

Meeting of Council on 18 July 2023

Leaders Report on the work of the Cabinet since the last Council meeting

This report covers the period since Annual Council (held on Tuesday 23 May).

Meetings attended by the Leader of the Council & Cabinet Members

- Rebuild of Orchards Academy, Swanley – consultation session on 24 May
- Member training – Code of Conduct on 30 May
- Telephone meeting with Tom Tugendhat MP on 31 May
- Consultation event for Sevenoaks Town East to West Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Route on 6 June
- Meeting of Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee on 13 June
- Meeting of Housing & Health Advisory Committee on 14 June
- Meeting of Kent Leaders on 14 June
- Cabinet meeting held on 15 June
- Fly the Flag for Armed Forces Day on 19 June
- Meeting of Finance & Investment Advisory Committee on 19 June
- Kent and Medway Economic Partnership on 20 June
- Member Training – Community Safety on 20 June
- Meeting of People & Places Advisory Committee on 20 June
- Landlord Forum on 21 June
- Tour of Dunbrik depot on 21 June
- Represented the District Council at Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce event at Riverhill Gardens on 22 June
- Meeting with the Leader of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council on 27 June
- Kent & Medway Police and Crime Panel on 27 June
- Member training – Serving the Customer on 27 June
- Meeting of Improvement & Innovation Advisory Committee on 27 June
- Sporting Champions event at White Oak Leisure Centre on 28 June
- Dartford, Gravesham & Swanley Health and Care Partnership Board on 28 June
- Swanley Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Engagement Meeting on 29 June
- Environmental Visual Audit, Hart Dyke Estate on 3 July
- Attended the LGA Conference from 4 July

- Tourism event at Castle Farm, Shoreham on 5 July
- Meeting of West Kent Leaders on 6 July
- Member training - Social Media on 10 July
- Meeting of Development & Conservation Advisory Committee on 11 July
- Cabinet meeting held on 13 July

Updates from Cabinet since the last meeting of Council

Investors in People (IIP)

- Members may be aware the Council achieved the highest level of Platinum Investors in People Accreditation earlier this year. This is the 5th time in a row the Council has received the highest rating from IIP.
- I had the pleasure of attending an event with Council staff to celebrate the achievement. It was a great opportunity to talk with the staff and understand more about what they do and what they enjoy about working at the Council.

Council Plan

- Working with Cabinet Members a new Council Plan is being prepared.
- A draft of the new Plan will be presented to the next meeting of the Improvement & Innovation Advisory Committee on 26 September before being reported to Cabinet. The aim is for the new Council Plan to be presented to Council, with a recommendation for it to be adopted at its meeting in November.

27-37 High Street, Swanley – Local Lettings Plan

- The District Council has completed the development of 17 affordable homes for rent at 27-37 High Street, in addition to the Meeting Point business hub which occupies the ground floor.
- The Council's affordable housing company, Quercus Housing has purchased the homes.
- A Local Lettings Plan has been agreed for first lets which gives priority to the 11 intermediate rented homes to local essential workers. Priority to the 6 affordable rented homes will be given to applicants under the Homes for Ukraine initiative who are local essential workers.

Rural England Prosperity Fund

- Launched on 4 July, rural businesses and communities can apply to the West Kent Rural Grants scheme for grants of £2,000, up to £25,000 to support rural jobs and improve local facilities.
- Applications for the capital grant scheme will close on Tuesday 15 August.

- The scheme is funded by the Rural England Prosperity Fund and administered by the West Kent Partnership of Sevenoaks District Council and Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells Borough Councils.

Other events and media

- Launched the consultation for the Sevenoaks Town East to West Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Route – 1 June (ending 14 July)
- Launched the Hello Lamp Post trial in Swanley – from 28 June
- Plastic Free July – from 1 July
- Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week – 3 to 9 July