

Agenda

Western Area Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, 12 February 2026

Time 7.00 pm

Venue: The Committee Room, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne ME10 3HT.

Membership:

Councillors Mike Baldock, Monique Bonney, Ann Cavanagh, Lloyd Chapman, Roger Clark, James Hunt, Chris Palmer, Richard Palmer, Paul Stephen (Chair) and Sarah Stephen (Vice-Chair).

Quorum = 3

Pages

Information about this meeting

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 11 February 2026.

Recording and Privacy Notice

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This meeting may be recorded. The recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy and may be published on the Council's website. By entering the chamber and by speaking at a meeting, whether in person or online, you are consenting to being recorded and to the recording being published.

When joining a meeting online, your username will be visible to others in attendance. In joining the meeting you are consenting to us processing your username. You may use a pseudonym as your username but the use of an inappropriate name may lead to removal from the meeting.

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1. Emergency Evacuation Procedure

Visitors and members of the public who are unfamiliar with the building and procedures are advised that:

- (a) The fire alarm is a continuous loud ringing. In the event that a fire

drill is planned during the meeting, the Chair will advise of this.

- (b) Exit routes from the Committee Room are located on each side of the room leading to the stairs opposite the lifts.
- (c) In the event of the alarm sounding, leave the building via the nearest safe exit and gather at the assembly point on the far side of the car park. Do not leave the assembly point or re-enter the building until advised to do so. Do not use the lifts.
- (d) Anyone unable to use the stairs should make themselves known during this agenda item.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the meeting held on 27 November 2026 (Minute Nos. 511 – 521) as correct records.

4. 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.

5. Police update

6. Strengthening Preparedness Together in Swale (pilot project to help communities prepare for emergencies such as flooding, severe weather and utility outages)

7. Local Government Reorganisation update (Government wants us to deliver your services differently) 5 - 6

8. Community Governance Review update (potential changes to arrangements for town and parish councils) 7 - 8

9. Public Forum

10. Matters arising from previous meetings
11. Swale Bus Partnership Forum
12. Local issues to be raised
13. Matters referred to Service Committee Chairs for consideration

9 - 14

Issued on Wednesday, 4 February 2026

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