxi tariff to be publicly advertised and, if where there were no objections, implemented. |
| 153/2025 | The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Assistant Director, Legal and Governance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement, to consider any objections received and make any final decisions. |

Reasons:

Approval of the recommendations will enable any revisions to the tariff to be advertised as prescribed in legislation. If no objections are received during this period, the tariff will take effect.

There is a quick turnaround, once the advertising has ended, to ensure that the trade can get their meters updated for Christmas. We are therefore asking that any objections be considered by the Assistant Director and in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

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Leader of the Council

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Date

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