

Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 30 June 2026

7.03pm to 8.45pm

Date of publication: 1 July 2026

Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 9 July 2026
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 Simon Curry	Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration
	Councillor Nina Gurung	Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture and Leisure
	Councillor Harinder Mahil	Portfolio Holder for Economic and Social Regeneration and Inward Investment
	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
Ruth Du-Lieu, Assistant Director, Front Line Services and Deputy Director of Place
Vanessa Etheridge, Democratic Services Officer
Lee-Anne Farach, Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive
Andy McNally-Johnson, Head of Corporate Accounts
Vicky Nutley, Head of Legal Services

Leader's announcements

The Leader thanked all those involved in delivering the recent Armed Forces Day event, including Medway Council officers, partners, military personnel, veterans, volunteers and community organisations. Despite very hot weather, the event had been safely and successfully delivered and been a fantastic example of the One Medway approach, with excellent public feedback and significant attendance.

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The Leader also proudly announced and congratulated The Howard School in Gillingham, on becoming the first secondary school in Kent to receive an exceptional Ofsted grading under the new inspection framework, recognising the achievement of staff, pupils, parents and the wider school community.

Finally, he advised that the Planning Committee meeting scheduled for the following evening would commence at the later time 7.30pm, to enable those who wished to, to watch the England team in the World Cup beforehand.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Coombs and Paterson.

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 2 June 2026 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

3 public questions and 4 Member's questions had been received. The Chairperson used his discretion to allow a Member question to be taken first due to extenuating circumstances. Following that, the questions were taken in the order set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Responses

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

Kinship Zone Programme Update - Delivery of the DfE Kinship Pilot (April 2026 - March 2028)

Background:

The report provided an update on Medway Council's role as one of seven national Kinship Zone pilot areas participating in the Department for Education (DfE) Kinship Programme. The report outlined delivery progress to date, including implementation of the Kinship Allowance Pilot (KAP), Family Network Support Packages (FNSPs), and the wider kinship support offer across the period April 2026 to March 2028.

Medway had been selected as one of seven national pilot areas to deliver this programme, which represented a significant opportunity to strengthen family-led care, improve outcomes for children, reduce reliance on statutory care, and contribute to national reform and evidence development. The report set out the delivery model, governance, financial framework, and anticipated impact as the programme progressed. This was a significant opportunity to strengthen family-led care, improve outcomes for children, reduce reliance on statutory care, and contribute to national reform and evidence development.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken and was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Decision number: ***Decision:***

The Cabinet noted Medway's participation in the DfE Kinship Zone Programme (April 2026 – March 2028), as one of seven national Kinship Zone pilot areas.

The Cabinet noted the implementation of the Kinship Allowance Pilot (KAP) commencing 1 April 2026.

The Cabinet noted the delivery of Family Network Support Packages (FNSPs) and the wider kinship support.

The Cabinet noted the Kinship Pilot Programme Board governance, financial, and data arrangements in place to support delivery.

The Cabinet noted the expected outcomes and Medway's contribution to national policy development and evaluation.

Reasons:

The report is for information only. It provides the Cabinet with an update on Medway Council's role as one of seven national Kinship Zone pilot areas participating in the Department for Education (DfE) Kinship Programme.

Sufficiency Strategy 2026-29 A Place Called Home

Background:

The report updated the previous Sufficiency Strategy 2023-26 and proposed areas of development for the Council over the next 3 years, which required a wider collective of Council Services to deliver the plan and therefore had wider commitment outside of Children's Social Care.

A sufficiency strategy for children's services was a mandated document for all local authorities and required to be published on the Council's website, as local authorities had a statutory duty under Section 22G of the Children Act 1989 (introduced by the Children and Young Persons Act 2008) to: "Take steps to secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation for looked after children within their area."

The report had been previously considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 June 2026, and the Cabinet thanked the Committee for its comments which were set out in section 8 of the report.

Decision number:

The Cabinet noted the comments of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out at section 8 of the report.

The Cabinet noted the progress of the Sufficiency Strategy 2023 - 2026.

90/2026 The Cabinet agreed the Sufficiency Strategy 2026 to 2029 priorities, as set out in Appendix A to the report.

Reasons:

Approval of the Sufficiency Strategy will ensure the Local Authority is fulfilling its duty to secure, as far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation and support within their local area which meets the needs of children and young people that the local authority is looking after, and those who have recently left care at the age of 18.

Medway Developer Contributions and Obligations Guide - Consultation

Background:

The report sought approval of an updated Guide for the collection of developer contributions to mitigate the impacts of development. The Guide set out the requirements to enhance services and infrastructure to address the demands arising from new development and was used in the determination of planning applications. The Council had consulted on the Guide and all comments made had been considered.

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It was noted that in line with rule 15.11 of Chapter 4, Part 5 of the Constitution, call-in could be waived where any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the Public's interests. In this case, it would no longer be possible for Local Authorities to prepare Supplementary Planning Documents after 30 June 2026, as set out in the transitional arrangements for plan making - The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (Commencement No. 11 and Saving and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026, Schedule 1. It was therefore crucial that the Guide was approved before the deadline to ensure that the Council could continue to provide an effective basis for the collection of contributions from developments to appropriately mitigate the impacts through the provision of services and infrastructure. It was therefore proposed that the call-in period be waived. The Chairperson of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee had agreed that the decisions proposed were reasonable in all the circumstances and to them being treated as a matter of urgency and to waive call-in.

The report had also been previously considered by the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 June 2026, and the Cabinet thanked the Committee for its comments which were set out in the supplementary agenda.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken and was attached at Appendix 3 to the report.

<i>Decision number:</i>	<i>Decision:</i>
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	The Cabinet noted the comments of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the supplementary agenda.
91/2026	The Cabinet approved the Medway Developer Contributions and Obligations Guide, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document.
92/2026	The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, to approve minor changes to the Medway Developer Contributions and Obligations Guide.
93/2026	The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, to undertake the annual review of indexation of S106 contributions using all items retail prices index (RPI) and update the Medway Developer Contributions and Obligations Guide Supplementary Planning Document accordingly, to come into effect on 1 April each year.
94/2026	The Cabinet agree that recommendation 1.2 was urgent and therefore should not be subject to call in.

Reasons:

To provide an effective basis for the collection of contributions from development to appropriately mitigate the impacts through the provision of services and infrastructure.

Introduction of Mobile Homes Fee Policy

Background:

The report sought approval of the implementation of a Mobile Homes Fee Policy as set out at Appendix 1 to the report. The Mobile Homes Act 2013 had introduced new powers allowing local authorities to charge fees for their licensing functions in respect of mobile home parks and to charge for enforcement under the Act. The Mobile Homes (Site Rules) (England) Regulations 2014 allowed the authority to charge for the inspection and for depositing site rules on its published Park Rules Register. It was at an authority's discretion whether it charged for all or any aspect of licensing. Fees would be reviewed and adjusted each year to reflect actual costs to the Council, as it was not expected to make a loss or profit in carrying out its licensing function.

The report had been previously considered by the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 June 2026, and the Cabinet thanked the Committee for its comments which were set out in the supplementary agenda.

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

Decision number: ***Decision:***

The Cabinet noted the comments of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the supplementary agenda.

95/2026 The Cabinet approved the implementation of the Mobile Homes Fee Policy as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Reasons:

The Mobile Homes Act 2013 places a mandatory duty on the authority to inspect, to ensure and to record via a register of existing approved Park Rules and conduct a Fit and Proper Test.

A current and Cabinet approved fees policy must be published prior to charging.

Council Tax

Background:

The report sought approval to prescribe a class person - those who received transitional protection within Universal Credit, as a result of which their Council Tax liability could be reduced. It was noted that the impact would not be seen in 2026/27 finances as it related to the collection fund and would not materialise until setting the budget for 2027/28 manifesting in a potential deficit on the Collection Fund at the end of 2026/27.

Decision number:

96/2026 **The Cabinet agreed to prescribe that Medway Council as a billing authority, could exercise its power to determine a class of person, to reduce or remit council tax liability under S.13A(1)(c) and S.13A(7) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the 1992 Act) where:**

(1) any person, who -

- (a) is liable for council tax in the authority's area; and**
- (b) is entitled to an award of Universal Credit; and**
- (c) whose award of Universal Credit includes an amount identified as a transitional protection element.**

(2) for the purposes of calculating the person's income under this Scheme, any amount of Universal Credit attributable to a transitional protection element shall be disregarded in full.

97/2026 **The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to prescribe classes of people under Section 13A(1)(c) Local Government Finance Act 1992.**

Reasons:

The Council has the discretion to prescribe individuals and or certain classes of people and thus reduce their council tax liability. By prescribing those in receipt of transitional protection to their universal credit, benefit the Council is supporting families who may be experiencing financial strain.

Innovation Park Medway North Update

The report sought agreement to the delivery mechanism for Innovation Park Medway North being via a direct disposal via a long lease to an interested party.

In May 2026 Cabinet had agreed the procurement strategy to select a development partner to deliver Innovation Park Medway North under a development agreement.

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Since this decision had been made, an offer had been received from an interested party, who would pay market value for the site, as well as deliver the Council's required regeneration and economic development outputs. The disposal would be on a long lease and provide the Council with a mix an upfront capital receipt and a rent. The draft Heads of Terms were attached in the Exempt Appendix 1 to the report, with a summary of the key points contained within Exempt Appendix 3. Exempt Appendix 2 contained the Best Consideration Valuation Report.

Decision number:

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| 98/2026 | The Cabinet agreed that the delivery mechanism for Innovation Park Medway North could be via a direct disposal via a long lease to the interested party. (If the disposal was not completed within a reasonable time, then the Council could revert to seeking to procure a development partner for the site.) |
| 99/2026 | The Cabinet agreed the Heads of Terms, in principle, which were attached at Exempt Appendix 1 to the report, and agreed to grant delegated authority to the Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration and the Portfolio Holder for Economic and Social Regeneration and Inward Investment, to amend and finalise the Heads of Terms. |
| 100/2026 | The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration and the Portfolio Holder for Economic and Social Regeneration and Inward Investment, to grant a lease of the site on the best terms reasonably obtainable and in accordance with the agreed Heads of Terms. |

Reasons:

The recommended option will deliver an early capital receipt ongoing revenue income, a reduction in the cost of external consultants, reduce the need for officer time, and deliver key outputs and development at the site, whilst removing the uncertainty of going to the market. The key points are highlighted in Exempt Appendix 3.

By delegating the authority to the Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration and the Portfolio Holder for Economic and Social Regeneration and Inward Investment to finalise the Heads of Terms (Exempt Appendix 1) this allows for minor amendments to be made without having to return to Cabinet providing any amendments are in keeping with the main principles. This avoids unnecessary delays to the programme.

Medway Development Company (MDC) Phase 2 Sites

Background:

The report sought an addition of £1.8m to the Council's revenue budget to progress planning applications in respect of Medway Development Company's (MDC) phase 2 development sites and a delegation to the Director of Place to award planning submission grants to MDC.

Working in partnership with the Council, MDC had secured £34.5m in grant funding to support the delivery of brownfield sites. Grant funding was essential to enable early works such as demolition, remediation and infrastructure, without which schemes would be unviable. Securing planning permissions strengthened grant applications and was critical to bringing phase 2 sites forward for development.

Exempt Appendices contained the Phase 2 Business Case and Risk Register.

Decision number: *Decision:*

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| 101/2026 | The Cabinet noted the report and agreed to recommend to Full Council the addition of £1.8m to the Council's revenue budget to progress planning applications in respect of Medway Development Company's phase 2 development sites, whilst also noting the flexibility to apply the funding to alternative sites that may be added to the programme (Appendix 1). The budget was to be funded from capital receipts under flexibilities granted by the Government. |
| 102/2026 | The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness, to award planning submission grants to Medway Development Company, subject to an outline Business Case. |

Reasons:

The proposal will enable the Council to continue its regeneration programme by bringing forward complex brownfield sites that would not otherwise progress. The Exempt Appendix 1 to the report, sets out a full Business Case for each site demonstrating that grant funding is required to unlock the delivery of each scheme. Securing planning permission will significantly strengthen MDC's ability to secure grant funding.

Gateway 1 Report: Highways Infrastructure Contract

Background:

The report sought permission to commence the procurement of the Highways Infrastructure Contracts, comprising of: Lot 1: Highways Term Maintenance Contract; Lot 2: Tunnels Specialist; and Lot 3: Capital Works Framework.

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Exempt Appendices provided the financial analysis and the procurement strategy appraisal.

Decision number: ***Decision:***

103/2026 **The Cabinet agreed to the commencement of the procurement of a new Highways Infrastructure Contract (HIC) that would ensure the continued delivery of essential services required to maintain Medway's highway network and critical infrastructure assets, including the Medway Tunnel, in accordance with the Highways Act 1980.**

Reasons:

The proposed contract model and recommendations have been developed following a comprehensive options appraisal carried out in spring 2026. This process drew on input from Medway officers, a review of the current service, market engagement (including a supplier webinar and questionnaire), and specialist technical and procurement advice from Founds Group.

The recommended approach is supported by the Options Appraisal Report and its supporting documents. These include the Contract and Procurement Strategy, Market Engagement Summary Report, Medway Key Findings Report, and Tunnel Strategy. Together, these provide the evidence and rationale for the proposed approach and are available for review.

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Leader of the Council

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Date

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