

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council for the District of Dover held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Wednesday, 30 January 2019 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor S S Chandler

Councillors:

J S Back	M R Eddy	P S Le Chevalier
T J Bartlett	A Friend	S M Le Chevalier
P M Beresford	R J Frost	S C Manion
T A Bond	B Gardner	K Mills
P M Brivio	B J Glayzer	K E Morris
B W Butcher	D Hannent	D P Murphy
P I Carter	P J Hawkins	A M Napier
N J Collor	P G Heath	M J Ovenden
M D Conolly	M J Holloway	A S Pollitt
M I Cosin	S J Jones	G Rapley
G Cowan	P D Jull	D A Sargent
D G Cronk	L A Keen	F J W Scales
N Dixon	N S Kenton	P Walker

Officers: Chief Executive
Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)
Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial)
Head of Governance
Democratic Services Manager

53 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S F Bannister, J M Heron, M Rose and P M Wallace.

54 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2018 were approved subject to it being amended to record that one member of the council voted against the resolution (Minute No. 51).

55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor K Mills declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in agenda item 17 (motions 1 and 2) on the following grounds:

- Motion 1: That his family was in the process of selling a house to the council
- Motion 2: That his wife worked for the NHS

And advised that he would withdraw from the meeting for the consideration of these items of business.

56 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor S S Chandler, made the following announcements:

- (a) To announce that the Dover (Electoral Changes) Order 2019 had been approved.

57 LEADER'S TIME

The Leader of the Council, Councillor K E Morris, included the following matters in his report:

- (a) The transport preparations that had been undertaken for BREXIT and to highlight concerns over the anti-competitive nature of the Channel Tunnel being allowed to continue operating normally while the Port of Dover would not.
- (b) That Riveroak had confirmed that any interim use of Manston in respect of BREXIT would not impact efforts to return Manston to use as an airport.
- (c) That UK and international press had covered the activities of the BREXIT Task Force and Dover had become a byword for the success or failure of BREXIT.
- (d) That he had met with Madame Bouchart to discuss an interreg bid and post-BREXIT opportunities.
- (e) That all LEPs were being reviewed but it was hoped that the South East LEP would be left unchanged as it was working well.
- (f) The need to ensure that the A2 was dualled before the Lower Thames Crossing was built.
- (g) That he was looking at what powers were available to tackle lorries in Dover that parked overnight.
- (h) To set out the Local Plan timetable.
- (i) That 3 grants had been given to High Street businesses (2 in Deal and 1 in Dover).
- (j) That there were 10 businesses in the former Co-Op building in Dover.
- (k) That he had met with the local Member of Parliament and an M&S board member to discuss the news that the M&S in Deal would be closing. There had been no prior warning of the closure. He had been advised that food sales in Deal were still viable and that M&S would consider operating an M&S Food store if a suitable site could be located. The Council would assist M&S in trying to identify possible sites and was working with the CAB and DWP to help employees.

- (l) To welcome the good news concerning the ALDI development in Deal.
- (m) To note that it was anticipated that the works to the Guildhall site in Sandwich would be completed before the Open Golf in 2020.
- (n) To advise of changes to the Cold Weather Protocol for homelessness.
- (o) To note that homelessness continued to fall in the district and that the Council was in the process of buying an additional 6 properties for use.
- (p) That 51 good causes had signed up to the Dover Lottery and 1 ticket was being sold every 10 minutes on average.
- (q) To welcome the planning application for the former Regent Cinema and that the Astor would be showing movies.
- (r) That Deal Pier was potential candidate for Pier of the Year.
- (s) That the Council was working with English Heritage to see if they could bring visitors into Dover town centre.
- (t) To note that the Dover District Leisure Centre had been delivered on time and on budget and to thank all of those involved with the steering group, including the public representative Mr Peter Ward.

The Leader of the Opposition Labour Group, Councillor K Mills, included the following matters in his report:

- (a) The importance of getting clamping powers to tackle lorry parking in Dover. The effects of the clamping trial in Ashford Borough Council had displaced parking from there into the Dover district.
- (b) That he expected to see lorries waved through the Port of Dover in the short term following BREXIT but the main concern was long term arrangements.
- (c) To welcome the investment in arts and the news of the planning application for a cinema in Deal.
- (d) That the new leisure centre needed to be accessible in terms of cost and transport.
- (e) That the lorry trial from Manston was not a true reflection of the volume of traffic that the Port of Dover handled.
- (f) That the promised Border Force cutters for the English Channel had not been seen and to note that c.300 migrants had tried to cross from France. To express concerns over the rise of extremism and extreme organisations.
- (g) The need to monitor the implications for coastal communities from County Lines and concerns over the availability of drugs like cocaine.
- (h) To recognise that the town centres were struggling and note that officers were working on the Future High Street Fund with contributions from the town council.

- (i) To welcome the news that the Council was working to try and keep M&S in Deal in some form and the help being offered to the affected members of staff. There would be a wider impact of losing M&S on disposable income.
- (j) The importance of delivering the social housing at the Connaught development as soon as possible.
- (k) That emphasise that one homeless person in the district was one too many.
- (l) That people across the district were owed access to the new leisure centre.

The Leader of the Opposition Progressive Group, Councillor M R Eddy, included the following matters in his report:

- (a) That with BREXIT only a few weeks away the district was in a difficult position. The lorry trial had been a PR stunt that did not reflect the true volume of traffic at the Port of Dover.
- (b) That the loss of M&S would leave a large hole in Deal's High Street and that it threatened Deal's appeal as one of the best UK destinations.
- (c) To welcome the financial boost to local companies and recognise Councillor P Walker's work in respect of it.
- (d) To express regret at the loss of the oak tree on the site of the new ALDI. However, he welcomed the charging points that would be part of the proposals.
- (e) To welcome the planning application for the Regent Cinema and express hope that it would result in the needed cinema for Deal.
- (f) That there were a number of good lottery causes in the Mill Hill Ward.

In response the Leader of the Council advised:

- (a) That the Council did not have any clamping powers and that he had written to the Government in respect of the matter. However, there were concerns that the cost of clamping exceeded the fine.
- (b) That County Lines was a priority for the Community Safety Partnership and the Council was working with the police.
- (c) To note that loss of life through cross-channel migration was a potential tragedy waiting to happen.
- (d) To note that M&S had an 81% take-up of redeployment of its staff nationally.

58 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, Ms S Gleave asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor K E Morris:

"Will the Leader of DDC be defending the interests of Dover district communities by calling for a second referendum like Damian Collins MP and Birmingham,

Warrington and other City councils have done, as the only way to cut through parliamentary gridlock and avoid the NO-DEAL Brexit that DDC Brexit Impact assessments advise strongly against?”

In response, Councillor K E Morris stated that the Council would always defend the community’s interests and would implement BREXIT as effectively as possible, deal or no deal.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.8, Ms Gleave exercised her right to ask a supplementary question.

59 BREXIT UPDATE

The Leader of the Council, Councillor K E Morris, introduced the BREXIT update.

The Council received presentations from Mr Toby Howe (Kent County Council) and the Chief Executive (Dover District Council) on BREXIT.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

60 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING STATIONS

The Chief Executive introduced the report on the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations.

It was moved by Councillor K E Morris, and duly seconded by Councillor F J W Scales that the recommended proposals for the Polling District, Polling Places and Polling Stations Scheme be approved.

Members discussed the location of polling stations in North Deal and Rokesley/Buckland.

RESOLVED: That the recommended proposals for the Polling District, Polling Places and Polling Stations Scheme be approved as follows:

- (a) That the current scheme be amended to incorporate all of the recommendations of the (Acting) Returning Officer for the Dover Parliamentary Constituency (as set out in section 3.3 of the report).
- (b) That each Polling District be designated as the Polling Place. Where no suitable Polling Station is available the (Acting) Returning Officer be authorised to designate an adjoining Polling District for that Polling Place.
- (c) That the Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places be designated as the Polling Districts and Polling Places for Local Government Elections.

61 REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS

Members were advised that following the amendment of the minutes of the meeting on 12 December 2018 to record a vote against the decision set out in Minute No. 51, the Council was required to review its allocation of seats again.

It was moved by Councillor K E Morris and duly seconded by Councillor B Gardner that Option 1 of the report be approved. This would continue the current seat allocation arrangements agreed by Members on 12 December 2018.

On being put to the meeting a vote against was recorded. As the decision was a variation to the principles set out in s.15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 it required no Member to vote against it.

Subsequent to this vote, the Member who voted against the decision agreed to withdraw their vote against.

It was moved by Councillor K E Morris and duly seconded by Councillor B Gardner that Option 1 of the report be approved and it was

RESOLVED: (a) That having reviewed the representation of the political groups and the non-politically aligned members on the ordinary committees of the Council and the other bodies to which it makes appointments, an allocation in accordance with Option 1 of the report be approved as follows:

Dover Joint Transportation Board (7 seats)

Conservative Group	4 seats
Labour Group	2 seats
Non-aligned members	1 seat

East Kent Services Committee (2 seats)

Conservative Group	2 seats
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Electoral Matters Committee (5 seats)

Conservative Group	3 seats
Labour Group	2 seats

General Purposes Committee (5 seats)

Conservative Group	3 seats
Labour Group	2 seats

Governance Committee (7 seats)

Conservative Group	4 seats
Labour Group	2 seats
Non-aligned Members	1 seat

Joint Staff Consultative Forum (5 seats)

Conservative Group	3 seats
Labour Group	2 seats

Joint Health, Safety and Welfare Consultative Forum (5 seats)

Conservative Group	3 seats
Labour Group	2 seats

Licensing Committee (15 seats)

Conservative Group	8 seats
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Labour Group 5 seats
 Progressive Group 1 seat
 Non-aligned Members 1 seat

Planning Committee (10 seats)

Conservative Group 5 seats
 Labour Group 4 seats
 Progressive Group 1 seat

Regulatory Committee (5 seats)

Conservative Group 3 seats
 Labour Group 2 seats

Scrutiny (Community and Regeneration) Committee (10 seats)

Conservative Group 5 seats
 Labour Group 3 seats
 Progressive Group 1 seat
 Non-aligned Members 1 seat

Scrutiny (Policy and Performance) Committee (10 seats)

Conservative Group 4 seats
 Labour Group 4 seats
 Progressive Group 1 seat
 Non-aligned Members 1 seat

- (b) That the seats on the ordinary committees and other bodies be appointed to give effect to the allocations and the nomination of the political groups and appoints to the ordinary committees of the Council and the other bodies to which it makes appointments as follows:

Dover Joint Transportation Board

CON (4)	LAB (2)	PRO (0)	NAM (1)
J S Back A Friend P D Jull M J Ovenden	P M Brivio D G Cronk		G Rapley

East Kent Services Committee

CON (2)	LAB (0)	PRO (0)	NAM (0)
K E Morris M D Conolly			

East Kent Services Committee – Named Substitutes

CON (2)	LAB (0)	PRO (0)	NAM (0)
N J Collor T J Bartlett			

Electoral Matters Committee

CON (3)	LAB (2)	PRO (0)	NAM (0)
K E Morris S S Chandler F J W Scales	B Gardner K Mills		

General Purposes Committee

CON (3)	LAB (2)	PRO (0)	NAM (0)
S M Le Chevalier M D Conolly D P Murphy	B Gardner K Mills		

Governance Committee

CON (4)	LAB (2)	PRO (0)	NAM (1)
P G Heath D Hannent B W Butcher P I Carter	S F Bannister M I Cosin		R J Frost

Joint Staff Consultative Forum

CON (3)	LAB (2)	PRO (0)	NAM (0)
M D Conolly P G Heath S M Le Chevalier	M I Cosin A S Pollitt		

Joint Health, Safety and Welfare Consultative Forum

CON (3)	LAB (2)	PRO (0)	NAM (0)
M D Conolly P G Heath S M Le Chevalier	M I Cosin A S Pollitt		

Licensing Committee

CON (8)	LAB (5)	PRO (1)	NAM (1)
B W Butcher A Friend P D Jull P S Le Chevalier S M Le Chevalier D P Murphy M J Ovenden M Rose	B Gardner S F Bannister P M Brivio D G Cronk A M Napier	P Walker	B Glayzer

Planning Committee

CON (5)	LAB (4)	PRO (1)	NAM (0)
F J W Scales B W Butcher P M Beresford T A Bond M J Ovenden	B Gardner D G Cronk P J Hawkins P M Wallace	M R Eddy	

Regulatory Committee

CON (3)	LAB (2)	PRO (0)	NAM (0)
B W Butcher P S Le Chevalier D P Murphy	P M Brivio B Gardner		

Scrutiny (Community and Regeneration) Committee

CON (5)	LAB (3)	PRO (1)	NAM (1)
T A Bond M J Ovenden P I Carter N Dixon P D Jull	L A Keen G Cowan P M Brivio	P Walker	R J Frost

Scrutiny (Policy and Performance) Committee

CON (4)	LAB (4)	PRO (1)	NAM (1)
T A Bond M J Ovenden P D Jull M Rose	M I Cosin P J Hawkins D A Sargent J M Heron	M R Eddy	R J Frost

- (c) That the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each of the ordinary committees of the council and the two scrutiny committees be appointed as follows:

Electoral Matters Committee

K E Morris (Chairman)

S S Chandler (Vice-Chairman)

General Purposes Committee

S M Le Chevalier (Chairman)

M D Conolly (Vice-Chairman)

Governance Committee

P G Heath (Chairman)

D Hannent (Vice-Chairman)

Planning Committee

F J W Scales (Chairman)

B W Butcher (Vice-Chairman)

B Gardner (Spokesperson)

Regulatory Committee

B W Butcher (Chairman)

P S Le Chevalier (Vice-Chairman)

Scrutiny (Community and Regeneration) Committee

L A Keen (Chairman)

G Cowan (Vice-Chairman)

T A Bond (Controlling Group Spokesperson)

M J Ovenden (Controlling Group Deputy Spokesperson)

Scrutiny (Policy and Performance) Committee

M I Cosin (Chairman)

P J Hawkins (Vice-Chairman)

T A Bond (Controlling Group Spokesperson)

M J Ovenden (Controlling Group Deputy Spokesperson)

The Democratic Services Manager presented the report on the Calendar of Meetings 2019/20.

It was moved by Councillor F J W Scales, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Draft Calendar of Ordinary Meetings for 2019/20 be approved in principle subject to final ratification at the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2019.

63 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2019/20

It was moved by Councillor K E Morris, duly seconded by Councillor K Mills, and

RESOLVED: That the Members' Allowance Scheme 2019/20 be agreed at the levels of 2018/19, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, subject to an increase in the Dependent Carers Allowance to £8.21 per hour in line with the National Living Wage from 1 April 2019.

64 COUNCIL TAX BASE 2019-20

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) introduced the report on the Council Tax Base 2019-20.

It was moved by Councillor M D Conolly, duly seconded by Councillor P G Heath, and

- RESOLVED: (a) That for the financial year 2019/20, the empty homes discount remain at 0% for Class C empty properties, and continue to remove the discount for second homes so that Council Tax will be payable in full on these properties.
- (b) That the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2019/20 not be revised.
- (c) That the District's Council Tax Base for 2019/20 as 38,526.26 and the tax base for the towns and parishes in the Council's administrative area be approved, as set out below:

Parish	2018/19 Tax Base - using collection rate	2019/20 Tax Base using collection rate
Alkham	307.61	310.13
Ash	1126.94	1152.87
Aylesham	1365.88	1474.03
Capel-Le-Ferne	660.15	659.24
Deal	6651.71	6750.79
Denton-with-Wootton	171.45	172.51
Dover	8073.27	8198.33
Eastry	788.15	816.95
Eythorne	782.97	792.44

Parish	2018/19 Tax Base - using collection rate	2019/20 Tax Base using collection rate
Goodnestone	171.61	174.81
Great Mongeham	268.71	268.83
Guston	374.95	399.09
Hougham-Without	183.08	182.30
Langdon	227.56	236.07
Lydden	254.42	251.67
Nonington	293.16	295.01
Northbourne	267.72	269.95
Preston	326.30	366.78
Ringwould-with-Kingsdown	1018.86	1021.39
Ripple	152.03	149.51
River	1487.35	1488.97
St Margarets-at-Cliffe	1303.27	1294.76
Sandwich	1992.46	1917.37
Shepherdswell-with-Coldred	753.56	757.31
Sholden	746.02	736.36
Staple	229.77	232.27
Stourmouth	113.25	116.29
Sutton-by-Dover	307.40	303.62
Temple Ewell	645.05	651.17
Tilmanstone	153.26	154.16
Walmer	3290.37	3337.77
Whitfield	1933.63	1972.43
Wingham	681.07	677.85
Woodnesborough	464.24	465.57
Worth	465.46	477.65
Total	37,962.69	38,526.26

- (d) That the introduction of the Long Term Empty Premium charge for properties that have been empty for 2 years or more be approved.

The manner of the voting was as followed:

For (40)	Against (0)	Abstain (0)
J S Back T J Bartlett P M Beresford T A Bond P M Brivio B W Butcher P I Carter S S Chandler N J Collor M D Conolly M I Cosin G Cowan		

D G Cronk N Dixon M R Eddy A Friend R J Frost B Gardner B J Glayzer D Hannent P J Hawkins P G Heath M J Holloway S J Jones P D Jull L A Keen N S Kenton P S Le Chevalier S M Le Chevalier S C Manion K Mills K E Morris D P Murphy A M Napier M J Ovenden A S Pollitt G Rapley D A Sargent F J W Scales P Walker		
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65 TREASURY MANAGEMENT - QUARTER 2 REPORT 2018/19

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) introduced the Treasury Management – Quarter 2 2018/19 report.

It was moved by Councillor M D Conolly, duly seconded by Councillor F J W Scales, and

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

66 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION 2018 – SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE FROM 1 JANUARY 2019

It was moved by Councillor P G Heath, duly seconded by Councillor F J W Scales, and

RESOLVED: (a) That the proposed changes in the Review of the Constitution – Senior Management Restructure from 1 January 2019, specifically relating to Article 12 – Officers, Part 3 Section 6, Sub Section C (Scheme of Officer Delegations) that relate to Council functions, Part 7 Management Structure and Part 10 Proper Officer Appointments be approved and incorporated into the Council's Constitution, issue no. 22.

- (b) That the proposed changes in the Review of the Constitution 2018, specifically relating to Part 3, Section 6, Sub Section C (Scheme of Officer Delegations) that relate to executive functions be approved.

67 FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT OF A CHIEF OFFICER

It was moved by Councillor K E Morris, duly seconded and F J W Scales, and

RESOLVED: (a) That the reduction of the Corporate Management Team from 3 FTE to 2.8 FTE be approved.

- (b) That the flexible retirement request of the Chief Executive be approved with effect from 1 April 2019, pursuant to the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013, Reg. 30(6) and in accordance with the Council's Pension Discretion Policy Statement.

(The Chief Executive withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

68 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

In accordance with Rule 12(1) of the Council Procedure Rules, Members of the Cabinet responded to the following questions:

- (1) Councillor M R Eddy will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor K E Morris:

"A number of constituents in the Mill Hill ward have raised with me the need to reverse the decision of the former Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, not to hold a public inquiry in to the events surrounding the picketing of the Orgreave coking plant in 1984. Will the Leader of the Council write to the present Home Secretary requesting that a public inquiry be established to examine the events at Orgreave, in which some 200 Kent mine workers, mainly from this district, were involved; the decisions that led up to those events; and the way in which those events were presented in the aftermath of the events."

In response Councillor K E Morris stated that a great deal of evidence had been submitted to the Government and a public enquiry had been refused. This was not likely to change without new evidence being submitted.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor M R Eddy exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

- (2) Councillor P Walker will ask the Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing, Councillor N J Collor:

"Can the Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing outline to the Council the discussions held between the Council, the builders and/or operators of the Dover District Leisure Centre, and Stagecoach regarding the provision of

bus services to and from the Centre, the town centres and other significant settlements like Aylesham, Shepherdswell, Eythorne and Eastry?”

In response Councillor N J Collor stated that the Council had liaised with KCC and Stagecoach during the development of the project to ensure that Dover District Leisure Centre was well served by public transport in the long term.

Local knowledge and experience gained at similar sites across the county indicated that new services to specifically serve the site would not be sustainable, so the best use of development contributions was identified as a ticket incentive scheme that would be administered by the Centre operator.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor P Walker exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

- (3) Councillor P Walker withdrew his question.

- (4) Councillor M R Eddy will ask the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Environmental Health, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“Could the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Environmental Health update the Council on the progress being made to bring the triangular open space in Freemans Way into use for the public benefit of the people of the Mill Hill ward in particular and the people of Deal in general?”

In response Councillor T J Bartlett stated that the open space at Freemans Way was publicly accessible, but was privately owned and therefore was not maintained by the Council. When complaints had been received about the state of this site, the Council had contacted the land owners and ensured that they addressed any safety or public nuisance issues.

In addition, during the Land Allocation Document Examination in Public (in 2014), the owners of this land proposed that the majority of the site should be allocated for housing, but the Council successfully defended its open space designation. The Council was currently collecting information about open spaces to prepare a review of all its open space strategies, including a stakeholder engagement meeting with Deal Town Council, which highlighted the continuing importance of Freemans Way open space to local residents. This information, together with the planning history, meant no changes were anticipated in the protected open space status of the site as a result of the strategy review.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor M R Eddy exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

- (5) Councillor M R Eddy will ask the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste and Health, Councillor N S Kenton:

“What steps is the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste and Health taking to ensure that this Council adopts zero-carbon policies across the functions of the Council and among its suppliers?”

In response Councillor N S Kenton stated that the Council had adopted the Kent County Council environment strategy which addressed this issue.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor M R Eddy exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

- (6) Councillor M R Eddy will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor K E Morris:

“Given the fact that the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has radically reduced the roll-out of Universal Credit, can the Leader of Council inform members of what action he, or other Portfolio Holders or officers of the Council have taken to inform the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions of the impact of the imposition of Universal Credit on the people of this district?”

In response Councillor K E Morris stated that officers of the Council had monthly meetings with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to talk about increasing arrears, homelessness and the wider impact of Universal Credit on the community. Officers and East Kent Housing continued to highlight to DWP the impact of the reforms with DWP recently being invited to Overview & Scrutiny to discuss the issues.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor M R Eddy exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

- (7) Councillor P Walker will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor K E Morris:

“A recent press report revealed that the rough sleeper count for 2018 recorded 20 of our fellow human beings sleeping on the streets, an unenviable record figure, compared to last year (14) and previous years in single figures. How does the Leader of the Council reconcile this with his various statements that tackling homelessness was his top priority?”

In response Councillor K E Morris stated that the estimate was a snapshot assessment, based on evidence from the local authority and a range of external agencies, about the number of people sleeping rough in that Local Authority area on a particular night. This is generally accepted as being the fairest way of assessing rough sleeping, as carrying out a count relies on actually finding a person sleeping out rather than taking account of people who are known to appropriate agencies.

So although the number recorded for Dover was lower than many of our neighbouring Local Authorities, it was still treated as a priority and there were no grounds for complacency. We recognised that rough sleeping was a problem that needed to be tackled, not only to address the complex issues

experienced by many people who sleep on the streets but also because street homelessness was often linked with nuisance street drinking and other associated anti-social behaviour within our town centres.

We have recently agreed a grant of £10k to the Dover Outreach Centre to fund the Winter Night Shelter provision for 2018/19 and 19/20 and have submitted a number of bids to the MHCLG, relating specifically to tackling rough sleeping.

In addition, we operate SWEP, the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol, whenever the actual, or 'feels like' night time temperature hits zero degrees or below for 3 consecutive nights. This meant that anyone without a roof could access bed and breakfast accommodation whilst the weather was significantly cold. In addition, we continue to increase our housing stock in order to address the wider pressures of homelessness.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor P Walker exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

- (8) Councillor A S Pollitt will ask the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness, Councillor P M Beresford:

"It was reported in the BBC news on the 11th of January that four Councils in East Kent, including DDC, will have to take on extra staff to combat the effects of Universal Credit, could the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness inform the Council how many staff will be need to be hired and what the cost will be?"

In response Councillor P M Beresford stated that EKH had asked for £444k in total from the 4 partner councils, for the recruitment of 8 additional income officers and 4 additional benefit and money advisors to cover the 4 Councils.

The Council had been asked for £111k, as its share, and this was included in the proposed 2019/20 budget and MTFP to be considered by Cabinet and Council in February and March 2019.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor A S Pollitt exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

- (9) Councillor P M Brivio will ask the Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing, Councillor N J Collor:

"Would the Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing consider DDC introducing Traffic Regulation Orders to prevent parking on pavements as Canterbury City Council have done in areas that their authority cover?"

In response Councillor N J Collor stated that the Traffic Regulation Order introduced in the autumn within the Canterbury City Council area, by KCC as the highway authority, introduced restrictions on vehicles stopping or waiting

at any time on any verge or footway in various sections of road as stated in the Order.

These proposals were developed through the Canterbury Joint Transportation Board and he would be pleased to ask the Dover JTB to give consideration to any proposals that Cllr Brivio might have for similar pavement parking restrictions within this District.

Clearly in considering whether to introduce such restrictions, consideration needed to be given to the impact on parking more generally as there were many roads within the district which required vehicles to park on the pavement to allow traffic to move freely, thus avoiding possible obstruction to the emergency services and other services requiring access.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor P M Brivio exercised her right to ask one supplementary question.

- (10) Councillor A M Napier will ask the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste and Health, Councillor N S Kenton:

“Can the portfolio holder for Environment, Waste and Health tell us what monitoring is currently being carried out on the air quality at the Port of Dover?”

In response Councillor N S Kenton stated that there was an issue with air quality in the past due to ferry emissions and an air quality management area was declared in 2002. By 2014 a change in the fuels used meant that the air quality management area was no longer needed.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor A M Napier exercised her right to ask one supplementary question.

- (11) Councillor L A Keen will ask the Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing, Councillor N J Collor:

“What progress has been made on ensuring that public transport from Aylesham and the rural villages to the new DDC Leisure Centre will be available from day one of opening?”

In response Councillor N J Collor stated that some settlements, including Aylesham, would not be directly connected to the new Dover District Leisure Centre by a single bus route. However the sum of £224,773 had been received as a S106 contribution from the Aylesham development for sustainable transport improvements through provision of additional bus services to link the development in Aylesham to the surrounding area with two further contributions of the same amount (plus indexation) expected in due course.

The Council had worked closely with Kent County Council and Aylesham Parish Council to develop a survey of Aylesham residents which would clarify the public transport priorities of local people. The survey might

identify a desire for a direct bus link between Aylesham and Dover District Leisure Centre in Whitfield, but this outcome should not be assumed in advance of receiving the results. Any new measures funded by the Aylesham S106 contribution should have the potential to become commercially sustainable in the long term and therefore should be supported by evidence of demand.

Additionally the Thanet Community Transport Scheme is available across the district.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor L A Keen exercised her right to ask one supplementary question.

- (12) Councillor L A Keen will ask the Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing, Councillor N J Collor:

“Network rail has included Aylesham on a list of stations to be considered for disabled access provision. What action is DDC taking to ensure that Aylesham Railway station is actually approved for these works to definitely be carried out at this station, especially given the current building programme of 1400 houses?”

In response Councillor N J Collor stated that he was delighted to learn in November 2018 that Southeastern and Network Rail had included Aylesham and also Deal on a list of 22 stations across the South East to be considered for a portion of the Government’s £300 million ‘Access for All’ scheme, during the course of the next five years. It was understood that the Department for Transport would make an announcement on the allocation of the funding in April. In the meantime the council would be making representations to government through its contacts with Network Rail and would ask its Development Partner to do likewise. He would also take up the matter with Kent County Council.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor L A Keen exercised her right to ask one supplementary question.

- (13) Councillor B Gardner will ask the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Environmental Health, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“Can the portfolio holder for Environmental Health and Property Management please inform the council what concessions are going to be offered at the new Leisure centre to residents of the district that currently receive concessions?”

In response Councillor T J Bartlett stated that he was pleased to confirm that Places Leisure would continue to offer a range of concessionary rates at the new Dover District Leisure Centre.

Concessionary memberships would be available at a cost of £27.99 per month until September 2019 for existing members; this would be replaced with a new concession card for only £5 per year which will entitle those who

qualified to a 30% discount on swimming, gym, and racket sports during off peak periods.

Concessions would be available to: senior citizens – linked to state pension age; children under the age of 16; full time students aged 16 years and over; people registered as disabled; people on Job Seekers Allowance, Income Support or Working Tax Credit.

These concessionary arrangements were extremely competitive given the new investment and enhanced leisure centre facilities and experience.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor B Gardner exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

- (14) Councillor B Gardner will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor K E Morris:

“Following the regrettable announcement made by Marks and Spencer’s to close their shop in Deal High St, can I ask the Leader of the Council what steps he has taken to try to get M&S to reverse this decision, which may have a massive effect on trading in Deal High St.”

In response Councillor K E Morris advised that he dealt with this matter under Leader’s time.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor B Gardner exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

69 MOTIONS

Motion 1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor P Walker moved the Motion of which he had given notice as follows:

“While this Council welcomes the aspirations of the NHS Plan, published on 7 January, it is concerned that those aspirations will be undermined by the continuing problems of adequate staffing levels, pressures, and our communities’ needs. A current local example is the closure of the Eastry GP surgery and the merger of the two Sandwich surgeries. Council calls on the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Health expressing Council’s opposition to the closure of the Eastry surgery, and any other existing surgery in this district, as such closures undermine the aspirations of the NHS Plan.”

The Motion was duly seconded by Councillor M R Eddy.

Councillor K E Morris moved an AMENDMENT, duly seconded by Councillor F J W Scales, as followed:

“While this Council welcomes the aspirations of the NHS Plan, published on 7 January, it is concerned that those aspirations will be undermined by the continuing problems of adequate staffing levels, pressures, and our communities’ needs. A current local example is the closure of the Eastry GP surgery and the merger of the

two Sandwich surgeries. Council calls on the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Health expressing the Council's concerns regarding the closure of the Eastry surgery, and any other existing surgery in this district, as such closures undermine the aspirations of the NHS Plan."

Councillor P Walker, with the consent of his seconder, agreed to accept the AMENDMENT.

On being put to the meeting the SUBSTANTIVE Motion was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: While this Council welcomes the aspirations of the NHS Plan, published on 7 January, it is concerned that those aspirations will be undermined by the continuing problems of adequate staffing levels, pressures, and our communities' needs. A current local example is the closure of the Eastry GP surgery and the merger of the two Sandwich surgeries. Council calls on the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Health expressing the Council's concerns regarding the closure of the Eastry surgery, and any other existing surgery in this district, as such closures undermine the aspirations of the NHS Plan.

Motion 2

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor P J Hawkins moved the Motion of which she had given notice as follows:

"Other Councils are buying properties on new developments in our district to house people on waiting lists. This Council agrees to purchase similar properties within the district to house those on our waiting list and the homeless."

The Motion was duly seconded by Councillor D G Cronk.

Councillor J S Back moved an AMENDMENT, duly seconded by Councillor F J W Scales, as followed:

"Other Councils are buying properties on new developments in our district to house people on waiting lists. This Council agrees to continue the excellent work it is doing to purchase similar properties within the district to house those on our waiting list and the homeless."

On being put to the meeting the AMENDMENT was CARRIED.

On being put to the meeting the SUBSTANTIVE Motion was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: Other Councils are buying properties on new developments in our district to house people on waiting lists. This Council agrees to continue the excellent work it is doing to purchase similar properties within the district to house those on our waiting list and the homeless.

Motion 3

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor B Gardner moved the Motion of which he had given notice as follows:

“This council is very concerned about the travel plan that is proposed for the new DDC Leisure Centre at Whitfield. This is nothing like what was promised by the previous leader of the council when the project was first mooted.”

The Motion was duly seconded by Councillor B J Glayzer.

On being put to the meeting the Motion was LOST.

(Councillor K Mills declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Motions 1 and 2 on the following grounds:

- Motion 1: That his family was in the process of selling a house to the council
- Motion 2: That his wife worked for the NHS

And withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of these items of business).

70 URGENT BUSINESS TIME

There were no items of urgent business for consideration.

The meeting ended at 9.54 pm