

Meeting of Council on 14 November 2023

Leader's Report on the work of the Cabinet since the last Council meeting

This report covers the period since the last Council meeting held on Tuesday 18 July.

Meetings attended by the Leader of the Council & Cabinet Members

- Kent & Medway Economic Partnership on 19 July
- Family Fun Day - Seal on 24 July
- Meeting of Kent Leaders on 26 July
- Heritage Planning training on 26 July
- Meeting with Millwall Football Club on 31 July
- DLUHC Local Audit Webinar on 1 August
- Visit to Dunbrik Depot on 2 August
- Meeting with Visit Kent on 2 August
- Visit to Swanley on 3 August
- Family Fun Day – Swanley on 3 August
- Meeting with West Kent Housing Association on 9 August
- Visit to modular homes at Kitchener Barracks on 17 August
- Visit to Edenbridge on 24 August
- Fly the Flag for Merchant Navy Day on 1 September
- Member Training - Emergency Planning on 4 September
- Meeting of Finance & Investment Advisory Committee on 5 September
- Kent & Medway Economic Partnership Meeting on 6 September
- Meeting with Sevenoaks Suns basketball club on 7 September
- Fly the Flag for 999 Day on 8 September
- Meeting with Laura Trott MP on 8 September
- Meeting with National Rail on 11 September
- Member Training – Housing Allocations on 12 September
- Meeting of Housing & Health Advisory Committee on 12 September
- Meeting of West Kent Leaders on 13 September
- Kent Council Leaders' Meeting on 13 September
- Meeting with Federation of Small Business on 19 September
- Quercus 7 Trading Board & Quercus Housing Guarantor Board on 19 September

- Meeting of Cabinet held on 19 September
- Online meeting with District Councils Network on 20 September
- Member Training – Code of Conduct on 21 September
- Member Training – Communications & Social Media on 26 September
- Meeting of Improvement & Innovation Advisory Committee on 26 September
- Meeting of Rural Landowners' on 27 September
- Special Meeting of Scrutiny on 27 September
- Member training - Safeguarding on 3 October
- Meeting of People & Places Advisory Committee on 3 October
- Member Training – Budgets on 9 October
- Meeting of Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee on 10 October
- Member Training - Budgets on 12 October
- Meeting of Cabinet on 12 October
- Planning Policy training on 16 October
- Meeting of PATROL (Parking & Traffic Regulations Outside London) on 17 October
- Extraordinary meeting of Council on 17 October
- Move Together meeting at KCC on 18 October
- Kent County Council Rail Summit on 18 October
- Kent & Medway health and care symposium on 20 October
- Member Training - Budgets on 23 October
- Meeting with the Leader of Kent County Council on 24 October
- Kent County Leaders' Meeting on 25 October
- Sevenoaks Town Council Annual Liaison Meeting on 26 October
- Meeting of Development & Conservation Advisory Committee on 31 October

Updates from Cabinet since the last meeting of Council

Solar Together

- The District Council is working with Kent County Council and Solar Together to offer residents the opportunity to purchase solar panels.
- With energy prices high and concern about the impact of climate change, the Solar Together scheme offers residents the opportunity to reduce their carbon emissions, save on their energy bills and increase their independence from the grid.

Community Grants Scheme

- On 13 September the Council launched its Community Grants scheme to support the work of voluntary and charitable organisations across the District, with the aim of providing much needed funding to volunteer-led services within the District that help the health and wellbeing of residents.
- Community groups, whether newly formed or long-standing, could apply for a grant of up to £5,000 to support their important work. Successful applicants will receive their funding in April 2024.

Mill Pond, Sevenoaks

- Following the work of Greatness Residents' Association, who secured funding to transform the pond into a nature reserve, the District Council started work on £60,000 of improvements in March 2023 in support of the Association's ambitions.
- Specialist contractors were brought in to desilt the pond and additional wildlife friendly greenery was planted. New silt traps, nature and wildlife friendly plants and benches were installed and the wooden boardwalk was replaced with a new, accessible cinder concrete path and wooden railings, allowing better access so that the pond.
- Thanks to the work of Greatness Residents' Association and the Council, Mill Pond has been completely transformed

Car idling – air quality campaign

- Artwork produced by a local school pupil has been put on display outside local schools to encourage motorists to turn off their engines when parked.
- Children from across the Sevenoaks District were invited to enter a poster competition to raise awareness of vehicle idling and help improve air quality around schools. The winning entry has formed the basis of banners and posters that are now on display outside many local schools.
- The average parked car left running for ten minutes pumps out the same amount of CO₂ as driving a three mile journey as well as other toxic pollutants. This is damaging to the environment, people's health, expensive and could land drivers with a fine.