



Councillor Mike Sole's monthly report

Kent County Councillor : Canterbury South
Canterbury City Councillor : Nailbourne

*Working for you all
all year round*

I was deeply disappointed by KCC's decision to revoke its climate emergency declaration, a move intended to redirect funding away from environmental projects aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions. I opposed this decision and remain committed to supporting the transition from carbon-based fuels to renewable energy sources.

Across Kent, the twelve district councils, KCC, and Medway unitary council have been working together—following government guidance—on proposals to establish unitary councils. These proposals are due by November 2025, with the government due to announce the chosen model in spring 2026.

Elections for the new unitary councils will take place in 2027. The council and elected councillors will serve in a shadow capacity for the first year of their four year term, with the current KCC and district councils set to be dissolved in 2028.

Two main geographic options for the unitaries are currently being developed by Kent council leaders, and government funding is being used to prepare detailed business cases for each. One proposal divides Kent into four unitary authorities, with East Kent comprising Canterbury, Dover, and Thanet, and Mid Kent including Swale, Ashford, and Folkestone & Hythe. The second proposal splits Kent into three unitaries, forming an East Kent that includes Canterbury, Dover, Thanet, Ashford, and Folkestone & Hythe. Notably, these models place Upper Hardres and Stelling Minnis together in one scenario and in separate councils in the other. There are no plans to change parish council boundaries unless parishes wish to do this.

Additional options are being explored independently by Dartford and Medway, proposing alternative boundaries for four unitary authorities. KCC is also funding work on a fifth option—a single unitary council—but this model does not meet several key government criteria. In my view, it is unlikely to be adopted, and one of the first two options is more probable.

I attended parish council meetings at Bridge and Upper Hardres, spoke at KCC in support of improving the uptake of vaccinations, attended the KCC Growth Economic Development & Communities Committee, gave a presentation to students on local politics, and attended a wonderful event for carers in Barham Village Hall.



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