



## AGENDA

### COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 30 March 2022

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT\*

Quorum = 16

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Pages

#### Information for the Public

\*Members of the press and public can listen to this meeting live. Details of how to join the meeting will be added to the website on 29 March 2022.

#### Privacy Statement

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#### Recording Notice

Please note: this meeting may be recorded, and the recording may be added to the website.

At the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being audio recorded. The whole of the meeting will be recorded, except where there are confidential or exempt items.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy.

Therefore by entering the meeting and speaking at Council you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of those sound recordings for training purposes.

If you have any queries regarding this please contact Democratic Services.

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on Wednesday 23 February 2022 (Minute Nos. 611 – 629) as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves or their spouse, civil partner or person with whom they are living with as a spouse or civil partner. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

The Mayor will ask Members if they have any interests to declare in respect of items on this agenda, under the following headings:

(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) under the Localism Act 2011. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DPI, the Member must leave the meeting and not take part in the discussion or vote. This applies even if there is provision for public speaking.

(b) Disclosable Non Pecuniary Interests (DNPI) under the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council in May 2012. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DNPI interest, the Member may stay, speak and vote on the matter.

(c) Where it is possible that a fair-minded and informed observer, having considered the facts would conclude that there was a real possibility that the Member might be predetermined or biased the Member should declare their predetermination or bias and then leave the meeting while that item is considered.

**Advice to Members:** If any Councillor has any doubt about the existence or nature of any DPI or DNPI which he/she may have in any item on this agenda, he/she should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer, the Head of Legal or from other Solicitors in Legal Services as early as possible, and in advance of the Meeting.

4. Mayor's Announcements
5. Leader's Statement
6. Questions submitted by the Public

To consider any questions submitted by the public. (The deadline for questions is 4.30 pm on the Wednesday before the meeting – please contact Democratic Services by e-mailing [democraticservices@swale.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@swale.gov.uk) or call 01795 417330).

7. Questions submitted by Members

To consider any questions submitted by Members. (The deadline for questions is 4.30 pm on the Monday the week before the meeting – please contact Democratic Services by e-mailing [democraticservices@swale.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@swale.gov.uk) or call 01795 417330).

8. Motion -Violence against Women and Girls 5 - 6

Motion concerning Violence against Women and Girls – full motion in Agenda Pack

Proposed by: Councillor Hannah Perkin  
Seconded by: Councillor Corrie Woodford

9. Motion - Ukraine 7 - 8

Motion concerning Ukraine – full motion in Agenda Pack

Proposed by: Councillor Mike Dendor  
Seconded by: Councillor Cameron Beart

10. Committee System - Revised Constitution Parts 1 and 2 - to follow

## Issued on Tuesday 22 March 2022

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in **alternative formats**. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, **please contact DEMOCRATIC SERVICES on 01795 417330**. To find out more about the work of Council, please visit [www.swale.gov.uk](http://www.swale.gov.uk)

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

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## **Motion – Violence against women and girls**

### **Council notes:**

- That the murder of Sarah Everard, just over 1 year ago, launched a wave of anger and protests across the country.
- That according to national crime statistics in the UK, on average one woman is killed by a man every three days.
- The ONS reported that in 2020 alone 618,000 women were victims of a sexual assault or an attempted sexual assault by a man.

Street harassment and violence against women and girls is endemic in the UK:

- 80% of women of all ages have been sexually harassed in public, with 90% of these women not reporting it as they don't believe it will make a difference
- One in two women are sexually harassed in the workplace
- One in three women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime
- One in five women will be raped in their lifetime
- Two women a week are killed by a current or former partner (this rose to three a week during lockdown), and three women a week take their own lives following domestic abuse.
- Women who report rape have a 3% chance of it ever being heard in court. Most women who survive domestic violence do not receive justice from the criminal justice system.
- That transphobia has become more commonplace under the cover of 'protecting women's spaces'.

### **Council notes:**

- Swale Borough Council, on behalf of the Swale Community Safety Partnership, is a White Ribbon Borough meaning we're committed to leading by example and taking the White Ribbon pledge – to never excuse, commit or remain silent about male violence against women.

### **Council believes:**

- That transphobia, homophobia, misogyny and all forms of hate crime have no place in modern society.
- That male violence against women and girls is part of a broader culture of misogyny in society.
- Perpetrators of serious violence usually have a history of inflicting abuse and harassment against other women and girls. Tackling violence against women and girls means dismantling this culture.
- The seeds of violent behaviour are often sown at a young age and if the right interventions are not made in time, the problem continues to perpetuate.

### **This Council resolves to:**

- Stand in solidarity with protestors who oppose violence against women, and girls.

- Commends work by the Community safety Unit and Kent Police as they look to the eradication of violence against women and girls.
- Commits to the delivery of the Violence Against Women and Girls action plan, that forms part of the Swale Community Safety Plan, delivered jointly with key partner agencies.
- Seek to develop work with schools and youth providers to educate and empower girls and young women regarding healthy relationships and safety
- Continue to work to ensure appropriate provision is in place for perpetrators of violence against women and girls to seek to change their behaviour
- Support Kent Police with delivery of their Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy
- Do all we can as a council and in our communities to champion the rights and entitlements of women and girls and to tackle violence against them. This includes continuing to invest in vital services, listening and responding to women and girls about the action we need, and calling out misogyny and sexism wherever we see and hear it.
- To support those providing services in Swale to deliver culturally competent services for VAWG which fully serve our diverse population.
- To continue to commit to the white ribbon pledge and to promote schemes that aim to educate men through campaigns that empower male “allies”.
- Work with our partners in the LGBTQ Community and Stop Hate UK to produce a Transphobia Hate Crime awareness plan
- Promote the Police “community voice” platform for reporting concerns

To ask the leader to write to the Home Secretary to ask that:

- There is an urgent Royal Commission into male violence against women
- For public sexual harassment to be made a crime, as was originally indicated in the Home Office Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) consultation.
- Increase investment in victims’ services including in particular, refuges, mental health services and legal aid support for all victims of male violence.

Proposed by: Councillor Hannah Perkin

Seconded by: Councillor Corrie Woodford

## **Motion for Council Meeting on Wednesday 30 March 2022**

**Swale Borough Council is immensely troubled by the horrific devastation in Ukraine, and the escalating humanitarian crisis facing the Country. In light of this, and as a way of expressing support for members of our community who are from or who have ties with Ukraine**

### **This Council**

- a. Condemns the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine on the orders of the dictator Putin and his sycophants, and stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and their families and friends, including those within Swale**
- b. Sympathises with those Russians living under an oppressive regime whose only reward for speaking out against Putin is prison and risk of death**
- c. Stands ready to provide support and open our arms to all those affected by this War**
- d. Will work with and support the efforts of our community to provide help and comfort to those in need.**

Proposed by: Councillor Mike Dendor  
Seconded by: Councillor Cameron Beart

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