



## AGENDA

### EASTERN AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 28 February 2023

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: The Alexander Centre, 15-17 Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NZ

#### Membership:

Councillors Lloyd Bowen, Alastair Gould, Mike Henderson, Carole Jackson, Denise Knights (Chair), Ben J Martin, Hannah Perkin, Julian Saunders (Vice-Chair), David Simmons, Eddie Thomas, Tim Valentine and Mike Whiting.

Quorum = 4.

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Pages

#### Information about this meeting

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and procedures are advised that:

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- (b) Assemble outside where directed. Await instructions before re-entering the building.
- (c) Anyone who requires assistance in evacuating the building, should make themselves known during this agenda item.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their families or friends.

The Chair will ask Members if they have any disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) or disclosable non-pecuniary interests (DNPis) to declare in respect of items on the agenda. Members with a DPI in an item must leave the room for that item and may not participate in the debate or vote.

Aside from disclosable interests, where a fair-minded and informed observer would think there was a real possibility that a Member might be biased or predetermined on an item, the Member should declare this and leave the room while that item is considered.

Members who are in any doubt about interests, bias or predetermination should contact the monitoring officer for advice prior to the meeting.

4. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the meeting held on Thursday 15 December 2022 (Minute Nos. 533 – 543) as correct records.

5. Kent County Council Community Services Consultation 5 - 6
6. Faversham Strikeforce Football Club
7. Faversham Community Boat Build
8. Matters arising from previous meetings 7 - 10
9. Public Forum
10. Local issues to be raised
11. Matters referred to Area Committee by Service Committees
12. Matters referred to Service Committee Chairs for consideration

**Issued on Monday, 20 February 2023**

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**Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council,  
Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT**

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## **Kent County Council Community Services Consultation**

Kent County Council (KCC) has launched a public consultation on its Community Services which runs from 17 January to 26 March 2023.

The consultation proposes changes to the way we use our buildings to deliver some of our community services. We invite your feedback on our proposals as part of this consultation.

### **Why are we proposing changes?**

The Council has experienced big increases in costs and has less money to spend. So we need to look ahead and do things differently to make sure we can still help residents in the years to come. Whilst ensuring effective support for residents who need our services, we need to:

- tackle the rising costs of maintaining our many buildings
- find savings, so we can balance the budget
- reduce our carbon footprint to meet our Net-Zero ambitions.

### **What services are included in the proposals?**

Children's Centres and Youth Hubs, Public Health Services for Children and Families, Community Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities, Community Learning and Skills, and Gateways.

### **What are we proposing?**

- Having fewer permanent buildings, meaning that some of our buildings would close - we want to keep buildings in areas where they are needed the most
- Co-locating more of our services, meaning more than one service would be available from some of the buildings you might visit
- Continuing to deliver some services by outreach, which means they do not take place in a dedicated or permanent space, but move around to when and where they are needed
- Ensuring residents can continue to access services and information online.

Our proposals have been designed by considering where there is greatest need for our services.

### **Find out more and share your views**

Please visit [www.kent.gov.uk/communityservicesconsultation](http://www.kent.gov.uk/communityservicesconsultation) to find out about the proposals for your area. You can respond to the consultation by using the online questionnaire (or download the Word version).

On our website you will also find a list of our drop-in events where you can come along to talk about the proposals and ask your questions. In Swale the drop-in events are:

- Sheppey Gateway at Sheerness Library, 38-42 High Street, Sheerness, ME12 1NL Monday 27 February 10am-1pm
- Milton Court Children's Centre, Brewery Road, Milton Regis, Sittingbourne, ME10 2EE Thursday 23 February 4-8pm

KCC's Kent Communities Programme Team

[communityservicesfeedback@kent.gov.uk](mailto:communityservicesfeedback@kent.gov.uk)

## Summary of buildings in the Eastern Area potentially affected by KCC proposals:

*(Detailed explanations can be found in the consultation document, page numbers indicated below.)*

KCC proposals for co-locating services **(page 41)**:

Proposed Community Hub Location	Co-located Services
Faversham Library (existing co-location)	Community Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities and Library

This table shows each of the buildings we propose to retain and which we propose to leave. Buildings that we have indicated to 'Remain' are proposed to become Family Hubs **(page 52 - 60)**.

Current Children's Centre / Youth Hub Buildings	Proposal	Nearest Alternative	Distance in Miles
Bysing Wood Children's Centre' Faversham	Remain		
St Mary's Children's Centre, Orchard Place, Faversham	Leave	Bysing Wood Children's Centre	1.5
		Murston Children's Centre	7.5
		Milton Court Children's Centre	9.0

This table is specifically about Health Visiting Services. It shows the children's centres that accommodate Health Visiting Services which are proposed to close. It then tells you the nearest venue where you would be able to access this service instead. You will notice that some of the provision is by outreach **(page 73)**:

Current Children's Centre Buildings	Nearest Alternative	Distance in Miles
St Mary's Children's Centre Orchard Place, Faversham	Bysing Wood Children's Centre	1.5
	Murston Children's Centre	7.5
	Milton Court Children's Centre	9.0
	Current outreach in Abbey Ward	0.3

The table below shows the wards where there is existing outreach provision and where we propose to deliver new outreach provision, and which services this will involve **(page 78)**:

Ward	Services	Current Outreach or New Proposed Outreach
Abbey	Health Visiting Service	Current and continuing outreach

## Matters Arising

### Eastern Area Committee Meeting 28 February 2023 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Update on actions
1.	Bus consultation project	<p>At the December 2021 meeting, Eastern Area Committee Members agreed to award £10,000.00 to undertake a public consultation on local bus services.</p> <p>The Economic Development Support Officer has drafted a specification for the commissioning of a consultant to design and manage a public consultation to find out what residents would like to see from local bus services and to produce a summary report on the findings of the consultation. The specification has been devised in consultation with Councillors Gould, Saunders and Whiting, and officers from Swale Borough Council and Kent County Council. The specification has also been sent to the local bus providers in case they have any comments to help inform the proposed work.</p> <p>The specification will be sent by the Economic Development Support Officer to consultants in December to identify a price for the work. Once a suitable price has been identified and agreed, the work will be commissioned with the consultation aiming to commence in January 2023.</p>	<p>Since the last meeting, the Economic Development Support Officer has sent the specification for the bus consultation to a number of organisations who have responded with proposals for the bus consultation.</p> <p>There was a slight delay in commissioning as it took longer than expected to receive the proposals and for them to then be assessed. Project Centre Ltd has been commissioned to carry out the consultation and has started to prepare the consultation, and set up the survey.</p> <p>The intention is to start the consultation as soon as possible. Once the survey is live, the details will be circulated by email to the Eastern Area Committee.</p>
2.	Flooding in the Whitstable Road area	<p>At the December 2022 meeting, Cllr Julian Saunders provided a written update which included a response from Sue Cobb, Southern Water, about concerns</p>	<p>Kent County Council have advised investigations were successfully completed, with deeper soils 3 to 4</p>

	and other parts of Faversham	<p>raised by the Area Committee about CSO discharges and the local sewage network.</p> <p>The Head of Environment &amp; Leisure advised that ground investigations works commenced on 5 December for proposed additional works. The goal of this was to see whether it will be viable to install additional soakaways at the edge of the recreation ground to reduce the amount of run-off which comes from Park Road in particular. It will also help with detailing any works within the park that could reduce the run-off from the pathways and car park.</p>	metres below the ground offering some permeability. They have subsequently drafted a catchment assessment and are working on designs and costs which would be capable of absorbing at least part, but not all of the run-off.
<b>3.</b>	Fresh-water leaks	Councillor Carole Jackson advised there had been a number of fresh-water leaks which had not been repaired and asked how they could be reported as they would become dangerous in the winter during freezing conditions. The Vice-Chair agreed to write to South-East Water to report the issue.	Awaiting response from South-East Water.
<b>4.</b>	Active Travel update	At the December 2022 meeting, the Active Travel Co-ordinator gave an update on the Faversham Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 proposals.	Please see Appendix 1 for an update.



## Matters Arising update – Appendix 1

### EASTERN AREA COMMITTEE

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Active Travel Update</b>
<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Adrian Oliver, Active Travel Co-ordinator</b>

Thank you to everyone who has continued to provide input and support for active travel across the eastern area of Swale.

The Faversham Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 proposals were submitted to Kent County Council, competing with 87 other schemes.

Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 was finally officially announced on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February, some five months later than expected and very different from the funding previewed in July 2022. Tranche 4 is no longer a £470m capital and £250m revenue multi-year fund, but a one year £200m construction fund. The original Faversham proposal had been shortlisted and it has now been amended to better reflect the new funding conditions. At this point, the Faversham bid is still live and potentially going forward to the national Active Travel England bidding process.

On 8<sup>th</sup> February, we received confirmation that Swale Borough Council has been awarded £40,000 from the Active Travel Capability Fund 2022/23. £15,000 of which is specified to “assist with the Scheme Planning and Design of Faversham cross town walking routes.

This funding is considered to be early feasibility stage design of schemes, to the point of bidding for capital funds, including early plans sufficient for bid stage assurance against Active Travel England design tools. This project will be commissioned as soon as possible to ensure that we have the evidence for the next tranche of Active Travel Funding.

Additionally, Sustrans have committed £30,000 to a National Cycle Network Route 1 Quietway feasibility study between Faversham and Teynham.

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