

Motions

Motion A – Councillor Mrs Turpin has submitted the following:

Motion Title: Protecting Cliffe, Hoo and Grain Fire Stations on the Hoo Peninsula

This Council notes:

1. That at its meeting on 25th June 2026, the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority (KMFRA) deferred a decision on whether to proceed with a public consultation on the Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) Resourcing Review (2026).
2. That the draft Resourcing Review (2026) proposed the closure of the standalone on-call fire stations at Cliffe and Grain.
3. That KMFRA is responsible for the provision of fire and rescue services across Kent and Medway, and includes twenty-five elected councillors, of whom four are appointed by Medway Council and twenty-one by Kent County Council.
4. That Medway Council has functions in relation to civil protection and emergency planning, and that Medway Council and KFRS are both Category 1 responders within the Kent and Medway Resilience Forum (KMRF).
5. That KFRS's own draft assessment identifies geographic and resilience considerations on the Hoo Peninsula, including Grain's isolated location and reliance on the A228 for access, major industrial and energy infrastructure, potential housing and infrastructure growth, and Cliffe's geographic isolation, limited road connectivity and vulnerable residents.
6. That the draft Resourcing Review (2026) states that Hoo Fire Station would remain and be prioritised as a strategic on-call resource, with targeted recruitment investment.
7. That Medway Council's Chief Executive has written to KFRS seeking the removal of Grain Fire Station from the proposed closure options.

This Council believes:

1. That decisions about emergency response provision on the Hoo Peninsula must fully reflect its rural geography, constrained road network, isolated communities, major industrial and energy infrastructure, potential future growth and wider community resilience, and must not be assessed by reference to historic incident demand or station utilisation in isolation.
2. That Cliffe, Hoo and Grain fire stations collectively provide important locally based emergency response capacity and contribute to the resilience of communities across the Hoo Peninsula, and the wider Medway Towns area.

3. That the closure of any of the three fire stations would represent an unacceptable loss of emergency response capacity for the Hoo Peninsula, and the wider Medway Towns area.
4. That Cliffe, Hoo and Grain fire stations should therefore be retained and protected from closure.

This Council resolves to:

1. Adopt, in light of Medway Council's own civil protection and emergency planning responsibilities, as the formal position of Medway Council that Cliffe, Hoo and Grain fire stations should be retained, and that the Council opposes any proposal arising from the current Resourcing Review (2026), or any subsequent resourcing review, to close any of the three stations.
2. Request that Medway Council's Chief Executive write to the Chief Executive of Kent Fire and Rescue Service and the Chair of the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority, setting out the Council's formal position and urging the retention of Cliffe, Hoo and Grain fire stations.
3. Request that Medway Council's Chief Executive send a copy of this resolution to every member of the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority, with a request that the Council's position be taken into account in any further consideration of the Resourcing Review (2026), any subsequent public consultation and any future decision concerning the three stations.
4. Request that Medway Council's Chief Executive circulate this resolution to the Members of Parliament for Rochester and Strood, Gillingham and Rainham, and Chatham and Aylesford; all Medway Councillors; and the following Parish Councils across the Hoo Peninsula: Allhallows Parish Council, Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council, Cooling Parish Council, Frindsbury Extra Parish Council, High Halstow Parish Council, Hoo St Werburgh & Chattenden Parish Council, Isle of Grain Parish Council, St Mary Hoo Parish Council and Stoke Parish Council.

Motion B – Councillor Mark Prenter has submitted the following:

This Council notes that the current points-based arrangements for the nomination of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were designed to operate over the long term, enabling political groups to progress through the scheme over successive years. In light of the extension of Medway Council's term ahead of local government reorganisation, there will now be one final additional year before the Council is abolished. It is therefore appropriate that, for this final year, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by the Council following nomination by the largest political group.

This Council resolves to amend Council Rule 20 – Nomination of Mayor and Deputy by **removing** the following:

- 20.1 Each political group as constituted in accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 shall be credited on the 1 January every year with a number of points equivalent to the number of members of the Council within that group.
- 20.2 A report setting out the outcome of the calculations in accordance with the scheme shall be submitted to the first meeting of the Council after 1 January each year.
- 20.3 The political group with the highest number of points after the process described in paragraph 20.1 shall be invited to nominate a candidate for the Mayoralty in the ensuing year and shall, at the first ordinary Council meeting following such qualification, accept or decline the nomination.
- 20.4 In the event that two or more political groups have the same number of points and no agreement is reached between them as to which group shall have the right to nominate a candidate for the Mayoralty, the matter will be referred to Council for decision.
- 20.5 The formal procedure of election of that candidate as Mayor will take place at the annual meeting.
- 20.6 The political group nominating a candidate for the Mayor shall also have the right to nominate a candidate for Deputy Mayor.
- 20.7 In the event of any political group having the right to nominate the Mayor for the ensuing year declining to do so, that political group shall nevertheless be deemed to have exercised its right and its points shall be adjusted accordingly.
- 20.8 Any political group not having been represented on the Council for a continuous period of 15 months or more shall be eliminated from the points system.
- 20.9 The political group that was entitled to nominate the Mayoralty in the immediately preceding January shall on the next 1 January be debited with a number of points equivalent to the whole number of members of the Council.

And **replacing** with:

- 20.1 The Mayor shall be elected by the Council from among the Councillors at the annual meeting and, unless a casual vacancy occurs, the Mayor shall continue in office until a successor is elected.
- 20.2 The Deputy Mayor shall also be elected by the Council from among the Councillors at the annual meeting.
- 20.3 Except in the year of Medway Council elections, the Council at its ordinary meeting before the annual meeting shall nominate candidates to be recommended for election as Mayor and Deputy Mayor at the annual meeting.

Note: Paragraph 16.2 of the Council Rules states that “Any motion to add to, change or withdraw these Council rules will, when proposed and seconded, be taken forward without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.”

This rule will apply to the proposed changes for the selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor given it forms part of the Council Rules (Rule 20). The next ordinary meeting of full Council is scheduled to take place on Thursday 15 October 2026.