

## **Motions**

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

This Council condemns the violence, intimidation, and serious disruption that occurred at a recent meeting of Swale Borough Council, including the throwing of objects, intimidation of Councillors, and criminal damage to Council premises which prevented the orderly conduct of democratic business and caused distress to Councillors, officers, and members of the public.

### **This Council believes that:**

- To “disagree agreeably” is a core democratic principle, requiring that even the strongest differences of opinion are expressed peacefully, respectfully, and within the law.
- Elected Members and Council officers must be able to conduct democratic processes in public, openly and transparently, without fear of intimidation, harassment, or violence.
- Violence or the threat of violence, regardless of motivation or cause, has no place in democracy and undermines public confidence in democratic institutions.
- The right to protest does not extend to actions that seek to silence debate, disrupt lawful meetings, or intimidate those participating in democratic decision-making.

### **This Council resolves to:**

- Write to Swale Borough Council to express this Council’s full support and solidarity with all Councillors and officers, affected by the incident.
- Write to the Chief Constable of Kent Police to seek assurance that all elected Members and officers can carry out their duties without fear, and to ask what additional steps can be taken to ensure the safety and integrity of council meetings.
- Write to the Secretary of State at Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to raise concerns about the safety of elected members and officers in local government, and to request consideration of what further national measures or guidance may be required to protect democratic participation at a local level.

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

The Council notes that many Councillors are receiving correspondence about the poor implementation of the Medway School Street Scheme and the impact on the lives of those who live in the controlled areas.

The Council will be aware of the recent decision by the independent traffic penalty tribunal after an adjudicator found that signage at Burnt Oak Primary School (Richmond Road in Gillingham) was inadequate.

The Council further notes that the areas of concern are:

1. The lack of evidence on air quality and accidents involving school children during term time that justifies the imposition of a scheme.
2. There is a feeling that residents' views have been ignored through the statutory consultation, and equipment installed before consultation processes completed.
3. The poor signage means many drivers are only aware of restrictions once they had turned into a restricted zone.
4. Vulnerable residents are finding themselves locked into an inflexible scheme that stops their ability to freely leave their homes during the operation of the controlled zone.
5. Parents are forced to park in other areas that cause traffic issues and increases danger to children.
6. Collection rates on penalty charge notices (PCNs) issued.

The Council recommends to the Cabinet that it undertakes a full independent review, which is subsequently reported to the Regeneration, Culture, and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, no later than May 2026.

## **Motion C – Councillor Mrs Turpin has submitted the following:**

### **Title:**

Reverse the constitutional change to motion rules, specifically the rule restricting the ability of the smaller Groups and Independent Members to table motions at every Council meeting.

### **Background:**

At a meeting of the Council on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025, the Labour Administration and the Conservative Group voted through a constitutional change to motion rules. This change restricts the ability of the smaller Groups and Independent Members to table motions at every Council meeting.

### **This Council recognises:**

1. Motions are a key part of the democratic process, used by all Groups and Independent Members since the founding of Medway Council, to focus attention on a specific action, opinion or subject of their own choosing at every Council meeting.
2. Restricting the ability of the smaller Groups and Independent members to table motions was not part of the original Work Plan of the Cross-Party Working Group. It was instead unexpectedly proposed by the Labour Administration.
3. The Council's own reports concerning the constitutional change to motion rules confirms the Cross-Party Working Group was not in full agreement.
4. All Members have a duty to taxpayers in recognising the considerable cost the Council may incur in defending any legal challenge to a constitutional change.

### **This Council resolves to:**

1. Reverse the constitutional change to motion rules\* and reinstate the ability of the smaller Groups and Independent Members to table motions at every Council meeting,
2. Avoid the considerable cost to taxpayers of the Council potentially needing to defend a legal challenge to the constitutional change to motion rules\*.

*\* voted through at a meeting of the Council on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025*