

Chronology & Investigation Timeline

1. **24 November 2015** – Cabinet decision to create Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo) known as Medway Commercial Group (MCG).
2. **21 December 2015** – MCG Incorporated with Vikram Sahdev appointed as Company Director and CEO.
3. **23 February 2016** – Further appointments made and board formed;
 - Andrew Mackness – Company Director and Chairman of Board (Medway Councilor)
 - [REDACTED] – Company Director and Non-Executive Board Member (Medway Council Officer)
 - [REDACTED] – Company Director and Non-Executive Board Member (Medway Council Officer)
4. **11 July 2016** – [REDACTED] resigns as Company Director after leaving employment with Medway Council.
5. **30 June 2017** – A number of changes to board composition;
 - Vikram Sahdev resigns as CEO and Company Director of MCG. Retained as a contractor.
 - Ian Price appointed as new Company Director and CEO of MCG
 - [REDACTED] appointed as Company Director and Non-Executive Board Member ([REDACTED])
6. **18 October 2017** – [REDACTED] resigns as Company Director after leaving employment with Medway Council.
7. **02 May 2018** – Medway Commercial Services (MCS) incorporated with Vikram Sahdev appointed as Director. [REDACTED] appointed as company secretary for both MCG and MCS after taking up role as Head of Legal within MCG.
8. **19 October 2018** – Whistleblower raised concerns with Medway Council Chief Legal Officer in relation to the activities of senior staff and board members within MCG, namely the CEO Ian Price, Vikram Sahdev and the Chairman Andrew Mackness. Invoicing linked to companies connected to Ian Price and Vikram Sahdev were shown along with evidence allegedly indicating that works had been carried out on projects linked to the company owned by Andrew Mackness that had not been recharged, providing a personal benefit.
9. **Early November 2018** – Discussion between Chief Legal Officer and Head of Internal Audit & Counter Fraud (HIACF) regarding the allegations received and potential investigation. HIACF confirmed that an internal investigation could be undertaken but would likely require court production orders to be able to follow financial transactions, which would not be available under LA investigation powers. Recommended that the matter be referred to Police due to the nature of the enquiries that would be necessary. Decision was that initial internal enquiries would be undertaken first.
10. **20 November 2018** – The Leader of Medway Council, Alan Jarrett, announces at a meeting of the Cabinet that reviews will be undertaken of all Council LATCo's to check governance and identify best practice, starting with MCG.

11. **23 November 2018** – the MCG contractor handed over information to the Medway Council Chief Legal Officer which had been shown at the meeting in October, after clarification of their “whistleblowing” status. A recording of a conversation played to the Chief Legal Officer was not handed over.
12. **30 November 2018** – Medway Chief Executive, Neil Davies, advises Ian Price as CEO of MCG that the council as shareholder will be conducting a review using its internal audit team. HIACF provides a list of information required from MCG to Ian Price with deadlines of 05 December and 12 December.
13. **05 December 2018** – [REDACTED] appointed as Director and Non-Executive Board Member (Medway Councilor).
14. **On or around 17 December 2018** - HIACF, Monitoring Officer and Chief Executive meet with the Leader of the Council to fully brief him on the concerns raised and the opinion of both the Monitoring Officer and HIACF that the matter should be referred to Police for investigation. This action was declined until the conclusion of enquiries being undertaken by the HIACF.
15. **28 December 2018** – Andrew Mackness steps down as Chairman of MCG Board but remains as Director and Non-Executive Board Member until the end of the company’s accounting year. Also announces publicly that he will not stand for re-election as councilor in May 2019. [REDACTED] appointed as new Chairman.
16. **03 January 2019** – portion of information requested from MCG on 30 November provided on pen drive. This included payroll information but with all names redacted.
17. **22 January 2019** – Further information provided by MCG on pen drive but still information missing.
18. **31 January 2019** – Ian Price formally suspended by MCG board over concerns about financial irregularity.
19. **01 February 2019** – [REDACTED] hands in notice to resign as Head of Legal for MCG.
20. **February 2019** – Forensic Accountants ([REDACTED]) to conduct a review of the MCG accounts.
21. **14 February 2019** – HIACF and Monitoring Officer brief the Chief Executive, Neil Davies, on findings from review and advise that the matter should be referred to Police. Chief Executive did not feel that such action was appropriate before the summary report was provided and findings from [REDACTED] were received.
22. **25 February 2019** – HIACF presents summary report of investigation findings, outlining 13 points of suspicion that offences may have been committed by three individuals through use of their positions to make personal gain and recommends formal referral to the Police for full criminal investigation.
23. **March 2019** – Matter referred to Kent Police for investigation.