

Notice of Amendment to Agenda Item 8 - Motion on Supported Bus Services - Full Council 1 April 2026

I write to give formal notice of an amendment to the motion on Supported Bus Services (Agenda Item 8) on the agenda for the Full Council meeting on Wednesday 1 April 2026, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.1.16.4.

THE AMENDMENT

Paragraph 3 of the resolves section of the motion currently reads:

"Requests that the Leader of the Council and relevant committee chair writes formally to Kent County Council setting out the Council's concerns and requesting urgent engagement."

I propose that paragraph 3 be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

"Notes that Cllr Richard Palmer, in his capacity as County Councillor for Swale West Division at Kent County Council, has already arranged a cross-party engagement meeting between Swale Borough Council members and Kent County Council, to be held at Swale House on 10 April 2026 at 10am, at which the KCC Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways, Spencer Dixon, and senior KCC highways and public transport officers will attend to discuss bus service provision and Section 106 funding in Swale; and resolves that the outcome of that meeting, including any commitments made by KCC officers or members, be reported back to Full Council or the relevant service committee no later than the June 2026 ordinary meeting of the Council."

GROUNDINGS FOR THE AMENDMENT

The amendment is proposed on the following grounds.

1. The engagement requested by paragraph 3 of the original motion already exists. On 15 March 2026, all five SBC group leaders were invited by email to nominate a representative to attend a meeting at Swale House on 10 April 2026. The KCC Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways, Spencer Dixon, and three senior KCC officers with direct responsibility for bus services and Section 106 contributions have confirmed their attendance. Instructing the Leader to

write to KCC requesting urgent engagement duplicates action that is already in place and adds nothing.

2. The amendment does not negate the motion. It preserves the intent of paragraph 3 - formal cross-party engagement with KCC on bus services in Swale - but replaces a weaker action (a letter requesting a meeting) with a stronger one (a confirmed meeting with KCC's responsible officers and Deputy Cabinet Member that is already arranged).

3. The amendment improves accountability. The original paragraph 3 requires only that a letter be sent. There is no requirement for any outcome to be reported back to councillors or residents. The amendment requires that the outcome of the 10 April meeting - including any commitments made by KCC on funding, Section 106 contributions and service improvements - is formally reported back to Full Council or the relevant service committee no later than June 2026. That is a more robust accountability mechanism and delivers more for Swale residents.

4. The amendment is consistent with the aims and objectives set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the motion's resolves section, which it leaves unchanged. It strengthens rather than weakens the motion as a whole.

Proposer: Cllr Richard Palmer, Hartlip, Newington and Upchurch Ward.

Secunder: Cllr Chris Palmer, Hartlip, Newington and Upchurch Ward.