

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Present:

Chairman: Councillor M D Conolly

Councillors:

J S Back	J P Haste	J Rose
T J Bartlett	M J Holloway	M Rose
D G Beaney	S J Jones	C A Vinson
E A Biggs	P D Jull	R S Walkden
P M Brivio	L A Keen	P Walker
J P J Burman	N S Kenton	H M Williams
S S Chandler	S C Manion	C F Woodgate
N J Collor	K Mills	C D Zosseder
D G Cronk	D P Murphy	
D Hannent	O C de R Richardson	

Officers: Chief Executive
Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)
Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial)
Solicitor to the Council
Head of Governance
Licensing Team Leader
Democratic Services Manager

30 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S H Beer and T A Bond.

31 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

33 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor M D Conolly, made the following announcements:

- (a) To congratulate Councillor S S Chandler on being appointed as a Kent County Council Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services.
- (b) To note the resignation of Council Leader K E Morris from the Council and call upon Members of the Council to speak about his time on the Council.

Councillor S S Chandler praised him for his calm and measured approach during his time as Leader. In particular, he was a champion of young people and had made homelessness a priority.

Councillor K Mills acknowledged the work that Councillor K E Morris had done on International Women's Day and stated that each Leader brought something new to the role.

(c) To advise the Council of the death of former district councillor Gwladys Payne.

The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect at the passing of former district councillor Gwladys Payne.

34 ELECTION OF A LEADER

The Chairman called for nominations for the vacant position of Leader of the Council following the resignation of Councillor K E Morris.

It was moved by Councillor P D Jull, and duly seconded by Councillor D G Beaney, that Councillor T J Bartlett be nominated as Leader of the Council.

In the absence of any further nominations it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor T J Bartlett be elected as the Leader of the Council until the day of the next Annual Meeting of the Council following the ordinary election of all councillors in 2023.

35 COMPOSITION OF CABINET

Councillor T J Bartlett gave notice of his intention to appoint an Executive (Cabinet) comprising of the Leader of the Council and six members, including the Deputy Leader.

RESOLVED: (a) That the composition of the Cabinet be received and noted.

(b) That it be noted that the Leader of the Council had given formal notification to the Monitoring Officer of his intention to appoint the following portfolio structure:

- Leader of the Council
- Deputy Leader of the Council
- Portfolio Holder for Community and Tourism
- Portfolio Holder for Environment and Commercial Services
- Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health
- Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services
- Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
- Portfolio Holder for Transport and Licensing

36 APPOINTMENT OF A CABINET

Councillor T J Bartlett gave notice of his intention to appoint the following Members to the following Portfolios:

1	Deputy Leader	M J Holloway
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2	Portfolio for Community and Tourism	M J Holloway
3	Portfolio for Environment and Commercial Services	O C de R Richardson
4	Portfolio for Housing and Health	D P Murphy
5	Portfolio for Planning and Regulatory Services	N S Kenton
6	Portfolio for Finance and Governance	S C Manion
7	Portfolio for Transport and Licensing	N J Collor

RESOLVED: That the appointment of Members to Cabinet Portfolios be received and noted.

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LEADER'S TIME

The Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett, included the following matters in his report:

- (a) To update the Council on the progress of works at Deal Pier and advise that work had commenced on the landside shelter.
- (b) To highlight the success of the Dover Leisure Centre and its recent open day.
- (c) To advise that work was underway on the Kearsney Park Café and was due to be completed by June 2020. In addition, Kent County Council had commenced works on the new puffin crossing.
- (d) To advise that there would be a cross-party group formed for the refurbishment for Tides, Deal.
- (e) To advise that public consultation would be undertaken in November/December in respect of the design proposals for Maison Dieu. The Council was exploring funding opportunities for the work that needed to be undertaken and had already secured some match funding.

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

- (a) To congratulate Councillor T J Bartlett on his appointment as Leader of the Council.
- (b) To urge the creation of a dedicated portfolio for the environment/green matters. He asked for a letter written to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services, Councillor N S Kenton, to be circulated to Members and published on the Council's website.
- (c) To point out that the timetable for the Climate Emergency report had slipped.
- (d) To ask the Council to promote awareness of the impact of fireworks on animals and vulnerable people.
- (e) To point out that Persimmon had built roads in Aylesham that had no street lights.
- (f) To ask the Leader to organise a BREXIT Task Force meeting to update the Council's readiness for BREXIT. He asked that Members be updated on

what the Council had done so far in preparation for BREXIT and what its areas of concern were. Councillor K Mills also expressed concern over the potential adverse impact of Operation Perch on Dover's road network.

In response the Leader of the Council advised:

- (a) To advise that he supported the promotion of firework safety.
- (b) That he would investigate the issue of roads without street lighting in Aylesham.
- (c) To advise that officers had undertaken a lot of work in respect of BREXIT and that he would look to share that work with Members.

38 SEAT ALLOCATION AND GROUP APPOINTMENTS

Councillor T J Bartlett, duly seconded by Councillor S S Chandler, advised the following changes to Conservative Group appointments:

Committee	Change
East Kent Services Committee	T J Bartlett (replaces Vacancy)
East Kent Services Committee	M J Holloway (replaces S S Chandler)
East Kent Services Committee (Substitute)	D P Murphy (replaces T J Bartlett)
Electoral Matters Committee	T J Bartlett (replaces Vacancy)
Licensing Committee	P D Jull (replaces T J Bartlett)
Licensing Committee	J S Back (replaces N J Collor)
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	R S Walkden (replaces D P Murphy)
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	D G Beaney (replaces O C de R Richardson)

In addition, Councillor T J Bartlett was moved as the Chairman of the Electoral Matters Committee to replace the vacancy arising from the resignation of the previous Chairman, Councillor K E Morris.

RESOLVED: That the following changes to Conservative Group nominations be agreed:

Committee	Change
East Kent Services Committee	T J Bartlett (replaces Vacancy)
East Kent Services Committee	M J Holloway (replaces S S Chandler)
East Kent Services Committee (Substitute)	D P Murphy (replaces T J Bartlett)
Electoral Matters Committee	T J Bartlett (replaces Vacancy)

Licensing Committee	P D Jull (replaces T J Bartlett)
Licensing Committee	J S Back (replaces N J Collor)
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	R S Walkden (replaces D P Murphy)
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	D G Beaney (replaces O C de R Richardson)

Committee	Chairman
Electoral Matters Committee	T J Bartlett

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QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- (1) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, Sara Gleave asked the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services, Councillor N S Kenton:

“Are the DDC new Local Plan team going to integrate the recommendations of the Town and Country Planning Association on how local authorities can plan for the climate crisis (Planning for Climate Change refers - with its examples of how councils can get low-carbon social housing and protect greenfield by means of robust dealing with volume developers) into the draft document before the document goes to public consultation in January 2020?”

In response, Councillor N S Kenton advised that climate change was a key issue and would be part of the local plan. Using the latest published material, discussions had already taken place with Officers from other Kent LPAs working in close partnership with the RTPI, Town & Country Planning Association and Climate Earth. Dover District Council was hosting a workshop with policy planners from across Kent in late November to discuss how Local Plans across Kent could take this matter forward on a county wide basis.

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

- (2) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, Dominic Howden asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“Britain is currently at 50% food self-sufficiency, and dropping. How does Dover District Council plan to cope with food shortages in the very near future as an immediate consequence of Brexit, and in the longer term as a consequence of the Climate Emergency?”

In response Councillor T J Bartlett stated that for the immediate future and in terms of any potential future no deal Brexit, the council would explore with partners the possibility of hardship funds for vulnerable communities and residents. However, the real potential issue would be the supply chain which the council had no direct control over. With regards climate change, the Cabinet would be discussing a report in the near future to look at areas within its own remit/responsibility.

- (3) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, Hamish Napier asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“At the last council meeting, then-leader Keith Morris talked about replacing polluting council vehicles with electric ones, as the leases naturally ran out. So, which is more important: Climate Emergency, or money?”

In response Councillor T J Bartlett advised that the Council had passed two motions relating to climate change at its meeting in July 2019. In response to those decisions Cabinet would be considering a report next week, which included a recommendation that the Council should declare a Climate Emergency in recognition of the challenge which we were all facing. As regards the use of electric vehicles by the Council, as the leases on the current vehicles run out, the Council already reviewed the availability of a suitable electric powered alternative. For example, the vehicles used by the enforcement team were switched to EV charging earlier this year. Looking ahead, he expected, where a suitable alternative was available, that the remainder of the Council’s vehicle fleet would follow suit over the coming years.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.8, H Napier exercised the right to ask a supplementary question.

- (4) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, Tyler Howell-Bray asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“If I can draw your attention to Section 1.6c, Communication, Keys Asks, Short Term, of the DDC EU Exit Preparedness Report: you say you would like “assurances” from Kent County Council and the Government that they will “engage” with you regarding Brexit preparedness and the post-Brexit environment. I was under the impression that several DDC Members also sit on KCC. Are you that confident about communication, at this late stage, that you’re having to beg for them to talk to you?”

In response Councillor T J Bartlett advised that the Council had good communication channels and that he wanted to re-iterate that these would continue during any challenging times ahead. The council did not have a statutory responsibility for the road network, however it was important that it had the opportunity to raise any issues important to our businesses and communities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.8, T Howell-Bray exercised the right to ask a supplementary question.

40 APPOINTMENT OF AN EAST KENT JOINT INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Democratic Services Manager presented the report on the Appointment of an East Kent Joint Independent Remuneration Panel.

It was moved by Councillor S C Manion, duly seconded by Councillor S S Chandler, and

- RESOLVED: (a) That the Council's continued participation in the East Kent Joint Independent Remuneration Panel be approved until 30 November 2023.
- (b) That Mr W Ferrier and Mr A Goodall be appointed to the East Kent Joint Independent Remuneration Panel by Dover District Council for a four year term commencing 1 December 2019.
- (c) That the Democratic Services Manager be authorised to agree the arrangements for the administrative support of the East Kent Joint Independent Remuneration Panel.

41 2019 - 2022 REVISED STATEMENT OF POLICY AND PRINCIPLES ISSUED UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005

The report proposed the adoption of the draft revised Statement of Policy and Principles issued under the Gambling Act 2005 following the consultation process.

It was moved by Councillor N J Collor, duly seconded by Councillor D P Murphy, and

RESOLVED: That the draft revised Statement of Policy and Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 be approved without modification.

42 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 R S Walkden asked the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Licensing, Councillor N J Collor:

"In view of recent days - on the 26th. and 27th. of July and the 10th. of August, when central Dover became gridlocked for hours, will the Portfolio for Transport and Licensing, please advise on discussions to keep Dover moving, that are associated with Brexit?"

In response Councillor N J Collor advised that the Council has been working with partners within the Kent Resilience Forum for more than a year now on the development of the plans known as Operation Brock to deal with the potential delays to freight traffic caused by Brexit. The importance of this was highlighted by the events in July and August, a matter of which he was acutely aware, living as close as he did to the A20. The Council has been lobbying all of the agencies involved in the development of these plans for many months and its concerns regarding the likely effectiveness of the Brock plans were well known.

Diverting port bound traffic to Manston was not a policy that the Council supported, and he remained convinced that if introduced it would quickly need to be abandoned, leading in all likelihood to the reintroduction of Operation Stack. More positively, the Council had been closely engaged with Kent County Council on developing plans to protect box junctions on key routes within Dover amongst other things and the Council had been seeking additional powers from government to allow it to enforce these regulations.

Kent County Council were also looking to improve the sequencing of traffic lights within the town and improve CCTV coverage of key junctions, which should help to improve traffic flows.

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

- (2) Councillor P Walker asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“Could the Leader please provide a complete update of DDC employees, following on from that profile of 2016, where age profiles and grades are supplied in order to aid succession planning?”

In response the Chief Executive advised that the work referred to by Councillor Walker was originally undertaken in 2015 as part of a wider Workforce Planning exercise. It was then updated in 2017 but included only age ranges in respect of each department across the Council, not grades. The Council was currently undertaking work with East Kent Human Resources to produce an updated People Strategy, which included a specific strand looking at Skills for the Future, which will include work relating to succession planning.

Age profiling would be undertaken as part of this process and the Chief Executive advised that he was happy to arrange for this to be reported to a future meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

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

- (3) Councillor H M Williams asked the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health, Councillor D P Murphy:

“How is the air quality being monitored at Aycliffe and what type of sampling is currently being used for monitoring or has been done previously?”

In response Councillor D P Murphy stated that the Council was actively looking at opportunities to develop and acquire low energy homes for affordable housing. Subject to cabinet approval, an application was shortly to be made to Homes England to support the acquisition of 8 carbon zero flats in Dover for affordable rent. Officers and Members had already visited construction sites to see the installation in progress and completed properties. Further visits are in the pipeline, including a potential visit to the Norwich development.

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

- (4) Councillor E A Biggs asked the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Commercial Services, Councillor O C de R Richardson:

“How is the air quality being monitored at Aycliffe and what type of sampling is currently being used for monitoring or has been done previously?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services, Councillor N S Kenton advised that a total of 17 sites were monitored for

Nitrogen Dioxide throughout the district using diffusion tubes. Monitoring had previously been carried out at three locations in Aycliffe, Dover during 2015 – 2017 due to concerns around the implementation of Dover Tap. All results recorded during that period showed levels below national Air Quality Objectives and all monitoring data was available to download on the Kentair website.

- (5) Councillor P M Brivio asked the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services, Councillor N S Kenton:

“Can the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services confirm if the council will include proposals in the Local Plan to adopt a code for standards of sizing of new properties.”

In response Councillor N S Kenton advised that it was the intention that the new Local Plan would adopt the nationally described space standard as set out in the Government’s Technical Housing Standards published in March 2015.

- (6) Councillor C D Zosseder asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“Can the Leader confirm that no important council business has been neglected or delayed while Brexit preparations take place? If they cannot confirm that this is the case, can they explain what particular decision have not been taken by the council as a result of the chaos going on at government level.”

In response Councillor T J Bartlett advised that to his knowledge that no council business had been neglected or delayed while BREXIT preparations were taking place.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor C D Zosseder exercised her right to ask one supplementary question.

- (7) Councillor J P J Burman asked the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Licensing, Councillor N J Collor:

“We understand that it is proposed, the platform at Sandwich Railway Station will be extended for the Open Golf in 2020 but after the event the platform extension will be closed off again. This means that the dangerous overcrowding of the station platform that occurs on a daily basis will continue. Will DDC use its influence to make sure the platform extension remains in use after the open Golf Event?”

In response Councillor N J Collor advised that it was correct that the platform extensions at Sandwich Station, which would enable 12 car High Speed trains to use the station without overhanging the main road access into Sandwich, had been designed and approved to be used for the duration of the 149th Open Championships having regard to the significant levels of use that would occur during the event or future events.

The extended platforms would not be used on a day-to-day basis as they would require significantly enhanced full access for all (lifts) beyond the special arrangements being put in place for the 149th Open Championships

which would mean that the costs would have been prohibitive. In relation to the suggestion that dangerous overcrowding of the platform occurs on a daily basis, both Southeastern and Network Rail did not share this view. Southeastern had not identified any risk to safety from day to day use at the station, which was less than 1000 passengers.

While it was recognised that there are times where the station becomes busier than normal, particularly at the end of the school day, when children from a couple of local schools used the station to travel home, this was common across the network. Network Rail was also of the view that they did not believe that there was 'dangerous overcrowding' on the platforms. If such a situation had been identified, it was expected that some form of restriction would be put in place to enable the trains to stop at Sandwich Station over and above passengers being required to stand behind the yellow lines on the platforms. The Council would lobby The Department for Transport, Network Rail and the train operating company for improvements to rail related infrastructure when future circumstances warranted such approach.

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

43 MOTIONS

(1) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor P M Brivio moved the Motion of which she had given notice as followed:

"This year 25 years since the FAIRTRADE Mark was launched in the UK and Dover District Council notes that:

- Since 1994 consumer demand for Fairtrade has grown thanks to the efforts of grassroots campaigners and pioneering Fair Trade businesses.
- There are now over 600 Fairtrade Communities in the UK and more than 2,000 globally.
- As a result of Fairtrade commitments from mainstream brands and retailers, the UK Fairtrade market is now one of the biggest in the world.
- Global Fairtrade sales last year generated £142 million in Fairtrade Premium. Farmers in 73 countries have invested this money in their communities, increasing business productivity and contributing to the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Despite this positive news, exploitation remains rampant in global supply chains. More than 40 million people are trapped in modern slavery, including forced labour, and 152 million young people in child labour. Hundreds of millions more are earning less than a living income or wage.

This council believes that:

- Fairtrade has a significant contribution to make towards ending exploitation in global supply chains.

- The recently agreed International Fairtrade Charter should be welcomed, with its vision of transforming trade to work for people and planet.
- The Fairtrade principles of paying a 'premium' that is wholly managed by farmers and workers themselves, and of minimum prices to protect producers from market volatility, are crucial to systemic change.
- Public bodies, including local authorities, should support ethical procurement policies, using their purchasing power to support Fairtrade and ensure their supply chains, at home and abroad, are free of exploitation, including modern slavery.
- Companies operating through global supply chains should go further and take steps to require the payment of living wages and achievement of living incomes for all.

This council resolves to:

- Commits to achieve 'Fairtrade Community' status.
- Actively promote Fairtrade locally, through support for local groups, in the media including social media, and events, including during Fairtrade Fortnight.
- Support local Fairtrade Schools, and actively promote Fairtrade teaching materials in local schools and educational institutions.
- Celebrate and incentivise businesses championing Fairtrade products in the local community.
- Review its procurement policy, including its catering offer, to ensure that Fairtrade produce is chosen wherever possible, and that Fairtrade considerations are included as a preference in any contracts going out to tender."

The Motion was duly seconded by Councillor S J Jones.

On being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED: This year 25 years since the FAIRTRADE Mark was launched in the UK and Dover District Council notes that:

- Since 1994 consumer demand for Fairtrade has grown thanks to the efforts of grassroots campaigners and pioneering Fair Trade businesses.
- There are now over 600 Fairtrade Communities in the UK and more than 2,000 globally.
- As a result of Fairtrade commitments from mainstream brands and retailers, the UK Fairtrade market is now one of the biggest in the world.
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- Public bodies, including local authorities, should support ethical procurement policies, using their purchasing power to support Fairtrade and ensure their supply chains, at home and abroad, are free of exploitation, including modern slavery.
- Companies operating through global supply chains should go further and take steps to require the payment of living wages and achievement of living incomes for all.

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- Support local Fairtrade Schools, and actively promote Fairtrade teaching materials in local schools and educational institutions.
- Celebrate and incentivise businesses championing Fairtrade products in the local community.
- Review its procurement policy, including its catering offer, to ensure that Fairtrade produce is chosen wherever possible, and that Fairtrade considerations are included as a preference in any contracts going out to tender.

(2) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor K Mills moved the Motion of which he had given notice as followed:

"We note that there are 8 million people in this country who have trouble putting food on the table according to the UN. Over 500,000 people used Foodbanks in the UK last year.

The Trussell Trust alone distributed over 1.3m three-day emergency food supplies of people in crisis in the financial year 2017/ 18. Three million children are at risk of hunger during the school holidays and around 10% of the NHS budget goes on treating diabetes and up to 1 million people live in food deserts in the UK.

We further note that the Government's commitment to the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals which apply internationally and domestically commits governments to ending hunger by 2030.

We resolve to ask the Council to commit to food justice in the Dover District area by nominating a Cabinet member/ Lead Member the responsibility of delivering food justice, setting up a food partnership, and asking Scrutiny to investigate the extent of the issue and what can be done to tackle it.”

The Motion was duly seconded by Councillor C D Zosseder.

Councillor S S Chandler duly seconded by Councillor T J Bartlett, moved an AMENDMENT to the final paragraph of the Motion as followed:

“We resolve to ask scrutiny to investigate the extent of the issue in the Dover District and what can be done to tackle it.”

Councillor K Mills, with the agreement of his seconder, agreed to accept the AMENDMENT and it became the SUBSTANTIVE Motion.

RESOLVED: We note that there are 8 million people in this country who have trouble putting food on the table according to the UN. Over 500,000 people used Foodbanks in the UK last year.

The Trussell Trust alone distributed over 1.3m three-day emergency food supplies of people in crisis in the financial year 2017/ 18. Three million children are at risk of hunger during the school holidays and around 10% of the NHS budget goes on treating diabetes and up to 1 million people live in food deserts in the UK.

We further note that the Government's commitment to the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals which apply internationally and domestically commits governments to ending hunger by 2030.

We resolve to ask scrutiny to investigate the extent of the issue in the Dover District and what can be done to tackle it.

44 URGENT BUSINESS TIME

There were no items of urgent business for consideration.

The meeting ended at 7.27 pm