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## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council for the District of Dover held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Wednesday, 1 March 2023 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor M D Conolly

Councillors:

J S Back	D G Cronk	K Mills
T J Bartlett	D R Friend	D P Murphy
M Bates	D Hannent	O C de R Richardson
D G Beaney	D A Hawkes	C A Vinson
S H Beer	M F Hibbert	P Walker
E A Biggs	S J Jones	H M Williams
T A Bond	P D Jull	C F Woodgate
S S Chandler	N S Kenton	C D Zossedder
N J Collor	S C Manion	

Officers: Chief Executive  
Strategic Director (Finance and Housing)  
Strategic Director (Corporate and Regulatory)  
Solicitor to the Council  
Democratic and Corporate Services Manager  
Democratic Services Officer  
Democratic Services Officer

### 67 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P M Brivio, L A Keen, M Rose and R S Walkden.

### 68 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

### 70 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

(a) As it was the last meeting prior to the elections in May 2023, the Chairman thanked councillors for their service and in particular identified the following:

- The Vice-Chairman of the Council, Councillor D Hannent
- The PA to the Leader and Chairman and the Civic Attendant
- Democratic Services

- Councillors T J Bartlett and S S Chandler, current and former ward members with him in Little Stour and Ashstone Ward
  - The officers at the Council, praising the healthy relationship between Members and Officers
  - The Strategic Director (Finance and Housing) for their close working relationship during his eight years as the finance portfolio holder
  - Everyone involved in the Dover Leisure Centre PAG which delivered a new leisure centre on time and on budget
  - Members for the courtesy and good humour during full Council meetings
- (b) To offered his best wishes to those Members who would be stepping down at the next election – Councillors S S Chandler, N J Collor, D Hannent, S J Jones and L A Keen.
- (c) To condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine and reflect with pride on the Motion adopted by the Council on the matter.

The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect to remember those Ukrainian civilians and military personnel who had died since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

71

#### LEADER'S TIME

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

- (a) To praise the work of the Community Roots van and to encourage members to speak to community services if they wanted the van to visit their wards in the future.
- (b) To emphasise the importance of everyone having a say in the regeneration of the district.
- (c) To announce the relaunch of the Billiards Room at Kearsney Abbey which would be available for hire by local groups and for weddings. This was the culmination of the work since 2014 and had resulted in the best park in East Kent.
- (d) To thank all those involved in the Council winning a Great British Spring Clean award. The award was presented to representatives of Dover District Council at the Keep Britain Tidy's Network conference and network awards ceremony which took place in February.
- (e) That the Dover Fastrack was on course to open in September or early October 2023.
- (f) That Kent County Council had declined to attend this meeting but had agreed to attend a future meeting of the Council to give a presentation on the Kent Levelling Up Fund bid.
- (g) That the owners of the former Regent Cinema were liaising with planning on a potential application.

- (h) That an expected 40-50 businesses would be at the Skills and Job Fair and Stagecoach had agreed to provide a free loop bus for those attending. There would also be free parking offered at Tides.
- (i) That he had attended a Fair Trade Fortnight even organised by the Deal Fair Trade group.
- (j) To pay tribute to the Chairman of the Council, Councillor M D Conolly, for his service to the Council and his time as Chairman. Councillor M D Conolly, along with Councillors S S Chandler, N J Collor and D Hannent would be sadly missed.

He looked forward to welcoming a new Conservative Group Chairman of the Council in May 2023.

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

- (a) To advise the Leader that it would be a new Labour Group Chairman that the Council would be welcoming in May 2023.
- (b) To agree with the Leader of the Council that the Community Roots van was an asset.
- (c) To express surprise that Kent County Council had not attended to speak about the Levelling Up Fund bid given the history of gridlock affecting Dover. He expressed concern that infrastructure improvements alone may not be above to solve the issue.
- (d) To agree that Kearsney Abbey was an asset for local residents.
- (e) To welcome Fastrack but express concern about its viability once the subsidy had ended. He emphasised the importance of promoting the service.
- (f) To express concern that TAP had become more frequent in its use and that it was a blight on the residents of Aycliffe.
- (g) That it had been a long wait for something to happen with the Regent and it had still not yet happened. He pointed out that the independent cinema in Dover had closed and stressed the importance of provision of a cinema in Deal.
- (h) To offer his support for the Skills and Job Fair.
- (i) To ask the Leader what the progress on the Banksy had been.
- (j) To point out that Kent County Council members voted for an increase in their Members' allowances while at the same time cutting bus services in the district. The cuts to rural bus services were particularly significant. In contrast, Dover District Council had kept its allowances at a reasonable level.

In response the Leader of the Council advised:

- (a) That he will make sure that Kent County Council do attend a future meeting to discuss the Levelling Up Fund.
- (b) That he was expecting the submission on the Regent Cinema to happen in the next two weeks.
- (c) That he was looking into what could be done with the Banksy.
- (d) To point out that in Staple there were no buses anymore and that this would isolate people in the villages. He acknowledged that Stagecoach were also to blame but accepted that they were a commercial business.
- (e) To point out that he was not a member of Kent County Council and therefore not responsible for their Members' allowances. However, he accepted the points raised by Councillor Mills.

72 SEAT ALLOCATION AND GROUP APPOINTMENTS

There were no notifications received of changes to seat allocations or group appointments.

73 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- (1) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, a question from Mike Eddy was put to the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“Given the scale of expenditure on Dover’s Maison Dieu and the recently announced funding for the Bench Street area, when will Dover District Council take action to assert its rights and duties of ownership of the important heritage asset that is the Dover Roman Painted House?”

In response the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett stated:

“The Roman Painted House is leased to the Dover Roman Painted House Trust, a charity established some 50 years ago for the purposes of its stated aims which according to the Charity Commission website are to “preserve the Roman House, Dover, manage it and open it to the public as cost effectively as possible”.

Whilst the Council is very grateful to the work undertaken by you and your fellow trustees over the years, I do feel strongly that the time has come to review this arrangement with the trustees and also those dedicated volunteers that support the work of the Trust.

I am sure you will agree that this heritage asset deserves to be promoted, understood and appreciated by a far wider audience than is the case today.

Hopefully we can work together to create a management structure, which is fit for the 21st century and then work to attract the external funding that will be needed to restore the Roman Painted House as a cultural destination so that it can take its rightful place at the heart of Dover’s historical and cultural offer.”

A supplementary question was asked in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.8.

- (2) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, a question from Adrian Sullivan was put to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Environment, Councillor N S Kenton:

“What actions has the Council taken, and what actions will the Council take in the future, to show it is implementing the Kent Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2045?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Environment, Councillor N S Kenton stated:

“The potential for impacts to priority habitats and species identified in the Kent Biodiversity Strategy is currently addressed as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

The Council’s emerging Local Plan recognises the importance of the Kent Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2045, and planning applicants will need to demonstrate how their proposals align to strategic priorities and actions for the natural environment, including those in the Kent Biodiversity Strategy relating to the priority habitats and species that are present in Dover District. This will ensure that potential impacts are fully addressed and will also contribute to the delivery of Kent Biodiversity Strategy targets such as habitat restoration and creation, and the provision of habitat features including swift boxes.

Through the Kent Nature Partnership, the Council is a contributor to the current review of the Kent Biodiversity Strategy that will ensure that it can be embedded within the forthcoming Kent Local Nature Recovery Strategy, for which Kent County Council is the ‘Responsible Authority’, and in the development of which the Council is actively engaged.

Through the Environment Act 2021, the Council will have a statutory duty to have regard to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in local planning policy and decisions, so the implementation of actions in the Kent Biodiversity Strategy will be embedded in the Council’s planning functions.

Through the Environment Act 2021, the Council also has an enhanced duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to report on its actions in this regard. The Council is awaiting government guidance for how the reporting should be undertaken, but the expectation is that there will be a focus on priority species and habitats.

The Council is one of the founding partners and the host organisation for the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (WCCP). Through the activities of the WCCP and its partners the Council is working to restore, enhance and build the resilience of a number of the priority habitats and species which are the focus of the strategy. Through its events and educational programmes, WCCP also plays a key role in ‘connecting people with the natural environment’ across both Dover and Folkestone and Hythe districts.”

A supplementary question was asked in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.8.

- (3) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, a question from Peter Issac was put to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services, Councillor M Bates:

“A Welsh “Judge” ruled that Teachers had a right to teach children as young as 3 years and up about sex including gender and LGBTQ+ nullifying the parent’s right to protect children.

Duties of DDC include regulation at a local level and Duty of care and statutory duty of care for Health, Safety, and welfare, etc.

Referencing the wide spread use of Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) in schools and play-schools an unregulated system which is open to abuse by accident or design.

NLP falsely renamed a New Learning Pattern was implemented in schools in 2015; Richard Bandler co-creator referred to its Hypnotic effect.

Under our English Common and Statutory Law, DDC have entrusted duties to ensure children’s safety against the unregulated use and abuse if systems such as NLP, Hypnotism of children.

My question poses a duty on the council to state publicly whether under your care and trust duties because you can regulate health safety and welfare requirements upon schools / play schools etc. Within the Dover District which are not been regulated elsewhere; ensuring that persons trained on or self-taught in these systems are regulated to the following safety requirements.

1. Trained to a specific standard to
  - a. Ensure what they are saying or doing does not adversely affect any child either emotionally, psychologically or physically, or gain any undue influence over children regardless of the intention.
  - b. Declare on a local register that they are trained to use this system safely, that they are required to inform children, work colleagues, and most importantly the parents/Guardians of its use and serious safety risks associated to people not associated with but in the vicinity of its use.
  - c. Declare to the children, parents and colleagues of the risks associated to the Children’s Health Safety and Welfare as stated above and to allow opt in/out and non consent.
2. Ensure that their actions are not passed on through a third party in the following ways.
  - a. Ensure that people are aware of the risk of adverse effects of NLP when they may be aware they are using it e.g. the written work from a colleague.
  - b. By speech
  - c. By actions
  - d. By the written word
3. All Staff must be trained up to recognize and report the dangerous risks to our children of Health safety and welfare of children regarding “Unregulated NLP” hypnotic systems, if not why not this is a breach of your lawful obligation to Duty of Care and a breach of Trust?

In general it is illegal to hypnotise children under the age of 18.”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services, Councillor M Bates:

“The matters raised in this question are not matters in respect of which a District Council has powers and duties and we are not in a position to do as requested.

The Council’s only powers and duties in relation to hypnotism relate to the provision of permits for the licensing of exhibitions, demonstrations or performances of hypnotism for public entertainment.

Health and Safety and safeguarding issues in schools are the responsibility of the Health and Safety Executive, Ofsted, and depending on the school, the governing body and the local education authority. I would recommend that you address any concerns to the relevant body.”

The Chairman refused the questioner’s supplementary question.

74 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023/24

The Strategic Director (Corporate and Regulatory) presented the Pay Policy Statement 2023/24.

It was moved by Councillor C A Vinson, duly seconded by Councillor D A Hawkes and

RESOLVED: That the Council approves the Pay Policy Statement set out at Appendix 1 to this report prior to publication on the Council’s website.

75 COUNCIL BUDGET 2023/24, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023/24 – 2026/27 AND 2023/24 COUNCIL TAX SETTING

The Strategic Director (Finance and Housing) presented the Council Budget 2023/24, Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24-2026/27 and 2023/24 Council Tax Setting.

Members were advised that recommendation in Annex 10 to:

“Delegate the approval of projects included in Annex 6D, the Digital & ICT Programme to the Head of Community & Digital Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance, Digital and Climate Change.”

Had the previous job title for the Head of Transformation and should instead read as followed:

“Delegate the approval of projects included in Annex 6D, the Digital & ICT Programme to the Head of Transformation in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance, Digital and Climate Change.”

It was moved by Councillor C A Vinson, duly seconded by Councillor D A Hawkes, that subject to the change of title in Annex 10 above it be

RESOLVED: (a) That the General Fund Revenue Budget, the Capital and Special Projects Programmes, the Housing Revenue Account Budget,

the Council Tax Resolution and the content of the Medium-Term Financial Plan be approved.

- (b) That the Strategic Director (Finance and Housing) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Digital be authorised to draw on the Earmarked Smoothing Reserve to meet in year variations in the budget.
- (c) That a Council Tax increase of 2.98% for DDC purposes be approved, resulting in an increase on Band D properties of £6.03 per year and an annual DDC Council Tax of £208.17.
- (d) To note that it is the view of the Strategic Director (Finance and Housing) (Section 151 Officer) that, having due regard to the circumstances and the range of uncertainties, the budget has been prepared in an appropriate and prudent manner. As far as can be determined and, based upon the information available at the time of producing this report, the estimates are robust, and the Council's financial reserves are adequate for its spending plans in 2023/24.
- (e) That the various Council recommendations at the end of the sections within the attached budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan, and summarised in Annex 10 to Appendix 1, be approved.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 18.6 (voting on budget decisions) a recorded vote was held. The manner of voting was as followed:

**FOR (19)**

J S Back  
T J Bartlett  
M Bates  
D G Beaney  
T A Bond  
S S Chandler  
N J Collor  
M D Conolly  
D R Friend  
D Hannent  
D A Hawkes  
M F Hibbert  
P D Jull  
N S Kenton  
S C Manion  
D P Murphy  
O C de R Richardson  
C A Vinson  
P Walker

**AGAINST (0)**

**ABSTAIN (8)**

S H Beer  
E A Biggs  
D G Cronk  
S J Jones  
K Mills  
H M Williams  
C F Woodgate  
C D Zosseder



The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager presented the report on the Vacancy on the East Kent Remuneration Panel.

Members were asked to consider not filling the vacancy due to the limited number of months remaining on the Panels term of office.

It was moved by Councillor M F Hibbert, duly seconded by Councillor D R Friend, and

RESOLVED: That the vacancy in one of Dover District Council's two appointees on the East Kent Joint Independent Remuneration Panel remain unfilled for the remainder of the term of appointment.

## 77 REVISED PETITION SCHEME

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager presented the Revised Petition Scheme.

Members were advised that it had been over a decade since the scheme had previously been reviewed and that the current scheme was based on statutory guidance that had since been repealed.

Members debated the two proposed amendments from the Governance Committee to the recommendations set out in the report.

It was moved by Councillor S S Chandler, duly seconded by Councillor N S Kenton and

RESOLVED: That the Council approve the new Petition Scheme as set out in Appendix 1 of the report and incorporate it into the Constitution of the Council (Issue 25), subject to the inclusion of recommendation (b) of the Governance Committee that an additional paragraph be added after paragraph 2.13 that reads "Any petition with 1600 or more signatures will automatically be referred to full Council after consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee."

## 78 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION 2022-23

The Monitoring Officer presented the Review of the Constitution 2022-23.

Members were informed that the references to the Head of Community and Digital Services in the Scheme of Delegations should instead be to the Head of Transformation following a change to the title of the post holder.

It was moved by Councillor P D Jull, duly seconded by Councillor D Hannent, and

RESOLVED: (a) That the proposed changes in the Review of the Constitution 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 1, and specifically those changes relating to Part 3, Responsibility for Functions, Section 1 (Responsibility for Local Choice Functions), Section 2 (Responsibility for Council Functions) and Section 6, Sub Section C (Scheme of Officer Delegations) that relate to

Council functions be approved and incorporated into the Council's Constitution, issue no. 25.

- (b) That references to the 'Head of Community and Digital Services' be changed to read 'Head of Transformation'.

79 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 D R Friend asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance, Digital and Climate Change, Councillor C A Vinson:

"Will the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance, Digital and Climate Change update the Council on steps we're taking to help residents insulate their homes and cut their energy bills, as part of our wider commitment to cut the Council's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, and ambition to achieve the same goal across the whole district by 2050?"

In response Councillor C A Vinson stated:

"This Council recognises the current pressure on household energy bills and acknowledges the significant help provided to households and businesses by the government through its various support schemes. Fuel poverty is not a new issue, and locally we have been working for many years to help low income households in our district improve their homes' insulation and reduce their energy bills. This complements our commitment to reduce the Council's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, and the same ambition for the whole district by 2050.

In the past two years alone we have supported 123 households with upgrades to their home heating, insulation and energy efficiency - delivering nearly £1million in direct grant funding. In addition 116 households in the Dover district have received solar panels through the Kent Solar Together scheme, which will re-launch later this month.

Our support for households will continue, and details are being finalised for the next iteration of the Energy Company Obligation scheme, which will be responsible for Dover's share of £4billion in home energy improvements over the next 3 years. This Council has also put aside £80K of our UK Shared Prosperity Funding to help vulnerable households with their energy bills.

And turning to social housing, our commitment to add 500 properties to our stock has already delivered many new homes to our district. These have been built at or above current energy efficiency standards, including interim accommodation units at Stockdale Gardens in Deal whose entire energy consumption is met by rooftop solar panels. In the coming years we will also upgrade our existing social housing stock with improved insulation alongside solar PV and low carbon heating.

To cut our carbon emissions further the Council has switched its electricity contract to 100% renewable generation, replaced nearly 3,000 streetlights with low energy LEDs and improved the lighting and control systems across its buildings. Our leisure centres in Dover and Deal have reduced their energy

consumption by 21% and 9% respectively in the past year, and work continues with our leisure providers to further reduce the carbon emissions from what are our biggest emitters.

Finally I'd like to offer my personal thanks to Amanda Martin, whose long service and expertise as this Council's lead officer on energy efficiency, tackling fuel poverty and reducing carbon emissions sadly comes to an end this year. I wish her the very best for her retirement."

There was no supplementary question asked.

- (2) Councillor J S Back asked the Portfolio Holder for Social Housing, Port Health, Skills and Education, Councillor D P Murphy:

"Would the Portfolio Holder for Social Housing, Port Health, Skills and Education agree with me that the construction of 26 affordable homes on Napchester Road in Whitfield is yet another positive step by this Council to meet residents' housing needs, and could he provide an update on our programme to grow our social housing stock and improve conditions for our tenants?"

In response Councillor D P Murphy stated:

"The construction of 26 new homes, including 3 homes for wheelchair users, at Napchester Road is something to be celebrated, and forms part of the Council's actions to address the Housing Needs of the Districts' residents. Members will be aware of the first District-wide Affordable Housing Needs survey, which is currently open for responses until 18th April. This is the first time the Council has directly invited all residents in the District to tell us about their current and future housing needs. The results of the survey will be used to shape the district's Affordable Housing Strategy, which is being reviewed this year.

In September 2020, Members approved the delivery of a programme of new Council housing in the district, with an initial target of 500 homes. Against this initial target, 91 new homes have been completed, 38 homes are currently on site under development, and a further 32 homes have been approved by Cabinet and are to start on site early in the next financial year. In addition to this, our Registered Provider partners, working in conjunction with our Affordable Housing Enabler, have delivered 132 affordable homes in the District over the same timeframe. The affordable homes provided by the Council and other RPs include developments in our towns and rural areas. A range of tenures have been provided, including affordable and social rented properties, shared ownership and Interim accommodation, to ensure a valuable contribution is made towards meeting the needs of a wide range of the district's residents."

There was no supplementary question asked.

- (3) Councillor E A Biggs asked the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Environment, Councillor N S Kenton:

"Would the Portfolio holder for Planning enforcement, Cllr Kenton, tell us what is being done to ensure that the long suffering residents of Aycliffe are not having their daily lives further disrupted by the latest Lorry park in South Military Road."

In response Councillor N S Kenton stated:

“The history and background of the lorry park is still being investigated with regards to its lawfulness.

Vehicle activity on the public highway and the safety of highway users are matters for Kent Country Council Highways or the Police to take action over. Officers are liaising with Kent Country Council Highways.”

A supplementary question was asked in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.6.

- (4) Councillor S H Beer asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance, Digital and Climate Change, Councillor C A Vinson:

“What steps are being taken while our digital transformation continues, to preserve multiple routes for residents to communicate with DDC?”

In response Councillor C A Vinson stated:

“The Council’s transformation programme goes far beyond just opportunities presented by the use of digital technologies. Its scope spans the whole Council and seeks to sustain and improve the delivery of high-quality Council services in the most efficient manner for our residents. We continue to offer multiple routes through which local people can contact the Council, and have recently added a further option with the introduction of our Community Roots outreach bus; which visited the North Deal ward on the 18th February.”

A supplementary question was asked in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.6.

- (5) Councillor S H Beer asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance, Digital and Climate Change, Councillor C A Vinson:

“Are digitally literate residents at an unfair advantage?”

In response Councillor C A Vinson stated:

“The Council recognises that residents across our District have varying levels of digital literacy, which is why we are committed to maintaining a range of routes to contact us, as well as building digital skills in our community - most recently through the provision of IT equipment and training as part of the Dover Skills Project.”

A supplementary question was asked in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.6.

- (6) Councillor M F Hibbert asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“Would the Leader of the Council agree with me that keeping Dover’s Council Tax the lowest in East Kent and delivering excellent value for money is of great importance to our residents, particularly when household budgets

are under significant pressure, and provide an update on our transformation programme to modernise and improve the services we provide for the future?”

In response Councillor T J Bartlett stated:

“Yes, I agree that Dover District residents benefit from the lowest district Council Tax in East Kent. Our Council Tax is substantially lower than our close neighbours and this is a major help for local households.

As Chair of the Transformation board, I’m pleased to provide you an update this evening.

- As an organisation we must move with the times and shape this great organisation accordingly
- Transformation is about taking Staff and Members on the journey from the very beginning.
- A staff survey was launched in December last year.
- Staff were consulted on areas around Support, Communication, Ownership, Pride, and Innovation
- There were 301 responses received, which is 61% of the workforce. ( this is a huge response)
- The majority of staff are satisfied and are proud to work for DDC – this is a good foundation to start the Transformation programme.

Now we are aware of Staff views, we can continue further on our journey.

I have asked Brin Hill who leads on the Transformation programme to work with the Transformation Board (which includes Cllr Mills) and Nadeem to look at helping drive the innovation and create a framework for the Transformation programme going forward.

There will be difficult decisions ahead as we modernise our services and organisation, but we must ensure we take as many staff and customers on this journey

I look forward to updating you further as we continue to Transform.”

There was no supplementary question asked.

(7) Councillor D A Hawkes asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“Will the Leader of the Council join me in celebrating the significant grant funding we have secured to regenerate our town centres, and will he provide an update on progress with the delivery of the Council's ambitious programme to boost tourism and inward investment?”

In response Councillor T J Bartlett stated:

“Thank you for your question and I - as I know the rest of the Council will equally - would be delighted to join you in celebrating the significant £18.1 million Levelling Up Fund grant we received for the regeneration of Dover Town Centre. A successful application that was unanimously supported across the Council.

This new town centre focused project and funding further complements the Council's other part funded projects across Dover, such as the Future High Streets Fund Creative Centre and Underpass works; the National Lottery Heritage Fund Maison Dieu work; the Homes England and Department for Transport Fastrack project; as well as the recently completed Coastal Community Fund Market Square and, past, St James's Retail & Leisure Park Development.

These developments in Dover, but equally many others across the District, all relate to Cabinet and this Council's focus and ambition to drive growth and regeneration, as well as wider opportunities and benefits for the people we serve, through inward investment, place and tourism as catalysts for change."

There was no supplementary question asked.

## 80 MOTIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor H M Williams moved the following Motion:

"This council notes that there is more work to be done to encourage a more diverse range of candidates for elections in future, in order that councillors better represent the diverse communities they serve.

This council therefore resolves to create a working group at the annual Meeting in May 2023 to find ways to encourage a more diverse range of candidates, especially more women, to stand for council in future."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor S H Beer.

An AMENDMENT was moved by Councillor S S Chandler, duly seconded by Councillor C A Vinson as follows:

"This Council notes that there is more work to be done to encourage more diverse range of candidates for elections in future, in order that councillors better reflect the diverse communities they serve.

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to include in the Committee work programme consideration of how more residents from across those communities can be encouraged to participate in local democracy and potentially stand as candidates in future council elections."

On being put to the meeting the AMENDMENT was CARRIED.

On being put to the meeting, the SUBSTANTIVE Motion was

**RESOLVED:** This Council notes that there is more work to be done to encourage more diverse range of candidates for elections in future, in order that councillors better reflect the diverse communities they serve.

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to include in the Committee work programme

consideration of how more residents from across those communities can be encouraged to participate in local democracy and potentially stand as candidates in future council elections.

81 URGENT BUSINESS TIME

There were no items of urgent business for consideration.

The meeting ended at 8.27 pm