

Date: 06th July 2026

Dear Medway Council

Re – OP Alpha Police Investigation into Medway Commercial Group

As Detective Chief Superintendent with responsibility for the fraud investigation teams, I have been asked to undertake a detailed review of Operation Alpha and to determine whether the investigation should continue to be progressed. That review has considered the history of the investigation, the evidence obtained to date, the material still required, the disclosure position, and the prospects of the case meeting the evidential threshold necessary for referral to the Crown Prosecution Service for a charging decision. I am therefore writing to formally set out my decision, the rationale for that decision, and Kent Police's position in relation to the future of this investigation.

A report of fraud and potential corruption was made to Kent Police in 2019 and has since been investigated by the Serious Fraud Team, within the Serious Economic Crime Unit. The initial allegation from Medway Council was that three individuals had been involved in activity which resulted in financial loss to the Council. That activity was said to have been facilitated through a Local Authority Trading Company established by Medway Council to enable trading outside the usual constraints of a local authority.

Although significant financial loss has been reported, there is currently no evidentially agreed loss or gain that can be relied upon for the purposes of criminal proceedings.

Following a lengthy and complex investigation, a meeting was held in June 2024 with a lawyer from the Crown Prosecution Service Serious Economic, Organised Crime and International Directorate. That meeting helped define the case parameters and highlighted two key issues: the continued reliance on Medway Council to provide relevant material, and the need for the investigation to meet its disclosure obligations.

Kent Police and Medway Council subsequently worked together to address those issues. A Memorandum of Understanding was put in place to support requests for material, with the intention that Kent Police would submit the case to the Crown Prosecution Service for a charging decision if the evidential position could be sufficiently strengthened.

However, following further review, significant evidential gaps remain. A further meeting was held with Medway Council in an attempt to resolve those matters, but it has become clear that key material

required to progress the case is either no longer retained or was never created. As a result, the case cannot meet the evidential standard required for referral to the Crown Prosecution Service.

I recognise that there remains a public interest in allegations of this nature being investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted. However, the criminal justice process requires the evidential test to be met before the public interest stage can properly be considered. In this case, the evidential and disclosure challenges cannot now be resolved.

Following a comprehensive review of the investigation, the available evidence, and the material gathered during the enquiry, Kent Police has concluded that Operation Alpha cannot support criminal proceedings. Consideration has also been given to the age of the matters under investigation, the availability of relevant material, and the realistic prospect of achieving a successful criminal justice outcome.

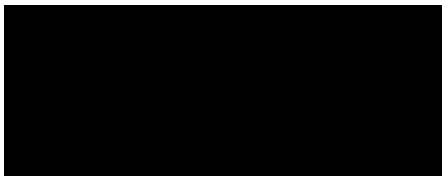
Accordingly, the decision has been made to close Operation Alpha with no further police action.

This decision should not be interpreted as a finding that the concerns raised by Medway Council were unfounded. It reflects the assessment that the evidential threshold for criminal prosecution cannot now be met.

I would like to acknowledge the cooperation and assistance provided by Medway Council throughout this lengthy and complex investigation.

Yours Sincerely

Morgan Cronin



Morgan Cronin

Detective Chief Superintendent| Deputy Head - Kent & Essex Serious Crime

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