

Motions on Notice by Members

- (1) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor J L Pout will move:

“Poor water quality in Deal

Council notes:

1. The water quality in Deal castle has deteriorated from ‘Good’ in 2021 to ‘Poor’ in 2024, according to the Environment Agency.
2. A particularly large spike on 23rd August 2024 in both E Coli. and Intestinal Enterococci per 100ml.
3. In initial dialogue with both Southern Water and the Environment Agency, there is no definitive answer as to the reason for the declining water quality.

Council believes:

- i. Southern Water has underinvested in the sewerage network across the district.
- ii. The Environment Agency has good evidence to believe an abnormal incident took place on or around 23rd August as they applied for the data to be disregarded.
- iii. The ‘Poor’ quality rating will have detrimental economic effects if left in place for longer than necessary.

Council resolves to:

- a. Write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, urging them to support our efforts in holding the Environment Agency and Southern Water accountable for the poor water quality in Deal.
- b. Urge Southern Water and the Environment Agency to be open and honest with the people of Deal, by sharing all available information with the public.
- c. Explore the value of additional water quality sampling.
- d. Take all opportunities given to the council to work collaboratively to improve water quality in Deal and across the Dover district.”

- (2) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor P M Brivio will move:

“Geopark 2025

Council Notes

- The proposals for a UNESCO Global Cross Channel Geopark are now at an advanced stage.

- The Geopark will cover a broad swathe of chalk downland from Dover to Bromley as well as Folkestone and other urban areas outside the district, along with a similar geological region in northern France.
- The bid is being prepared jointly by the Kent Downs National Landscape and the Parc Naturel Regional des Caps et Marais d'Opale who need to demonstrate the action that has already been taken by local Councils, land management organisations, businesses and local communities
- If successful the bid will celebrate the relationship between the underlying geology, people, and natural and cultural heritage: it will help to protect the chalk landscapes in both regions, promote sustainable tourism and bring communities closer together supporting pride of place.

Council believes

UNESCO designation will bring multiple benefits throughout the district, supports both our strategic objects and the adopted Kent Downs National Landscape Management Plan, and represents a timely response to the current climate change and ecological emergencies.

Council resolves

As far as existing resources allow:

- To support the Kent Downs National Landscape Unit in promoting the bid, working with other organisations and Local Authorities in Kent
- To raise public awareness about the bid and the benefits it will bring to the local community and natural environment
- To include reference to the Cross Channel Global Geopark in our communications and promotional activities
- To assist the Kent Downs National Landscape Unit in reaching out to school children, students, and young people to help shape the bid and, if successful, on any projects that follow
- To contribute towards identifying Geosites in the Dover district area
- To further the development of the Cross Channel Global Geopark through the positive deployment of appropriate Council functions, resources, and responsibilities.

We are particularly interested in these Geosites within DDC as locations for the events programme to be included in our public "Call out" to Facilitators and Community partners:

- Dover Castle
- Dover Museum and Maison Dieu
- The Pines Calyx and Pines Gardens
- White cliffs of Dover
- Samphire Hoe

Our aim with this call out is to reach wider audiences and widen access and enjoyment of the sites!”

(3) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor D R Friend will move:

“Condition of 57 New Street, Sandwich

Council Notes:

- The deplorable condition of 57 New Street in Sandwich, which is a blight on the town and a longstanding source of embarrassment and concern for local residents.

Council believes:

- Further action is needed by DDC’s enforcement and legal team, as it is clear that actions taken with the property’s owners to date have not been effective or delivered timely results.

Council resolves to:

- Pursue further escalation of enforcement action relating to the property, including exploring legal routes to potential compulsory purchase of the site if matters cannot be resolved through other means.”

(4) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor T J Bartlett will move:

“Devolution arrangements in East Kent

Council Notes:

- The Government proposal to reorganise local government across England, including the removal of two-tier council arrangements
- The potential creation of an East Kent unitary council, which might include Dover, Folkestone & Hythe, Thanet, Canterbury and other areas.
- That district councils in East Kent currently have significantly different levels of Council Tax, reserves, housebuilding targets, debt and parking charges

Council believes:

- Far more information is needed from Central Government to fully understand the impact of any potential local government reorganisation on the Dover district and its residents.

- It would be unreasonable for the costs associated with Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) to fall solely on a future East Kent unitary council by virtue of its proximity to the coastline of the near Continent.

Council resolves to:

- Work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities, Kent County Council and Government to achieve the best outcome for Dover district residents.
- Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to seek reassurances that the costs associated with UASC will not fall solely on a potential East Kent unitary council.
- Ensure that all members of the Council are regularly briefed on the progress of discussions relating the potential creation of new local government entities in Kent by the Chief Executive and Leader.

(5) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor M Bates will move:

“Extension to retention time for video recordings of Council and Committee meetings

Council notes:

- Following the COVID pandemic, the Council chamber was fitted with HD video recording equipment and high-quality audio devices which allow for the online broadcasting of Council and Committee meetings.
- Recordings of these meetings are currently published on the Council’s YouTube channel and removed after one month.
- The deletion of meeting recordings after one month means that it is not possible to compare meeting minutes with meeting recordings to check for accuracy where minutes are not published within one month of a meeting.
- The deletion of meeting recordings means that it is not possible to review discussions in meetings that occurred more than one month previous, beyond the published minutes – which are by necessity a limited, formal record of each meeting.

Council believes:

- The live broadcast and subsequent publication of meeting recordings has been a great success and has improved the transparency of the Council’s activities – allowing members of the public, press, officers and others to view meetings without needing to attend the Council offices.
- Extending the period that meeting recordings are available to view online would further improve transparency, and allow Members to more accurately review, reflect on and refer to comments and decisions made in previous meetings.

Council resolves to:

- Remove the one-month retention limit for meeting recordings online
- Retain meeting recordings on the Council's YouTube channel indefinitely, or for no less than one year in that case of material limitations on storage capacity.