



14th January 2025

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL** to be held in the **Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG** on **Monday 20th January 2025 at the conclusion of the Finance & Delivery Committee which commences at 7.00 pm**. Town Councillors are reminded that they have a duty to state a Declaration of Interest prior to the appropriate agenda item and to consider the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.17 when reaching a decision.

Please note, proceedings of this meeting will be streamed live to YouTube for the public to watch via the following link: <https://youtube.com/live/JYdNgcXy0dQ> and may be recorded in line with regulations set out in the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014. A copy of Sevenoaks Town Council's procedure for the recording of meetings is available online at sevenoakstown.gov.uk or by request.

Members of the public wishing to address the Council Meeting should notify the Town Council by 12 noon on the day of the meeting. Members of the public not wishing to be recorded should put this request to the Clerk at the earliest possible opportunity.

Town Clerk

To assist in the speedy and efficient despatch of business, members wishing to obtain factual information on items included on the agenda are asked to enquire of the Town Clerk prior to the day of the meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To enable any questions previously submitted by members of the public on any matter to be drawn to the attention of the Town Council.

AGENDA

1	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> To receive and note apologies for absence.	—
2	<u>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS</u> To consider written requests from Members which have previously been submitted to the Town Clerk to enable participation in discussion and voting on	—

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	items for which the Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. (s.31 & s.33 of the Localism Act 2011).	
3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> To receive any declarations of interest from members in respect of any items of business included in this report.	–
4	<u>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</u> To receive, adopt and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Town Council held on 9 th December 2024 as a true record.	Attached
5	<u>MINUTES OF COMMITTEES</u> Council is asked to consider and adopt the Minutes of the following Committee meetings: Planning & Environment Committee 16 th December 2024 23 rd December 2024 13 th January 2024	Copies circulated separately and available on request
6	<u>SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT RECOMMENDATION FOR 2025 – 2026</u> To consider the recommended Precept for 2025-2026 discussed at the meeting of the Finance & Delivery Committee held immediately prior to this meeting.	-
7	<u>SEVENOAKS ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE, BRADBOURNE ROAD, SEVENOAKS</u> Following withdrawal of notification of disposal by Kent County Council, to note current position with the Adult Education Centre.	-
8	<u>MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES & LOCAL GOVERNMENT: ENGLISH DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER – DECEMBER 2024</u>	Attached
9	<u>GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: ‘STRENGTHENING THE STANDARDS AND CONDUCT FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND’</u>	
9.1	To receive notice that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is consulting on proposals to introduce measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime for local authorities in England.	-
9.2	To note that full details on the consultation are available via the following link, and that the consultation will close on 26 th February 2025. Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England - GOV.UK	-
9.3	To receive copy of the consultation questionnaire and to agree whether the Town Council submit a formal response.	Attached

10	<u>REPORTS TO COUNCIL – STC REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</u> To receive reports from representatives on external organisations, if any.	–
11	<u>MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS</u> To receive and note: a) the functions attended by the Mayor or her representative up to 14 th January 2025 b) the forthcoming Civic Events being organised by the Mayor during 2024/2025.	Attached Attached
12	<u>PRESS RELEASE</u> To consider any agenda item which would be appropriate for a press release.	–

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Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 9th December 2024
Held in the Council Chamber, Town Council offices, TN13 3QG

Livestreamed and available to view on YouTube until approved by Council:
https://youtube.com/live/-YoZ1E_GiEE

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 7.14 p.m.

Cllr Libby Ancrum, Mayor	Present	Cllr Sally Layne	Apologies
Cllr Sue Camp	Present	Cllr Lise Michaelides	Present
Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Present	Cllr Lionel O'Hara	Apologies
Cllr Tony Clayton, Deputy Mayor	Present	Cllr David Skinner OBE	Present
Cllr Catherine Daniell, Deputy Leader	Apologies	Cllr Claire Shea	Present
Cllr Dr Peter Dixon	Apologies	Cllr Nick Varley	Apologies
Cllr Victoria Granville	Present	Cllr Gareth Willis	Present
Cllr Chloe Gustard	Present	Cllr Nigel Wightman, Leader	Apologies

In Attendance: Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer, Community Engagement Manager, and Senior Committee Clerk

Apologies also received from Cllr Richard Streatfeild, Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council.

Members of Public in Attendance: 50

Representations received from Members of the Public: None

459 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received and accepted as shown above.

460 Requests for Dispensations: none received.

461 Declarations of Interest: none received.

462 Minutes of the Meeting of Sevenoaks Town Council held on 25th November 2024

RESOLVED: to accept and sign the minutes of the Meeting of Sevenoaks Town Council held on 25th November 2024 as a true record.

463 Minutes of Committees

463.1 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 2nd December 2024 as a true record.

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Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 9th December 2024

463.2 Finance & Delivery Committee

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Delivery Committee held on 25th November 2024 as a true record.

464 Annual Presentation of Painting by the Mayor

In line with Town Council tradition, the Mayor presented a painting to add to the Town Council's Community Art Collection of local scenes by local artists which create a visual social history of Sevenoaks.

The Mayor was pleased to welcome artist Melvyn Evans to the meeting and to present his painting of the Vine Cricket Ground.

465 South & South East In Bloom 2024: Presentation of Certificates

The Mayor was pleased to present Certificates of Excellence to the following volunteers for their contributions towards the Gold Award achieved for Sevenoaks Town Centre:

- Rockdale Housing Association
- Soroptimist International Sevenoaks
- Adrian Cheeseman
- West Kent Housing Association (not present at meeting, certificate to be forwarded)

466 Councillor Reports: Town Council Representatives on External Organisations: None

467 Mayor's Engagements

RESOLVED: To note and accept the reports relating to Mayoral activities:

- a) functions attended by the Mayor or her representative up to 30th November 2024; and
- b) forthcoming Civic Events being organised by the Mayor during 2024-25.

Attention was drawn to the changed date for the Mayor's Quiz Night which would now take place on 1st March 2025.

468 Press Releases

RESOLVED: That press releases be issued in respect of:

- 1) Painting added to the Town Council's Community Art Collection
- 2) Awarding of In Bloom certificates

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting.

Signed
Mayor

Dated

Sevenoaks Town Council - 20th January 2025**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government: English Devolution White Paper – December 2024****Welcomed Proposals**

The White Paper provides some welcomed proposals for the local government sector:

- Provision for remote meetings access
- Civility and Respect proposals e.g. introduction of Sanctions (separate consultation paper)
- Enhancement to Community Right to Bid / Assets of Community Value
- Recommendations for improved working relationships with town and parish councils.

The Case for Strengthening Parish and Town Councils in Response to the Government's Devolution White Paper

The recent publication of the government's English Devolution White Paper marks a pivotal moment in reshaping the balance of power across England's communities. Angela Rayner, Minister for Homes and Communities, articulated this ambition clearly when she stated:

"Our English Devolution White Paper will be a turning point when we finally see communities, people and places across England begin to take back control over the things that matter to them."¹

While the focus on devolving powers is to be welcomed, this process mustn't overlook the fundamental role parish and town councils already play, will continue to play, and could play in representing the needs of local people. These councils are uniquely placed to provide communities with a direct, democratic voice and ensure that decision-making is genuinely 'local,' delivering control over the issues that matter most to residents.

The Value of Parish and Town Councils

Parish and town councils are the closest tier of government to the people. They are agile, responsive, and deeply embedded in their communities. Unlike district, unitary, and county authorities, which can be remote and unfamiliar with the nuances of smaller localities, parish councils operate at a scale that allows them to deliver services and advocate for their areas with unmatched local knowledge.

Parish and town councils are the only tier of authority where residents contribute funding directly to services within their own communities and can see for themselves how that funding is being spent. By contrast, principal authorities pool resources across much larger areas. While this can provide scale for strategic services, it often results in decisions that fail to reflect the priorities of smaller, distinct communities. On the other hand, parish councils operate with precision and value for money, targeting resources exactly where they are needed and avoiding inefficiencies inherent in larger governance structures.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that parish and town councils vary widely in size, capacity, and budget. Some excel in their responsibilities, while others face challenges related to performance and perceptions of lack of capacity to deliver more. These disparities

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/devolution-by-default-to-create-new-era-of-local-power>

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must be addressed for devolution to the lowest tier to be successful. The National Association of Local Councils' (NALC) Local Council Award Scheme provides a useful benchmark, recognizing high-performing councils and instilling confidence in their ability to take on devolved powers. Legislation could grant additional powers to councils that demonstrate efficacy under such frameworks, encouraging others to improve and creating a more level playing field across the sector.

Additionally, the use of national buying frameworks could facilitate opportunities for parish and town councils to deliver more effectively by improving access to competitive procurement options for services and assets.

Local Issues and the Struggle for Representation

There are countless examples across the country where local communities have struggled to have their voices heard by higher tiers of government. All too often, local issues are escalated to districts or counties where decision-makers lack the local knowledge required to act effectively. Whether it's a dispute over a planning matter, a boundary change, or infrastructure investment, distant authorities often struggle to grasp the specifics of place-based needs.

For instance, communities have faced frustration with the process of forming new parish and town councils, where decisions on the creation of new councils are made at district level, sometimes without regard for local wishes. Examples have seen campaigns covering many months undertaken to acquire the support of local people for a truly representative tier, only for this community right to be dismissed with often trivial justification. Similarly, the right to bid under the Localism Act, designed to enable communities to save assets of community value, such as public houses, has often proven toothless in practice, with freeholders stonewalling or simply riding out moratorium periods. The government's move to make this a right to buy instead of a right to bid is therefore most welcome, as it would provide communities with greater power and certainty in securing valued local assets. Without stronger community representation, local councils risk remaining powerless in the face of decisions at unitary level that impact residents directly.

Reframing the issue of Double Taxation

The issue of service overlap and accountability is often vocalised as "double taxation.", particularly noticeable between large parishes and small districts. In reality, the challenge lies in clarifying roles and responsibilities between parish and principal councils to avoid duplication and ensure fair contributions at the most appropriate level. Parish services have invariably grown out of local demand or articulation of the needs of that distinct community. This is a compelling example of true devolution at work and enables each parish to decide at a local level what support they require to help their community thrive. However, 'special expenses' for initiatives could ensure that key resources are distributed equitably and transparently. Moving to a fully parished model in areas without parish councils would ensure consistent representation and accountability at the most local level.

The Importance of the Community Infrastructure Levy to support local infrastructure

The provision of 15% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to parish and town councils, enhanced to 25% on the completion of a Neighbourhood Plan, has been instrumental in delivering vital infrastructure investments related to local developments. This

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mechanism ensures that resources generated by development activity are reinvested in the communities most affected, enabling the creation or improvement of community facilities, parks, and other essential services. As the government considers the introduction of a Mayoral Levy, it is crucial that town and parish councils retain their local proportion of CIL to continue addressing the specific needs of their communities. Furthermore, this mechanism should be uniformly extended to all parishes across the country to ensure equitable access to funds for local infrastructure development.

A Solution to Housing Development Management Companies

The reliance on private management companies for new housing developments presents a growing concern. These companies frequently levy service charges that exceed council tax while failing to deliver both accountability and value for money. Parish and town councils offer a viable, democratically accountable alternative for maintaining public spaces and amenities in such developments. By transferring responsibility to parish councils, potentially supported by unitary councils in urban areas, residents would benefit from improved service delivery and greater financial transparency.

Additionally, enabling parish and town councils to manage affordable housing within these developments could prioritize local needs and help retain younger generations within their communities. Establishing a legal framework that gives parish councils first refusal on public amenities and green spaces in new developments would also ensure these resources remain accessible and well-maintained.

Looking Back but Moving Forward: A Fully Parished England

Historically, parishes have played an essential role in local governance. While there may have been a decline in parish coverage in some areas, such as London, the number of parishes and the proportion of the population they serve have increased in many areas since the 1974 Local Government Act. This growth demonstrates the enduring relevance and adaptability of parish councils in meeting community needs. Indeed, in some areas, the emergence of large town councils has filled the void left by the abolition of Urban Borough and Rural District Councils in 1974, where towns, places, and communities lost their local representation. If the government is serious about continuing the trend toward larger unitary authorities, the solution to ensuring effective representation for local people and places must rest in creating a two-tier system of local government. This would involve second-tier unitary councils representing large populations, based on the ideologically preferred model of around 500,000 residents, with parish and town councils as the first tier, representing distinct towns, places, and communities at a hyper-local level.

As a properly acknowledged first tier of local government, a fully-parished country would ensure that every community has access to representation, accountability, and local focus. It would empower local people to influence decisions that affect them most and ensure that no community is left behind. This approach could also reinvigorate local governance, helping to reverse increasing frustration and apathy toward politics by reconnecting people with decisions that directly impact their lives.

Asset Transfer

Local community ownership of local assets will become more important as the nearest local authority becomes more remote to local residents.

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It is recommended that the process of transferring assets could be improved legislatively, avoiding legal fees. E.g.

- Registered Assets of Community Value – transferred automatically on first refusal basis
- First refusal of assets to the town and parish councils as per closed churchyards legislation

A Turning Point for Local Democracy

The government's devolution agenda represents a real opportunity to redefine local governance in England. However, this opportunity will only be fully realised if parish and town councils are recognised as integral to the solution. Strengthening and expanding parish councils would enable communities to make decisions locally, delivering on the promise of subsidiarity and empowering residents to shape the places where they live.

If the government is serious about creating a turning point for local democracy, parish and town councils must be at the heart of its vision. Communities know best what their priorities are and empowering them through their parish councils will ensure that England's devolution journey truly delivers for people, places, and communities.

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Government Consultation: ‘Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England’

Consultation questions – also available to view via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-the-standards-and-conduct-framework-for-local-authorities-in-england/strengthening-the-standards-and-conduct-framework-for-local-authorities-in-england>

Question 1

Please tick all that apply - are you responding to this consultation as:

a) an elected member – if so please indicate which local authority type(s) you serve on

- Town or Parish Council
- District or Borough Council
- Unitary Authority
- County Council
- Combined Authority / Combined County Authority
- Fire and Rescue Authority
- Police and Crime Panel
- Other local authority type - please state

b) a council officer – if so please indicate which local authority type

- Town or Parish Council
- District or Borough Council
- Unitary Authority
- County Council
- Combined Authority / Combined County Authority
- Fire and Rescue Authority
- Police and Crime Panel
- Other local authority type - please state

c) a council body – if so please indicate which local authority type **[x]**

- Town or Parish Council **[x]**
- District or Borough Council
- Unitary Authority
- County Council
- Combined Authority / Combined County Authority
- Fire and Rescue Authority
- Police and Crime Panel
- Other local authority type - please state

d) a member of the public

e) a local government sector body – please state

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Question 2

Do you think the government should prescribe a mandatory minimum code of conduct for local authorities in England?

- Yes
- No
- If no, why not? [Free text box]

Question 3

If yes, do you agree there should be scope for local authorities to add to a mandatory minimum code of conduct to reflect specific local challenges?

- Yes – it is important that local authorities have flexibility to add to a prescribed code
- No – a prescribed code should be uniform across the country
- Unsure

Question 4

Do you think the government should set out a code of conduct requirement for members to cooperate with investigations into code breaches?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Question 5

Does your local authority currently maintain a standards committee?

- Yes
- No
- Any further comments [free text box]

Question 6

Should all principal authorities be required to form a standards committee?

- Yes
- No
- Any further comments [free text box]

Question 7

In most principal authorities, code of conduct complaints are typically submitted in the first instance to the local authority Monitoring Officer to triage, before referring a case for full investigation. Should all alleged code of conduct breaches which are referred for investigation be heard by the relevant principal authority's standards committee?

- Yes, decisions should only be heard by standards committees
- No, local authorities should have discretion to allow decisions to be taken by full council

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- Unsure

Question 8

Do you agree that the Independent Person and co-opted members should be given voting rights?

- Yes – this is important for ensuring objectivity
- No – only elected members of the council in question should have voting rights
- Unsure

Question 9

Should standards committees be chaired by the Independent Person?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Question 10

If you have further views on ensuring fairness and objectivity and reducing incidences of vexatious complaints, please use the free text box below.

[Free text box]

Question 11

Should local authorities be required to publish annually a list of allegations of code of conduct breaches, and any investigation outcomes?

- Yes - the public should have full access to all allegations and investigation outcomes
- No - only cases in which a member is found guilty of wrongdoing should be published
- Other views – text box

Question 12

Should investigations into the conduct of members who stand down before a decision continue to their conclusion, and the findings be published?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Question 13

If responding as a local authority, what is the average number of complaints against elected members that you receive over a 12-month period?

[Number box]

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Question 13a

For the above, where possible, please provide a breakdown for complaints made by officers, other elected members, the public, or any other source:

- Complaints made by officers [Number box]
- Complaints made by other elected members [Number box]
- Complaints made by the public [Number box]
- Complaints made by any other source [Number box]

Question 14

If you currently work, or have worked, within a local authority, have you ever been the victim of (or witnessed) an instance of misconduct by an elected member and felt that you could not come forward? Please give reasons if you feel comfortable doing so.

- Yes
- No
- [Free text box]

Question 15

If you are an elected member, have you ever been subject to a code of conduct complaint? If so, did you feel you received appropriate support to engage with the investigation?

- Yes
- No
- [Free text box]

Question 16

If you did come forward as a victim or witness, what support did you receive, and from whom? Is there additional support you would have liked to receive?

[Free text box]

Question 17

In your view, what measures would help to ensure that people who are victims of, or witness, serious councillor misconduct feel comfortable coming forward and raising a complaint?

[Free text box]

Question 18

Do you think local authorities should be given the power to suspend elected members for serious code of conduct breaches?

- Yes – authorities should be given the power to suspend members
- No – authorities should not be given the power to suspend members
- Unsure

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Question 19

Do you think that it is appropriate for a standards committee to have the power to suspend members, or should this be the role of an independent body?

- Yes - the decision to suspend for serious code of conduct breaches should be for the standards committee
- No - a decision to suspend should be referred to an independent body
- Unsure
- [Free text box]

Question 20

Where it is deemed that suspension is an appropriate response to a code of conduct breach, should local authorities be required to nominate an alternative point of contact for constituents during their absence?

- Yes – councils should be required to ensure that constituents have an alternative point of contact during a councillor’s suspension
- No – it should be for individual councils to determine their own arrangements for managing constituents’ representation during a period of councillor suspension
- Unsure

Question 21

If the government reintroduced the power of suspension do you think there should be a maximum length of suspension?

- Yes – the government should set a maximum length of suspension of 6 months
- Yes – however the government should set a different maximum length (in months) [Number box]
- No – I do not think the government should set a maximum length of suspension
- Unsure

Question 22

If yes, how frequently do you consider councils would be likely to make use of the maximum length of suspension?

- Infrequently – likely to be applied only to the most egregious code of conduct breaches
- Frequently – likely to be applied in most cases, with some exceptions for less serious breaches
- Almost always – likely to be the default length of suspension for code of conduct breaches
- Unsure

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Question 23

Should local authorities have the power to withhold allowances from suspended councillors in cases where they deem it appropriate?

- Yes – councils should have the option to withhold allowances from suspended councillors
- No – suspended councillors should continue to receive allowances
- Unsure

Question 24

Do you think it should be put beyond doubt that local authorities have the power to ban suspended councillors from council premises and to withdraw the use of council facilities in cases where they deem it appropriate?

- Yes – premises and facilities bans are an important tool in tackling serious conduct issues
- No – suspended councillors should still be able to use council premises and facilities
- Unsure

Question 25

Do you agree that the power to withhold members' allowances and to implement premises and facilities bans should also be standalone sanctions in their own right?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Question 26

Do you think the power to suspend councillors on an interim basis pending the outcome of an investigation would be an appropriate measure?

- Yes, powers to suspend on an interim basis would be necessary
- No, interim suspension would not be necessary
- Any further comments [free text box]

Question 27

Do you agree that local authorities should have the power to impose premises and facilities bans on councillors who are suspended on an interim basis?

- Yes - the option to institute premises and facilities bans whilst serious misconduct cases are investigated is important
- No - members whose investigations are ongoing should retain access to council premises and facilities
- Unsure

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Question 28

Do you think councils should be able to impose an interim suspension for any period of time they deem fit?

- Yes
- No
- Any further comments [free text box]

Question 29

Do you agree that an interim suspension should initially be for up to a maximum of 3 months, and then subject to review?

- Yes
- No
- Any further comments [free text box]

Question 30

If following a 3-month review of an interim suspension, a standards committee decided to extend, do you think there should be safeguards to ensure a period of interim extension is not allowed to run on unchecked?

- Yes – there should be safeguards
- No – councils will know the details of individual cases and should be trusted to act responsibly

Question 30a

If you answered yes to above question, what safeguards do you think might be needed to ensure that unlimited suspension is not misused?

[Free text box]

Question 31

Do you think councillors should be disqualified if subject to suspension more than once?

- Yes – twice within a 5-year period should result in disqualification for 5 years
- Yes – but for a different length of time and/or within a different timeframe (in years)
[Number boxes]
- No - the power to suspend members whenever they breach codes of conduct is sufficient
- Any other comments [free text box]

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Question 32

Is there a case for immediate disqualification for gross misconduct, for example in instances of theft or physical violence impacting the safety of other members and/or officers, provided there has been an investigation of the incident and the member has had a chance to respond before a decision is made?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- [Free text box]

Question 33

Should members have the right to appeal a decision to suspend them?

- Yes - it is right that any member issued with a sanction of suspension can appeal the decision
- No – a council's decision following consideration of an investigation should be final
- Unsure

Question 34

Should suspended members have to make their appeal within a set timeframe?

- Yes – within 5 days of the decision is appropriate to ensure an efficient process
- Yes – but within a different length of time (in days) [Number box]
- No – there should be no time limit for appealing a decision

Question 35

Do you consider that a complainant should have a right of appeal when a decision is taken not to investigate their complaint?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Question 36

Do you consider that a complainant should have a right of appeal when an allegation of misconduct is not upheld?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

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Question 37

If you answered yes to either of the previous two questions, please use the free text box below to share views on what you think is the most suitable route of appeal for either or both situations.

[Free text box]

Question 38

Do you think there is a need for an external national body to hear appeals?

- Yes – an external appeals body would help to uphold impartiality
- No – appeals cases should be heard by an internal panel
- Any further comments [free text box]

Question 39

If you think there is a need for an external national appeals body, do you think it should:

- Be limited to hearing elected member appeals
- Be limited to hearing claimant appeals
- Both of the above should be in scope
- Please explain your answer [free text box]

Question 40

In your view, would the proposed reforms to the local government standards and conduct framework particularly benefit or disadvantage individuals with protected characteristics, for example those with disabilities or caring responsibilities?

Please tick an option below:

- it would benefit individuals with protected characteristics
- it would disadvantage individuals with protected characteristics
- neither

Please use the text box below to make any further comment on this question.

[Free text box]

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Sevenoaks Town Council – 20th January 2025

Events Attended - 2024/2025

Mayor: Councillor Libby Ancrum
Deputy Mayor: Councillor Tony Clayton
& Mayors Representatives

Day & Time	Date	Organisation & Event/Venue	Attended	
Wed 12.00	15 May	Women of Kent Luncheon – Mercure Hotel Maidstone	Mayor	1
Sun 7.30	19 May	Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra - Orchestral Concert	Mayor	2
Thurs 2.30	23 May	Kippington Nursing Home – Celebration of recent refurbishment	Deputy	3
Fri 6.30	24 May	Porchlight Sleepout – Walthamstow Hall Senior School	Deputy	4
Sun 10.30	26 May	Sevenoaks Bowling Club – Open Day	Deputy	5
Tues. 6.30	28 May	Guided Tour of Sevenoaks Town	Mayor	6
Sun 3.30	2 June	Sevenoaks Quaker Meeting – Rising Stars and the Way Ahead	Mayor	7
Thur 7.00	6 June	D-Day 80 – Procession and Beacon Lighting on the Vine	Mayor	8
Wed 10.30	12 June	Spadework's 40 th Anniversary	Mayor	9
Sat 9.55	15 June	Infinity Launch	Mayor	10
Mon 9.00	17 June	Refugee Week – Desperate Journeys with St Thomas's School	Mayor	11
Wed 1.15	19 June	Refugee Week – Desperate Journeys with Lady Boswell's School	Mayor	12
7.00		With SWR		13
Thurs 7.00	20 June	Refugee Week – Desperate Journeys with Air Cadets	Mayor	14
Fri 2.00	21 June	Lullingstone Country Park -Unveiling of a Sculpture in the Landscape.	Mayor	15
Sat 11.00	22 June	Opening of the Sevenoaks Summer Festival	Mayor	16
Sat	22 June	Go Wild at Bat and Ball Centre	Mayor	17
Sun 3.00	23 June	Mayor's Civic Service at St Luke's Church	Mayor	18
Sun 7.30	23 June	Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir – The Mikado at the Stag	Mayor	19
Mon 10.20	24 June	Chairman SDC – Fly the Flag for Armed Forces Day	Mayor	20
Tues 10.15	25 June	Chairman KCC – Armed Forces Day Flag Raising	Mayor & Consort	21
Wed 3.00	3 July	Riding for the Disabled – Carriage Driving Event	Deputy	22
Thurs 4.45	4 July	Friends of Rheinbach – Meet and Greet visitors from Germany	Deputy	23
Sat	6 July	Rheinbach Dinner	Mayor	24
Tues 7.15	9 July	Sevenoaks Air Cadets – Annual General Meeting	Mayor	25
Thurs 11.00	11 July	Mayor of Medway – Call the Midwife Tour at Chatham Dockyard	Mayor + 1	26
Thurs 1.30	11 July	West Heath School – Prize Giving	Deputy Mayor & Cllr. Canet	27
Thurs 6.00	11 July	Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce, Penshurst Place	Mayor	28
Fri 5.00	12 July	Community Police VAWG Walk & Talk Knole Park	Mayor	29

Sevenoaks Town Council – 20th January 2025

Day & Time	Date	Organisation & Event/Venue	Attended	
Thurs 6.30	18 July	Kent Police – Sevenoaks Independent Advisory Service	Mayor	30
Sat 10.00	20 July	Green Walk & Talk with the Mayor	Mayor	31
Sat 6.30	20 July	Royal British Legion – Kent County Coronation Dinner at Bearsted Golf club	Mayor & Cllr Camp	32
Sat 7.30	27 July	Lydian Orchestra Concert at Unity Hall, Southborough	Mayor & Cllr Shea	33
Mon 11.30	29 July	Peppercorn Rent Ceremony The Vine	Mayor	34
Thurs 10.30	01 Aug	Family Fun Day at Greatness Recreation Ground hosted by Town Council	Mayor	35
Thurs 6pm	08 Aug	Committee meeting: League of Friends Sevenoaks Hospital	Mayor	36
Tues 2.30	13 Aug	Crufts event at Weald Heights Care Home	Mayor	37
Wed 10:30	14 Aug	Rockdale Housing Association – Garden Refurbishment	Mayor	38
Mon 12.30	19 Aug	Rockdale Housing Assoc. – Rockdale Fete launch of Village	Cllr Granville & Cllr Canet	39
Tues 1.50	20 Aug	Wind in the Willows, Bat and Ball Centre	Cllr Shea & Cllr Dixon	40
Thurs 1.50	22 Aug	Wind in the Willows, Greatness Recreation Ground	Cllr Canet	41
Fri 1.50pm	23 Aug	Wind in the Willows, Vine Gardens	Cllr Granville & Cllr Canet	42
Fri 11am	23 Aug	Greatness Skate Park Event	Cllr Granville & Cllr Canet	43
Fri 6.00pm	23 Aug	Mayor of Swanley 50 th Anniversary Spectacular	Deputy Mayor & Consort	44
Thurs 6.00pm	29 Aug	Makers Exhibition – Kaleidoscope Gallery Private view	Deputy Mayor	45
Sat 11.00 2.00pm	31 Aug	Faversham Hop Festival	Deputy Mayor & Consort	46
Sun	1 Sept	Heavy Horse Show (Sevenoaks RDA) stand at show	Deputy Mayor	47
Sun 3.00	1 Sept	Oxted Band at Vine Bandstand – last STC concert of summer season	Cllr Layne	48
Tues 9.45	3 Sept	Fly the Flag for Merchant Navy Day- SDC Offices	Deputy	49
Wed 11.00	4 Sept	Mayor of Maidstone Tour of Hush Heath Vineyard	Deputy & Consort	50
Sat 11.45	7 Sept	Sevenoaks Street Food Festival on the Vine	Deputy Mayor	51
Mon 8.50am	9 Sept	SDC Chairman 999 flag raising at SDC offices	Deputy Mayor	52
Tues 12.00	10 Sept	Mayor of Swanley Indoor Bowls and Afternoon Tea	Deputy Mayor & Cllr Layne	53
Fri 1.00	20 Sept	Sevenoaks School – Meeting with Jesse Elzinga	Mayor & Consort	54
Sat 10.00	21 Sept	Bicycle Festival at the Vine – Mayor invited to open event	Mayor	55
Sat 1pm	21 Sept	BBQ celebrating Sevenoaks Ladies Joggers 25th anniversary 7 Oaks blokes 15 years at Hollybush.	Mayor & Consort	56
Sun 3pm	22 Sept	STC 50 th Anniversary Gathering at the Bat and Ball Centre.	Mayor & Cllrs	57

Sevenoaks Town Council – 20th January 2025

Day & Time	Date	Organisation & Event/Venue	Attended	
Tues 3-5pm	24 Sept	Mayor of Maidstone Garden Party- The Orangery Turkey Mill	Deputy & Deputy Consort	58
Wed 7pm	25 Sept	VIP opening- Deckhouse	CEO, Mayor, Deputy Mayor	59
Thurs 10.00	26 Sept	Guide Dogs- Blindfold Walk around Sevenoaks Town- Mayoral Form received.	Mayor	60
Sat 2.00	28 Sept	Opening of Long Spring Woods	Mayor & Councillors	61
Sat 6.00	28 Sept	Life on High – 5 Year Anniversary Cocktail Party	Mayor +1	62
Sun 4.00	29 Sept	Sevenoaks District Scouts – Annual General Meeting	Deputy	63
Sun 6.30	29 Sept	Chair Folkestone & Hythe DC – Civic Evensong	Mayor & Consort	64
Mon 8.00	30 Sept	Mayor of Medway – Charity Walk	Mayor & Consort	65
Tues 10.30	1 Oct	Judging Christmas Lights Competition	Mayor & Consort	66
Thurs 2.00	3 Oct	Launch of Mat Ball's new book at Sevenoaks Book Shop	Mayor	67
Fri 2.00	4 Oct	Mayor of Dartford – Afternoon Tea	Mayor + 1	68
Fri 6.30	4 Oct	Mayor of Swanley – Autumn Ball	Mayor & Consort	69
Sat 8.00	5 Oct	Welcome Youth Rugby Squad from South Africa	Mayor	70
Sun 5.30	6 Oct	Stag Youth Theatre Film in a Week Course	Mayor	71
Wed 2.00	9 Oct	Sevenoaks Literary Festival – Presentation by Lucy Strange to year 5 students	Mayor	72
Fri 7.00	11 Oct	Chairman SDC – Race Night at Horton Kirby and South Darenth Village Hall	Mayor & Consort Deputy Mayor & Mayoress	73
Sat 10.00	12 Oct	Bradbourne Riding for the Disabled – Knole Ride	Mayor	74
Sat 7.00	12 Oct	D'Vine Singers – 10 th Anniversary Concert	Mayor & Consort	75
Thurs 10.00	17 Oct	Autumn Leaves – Train from Bat & Ball to Swanley	Mayor	76
Fri 6.30	18 Oct	Sevenoaks Business Awards Gala Dinner	Mayor & Consort	77
Sat 11.30	19 Oct	Emily Jackson Care Home – Cars and Coffee	Mayor	78
Fri 10.30	25 Oct	Kent Civic Launch of the Poppy Appeal 2024	Deputy Mayor	79
Sun 7.30	27 Oct	Listening Room Music Agency – Concert at The Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall.	Mayor & Consort	80
Fri 2.00	1 Nov	Mayor of Bromley – Charity Talk and tour of Bethlem Museum of the Mind and Bethlem Gallery	Mayor & Consort	81
Sat 10.00	2 Nov	Mayor of Swale – Tour of Historic Sheppey	Mayor & Guest	82
Sat 6.00	2 Nov	Festival of Remembrance at Rochester Cathedral – Eynsford Concert Band	Mayor & Guest	83
Sun 4.00	3 Nov	Informal Service at The Drive Methodist Church	Mayor & Guest	84
Tues 5.00	5 Nov	Switch- on Lights at the Vine (Trees)	Mayor	85
Wed 10.30	6 Nov	Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce AGM at Bat & Ball Station	Mayor	86
Thurs 6.30	7 Nov	Lord Lieutenant – Awards Ceremony at The Royal Military School of Engineering, Chatham Consort Councillor Sandra Robinson	Mayor & Consort	87
Sun 11.00	10 Nov	Remembrance Service and Parade	Mayor & Consort	88
Mon 11.00	11 Nov	Armistice Day – Mayor to lay crosses on the War Graves at Greatness Cemetery	Mayor & Cllrs	89

Sevenoaks Town Council – 20th January 2025

Day & Time	Date	Organisation & Event/Venue	Attended	
Thurs 12.20	14 Nov	Guide Dogs for the Blind – Informal Lunch to thank their supporters at Hope Church, Mill Lane	Mayor	90
Sun 3.00	17 Nov	Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra – Concert at the Stag Theatre	Mayor & Consort	91
Wed 11.00	20 Nov	Photos at STC Offices- Paul Burgess	Mayor	92
Wed 7.00	20 Nov	Mayor of Bexley – Performance of “Mermaid” by Rose Bruford College	Mayor & Consort	93
Sat 6.30	23 Nov	Sevenoaks Lions Club - 55th Charter Dinner Dance to be held at Wildernesse Golf Club	Deputy Mayor & Mayoress	94
Tues 6pm	26 Nov	Guys and Dolls- Walthamstow Hall	Mayor	95
Sat 3.00	30 Nov	Christmas Lights Switch-on	Mayor	96
Sat 7.00	30 Nov	Christmas Concert at St Nicholas Church	Mayor	97
Mon 7.00	2 Dec	Community Choir – St Luke’s Church	Mayor & Consort	98
Tues 10.30	3 Dec	Provisional Date for Judging Best Dressed Window	Mayor	99
Wed 12.30	4 Dec	Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce – Christmas Lunch at the Pavilion Restaurant, Wildernesse House	Mayor	100
Wed 4:15	4 Dec	Emily Jackson House- Christmas Light Switch On	Mayor	101
Thurs 7.00	5 Dec	SWR Annual Volunteer Day- quarterly meeting – St John’s Hill United Reform Church	Mayor	102
Sat 7.30	7 Dec	Holly Party at the Bat and Ball Centre	Mayor & Consort	103
Sun 6pm	8 Dec	Mencap Sevenoaks, Christmas Carols	Mayor	104
Mon 7.00	9 Dec	Christmas Council Meeting	Mayor & Cllrs	105
Tues 10.30 not 10:00	10 Dec	Provisional Date for presenting Awards for Best Dressed Window	Mayor	106
Wed 10.00	11 Dec	Mayor & Town Crier to tour the relocated Market	Mayor	107
Thurs 2.00	12 Dec	Mayor of Swanley - Festive Afternoon Tea	Mayor +Deputy	108
Thurs 7.00	12 Dec	St Lukes- ATC Concert- St Lukes	Mayor	109
Sat 7.00	14 Dec	Stag Theatre – Pantomime, Snow White	Mayor & Consort	110
Sun 12:00	15 Dec	Sevenoaks Hockey Club- Presidents Cocktail Party	Mayor & Cllr Shea	111
Sun 3.00	15 Dec	Sevenoaks RDA Party at Bat & Ball Centre prize giving	Mayor & Consort	112
Sun 4.00	15 Dec	Eynsford Concert Band – Concert ‘Magic of Christmas’ at The Space, Sevenoaks School	Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress	113
Mon 11:00	16 Dec	Purelake Site Visit- 136 High Street	Mayor	114
Tues 12.15	17 Dec	Call in to Council Chamber to wish Staff a Happy Christmas – Staff Christmas Lunch	Mayor & family	115
Tues 1:00	17 Dec	Sevenoaks Almshouse Charity- Christmas Lunch- Sevenoaks School- Dining Hall	Mayor & Consort	116
Sat 7:30pm	21 Dec	The Lydian Orchestra’s Winter Concert	Mayor & Consort	117
Sun 4.00	22 Dec	Lessons & Carols at St John the Baptist Church	Deputy Mayor	118
Tues 11.15	24 Dec	Christmas Eve Midnight Service at St Nicholas Church	Mayor & family	119
Sun 11.00	5 Jan	Margate Charter Trustees – Blessing of the Seas Ceremony	Mayor & Consort	120



2024 – 2025

The Mayor of Sevenoaks Councillor Libby Ancrum Provisional Dates for Mayoral Events

May/June 2024 Sunday 23 June Civic Service 29 June Armed Forces Day	July 2024 Saturday, 20 July Green Walk & Talk Monday, 29 July Peppercorn Rent Ceremony	August 2024
September 2024 3 September Merchant Navy Day 22 September STC 50 th Anniversary Celebration 28 September Opening Longspring Wood	October 2024 Thurs 17 October Autumn Walk Darenth Valley Rail link	November 2024 Sunday 10 November Remembrance Day Monday 11 November Armistice Day Tree Planting
December 2024	January 2025	February 2025
March 2025 1 st March Quiz Night 7 th March International Women's Day Lunch 10 th March Commonwealth Day	April 2025 9 th April Mayor's Volunteers Thank You Reception Wednesday 23 rd April Tour of Knole House	May 2025 Wednesday 7 th May Luncheon at Chevening House