



# Our Council Priorities **Delivering for residents**

2026 to 2028

## Foreword

“Our district, known for its outstanding natural environment, thriving economy, strong connectivity and convenient access to London, is an exceptional place to live, work and invest.

“For over five decades, Sevenoaks District Council has delivered trusted and reliable services, always caring about our residents, our District and placing quality at the forefront of all that we do.

“Whether it is providing vital support for the whole community or specialised assistance for people facing life’s challenges, I am very proud of what has been achieved, the compassion our staff show, and the exceptional delivery of our services.

“Kent’s local government is transforming, with a new unitary council set to be in place for April 2028. As we move through Local Government Reorganisation, we will ensure that our delivery to residents remains consistent and meets our high expectations.

“With this in mind, our priorities are focussed on delivering for our residents and local businesses and ensuring that the Council and its work are in the best possible position as they move forward into the future.

“Residents have told us that they value services which can be relied on, which are of a high quality, and which represent good value for taxpayers.

“The priorities we have set out within our Council Plan in response will ensure that service quality, dependability and strong value remain central as Sevenoaks District Council transfers to a new unitary authority.”

**Cllr Kevin Maskell**  
Leader of Sevenoaks  
District Council



## Our priorities:



### **Housing, economic growth and infrastructure:**

We will deliver more affordable homes and reduce reliance on temporary housing through our Local Plan. We will help local businesses grow, promoting sustainable economic growth and enhancing job creation within our local community.



### **Protecting our health, wellbeing and environment:**

We will work with our residents and businesses to promote health and wellbeing including preventing social isolation. We will collaborate with our public and voluntary sector partners to maintain low crime rates and will champion initiatives which support and protect our natural environment.



### **Care and quality at the centre of all we do:**

We will provide high-quality services for residents and businesses, with care and our communities at the heart of everything we do. As our services move to a new unitary council, we will ensure that residents continue to have services that they can rely on.



# Housing, economic growth and infrastructure

## Aim:

We will deliver more affordable homes and reduce reliance on temporary housing through our Local Plan. We will help local businesses grow, promoting sustainable economic growth and enhancing job creation within our local community.

Finding a place to live in Sevenoaks District can be difficult, whether this is to buy or rent. We are committed to working through our Local Plan to help increase the number of affordable homes.

Our Local Plan aims to make sure that the right infrastructure accompanies development and that growth is sustainable. It also seeks to protect our natural environment and our built heritage. Having a Local Plan helps us to ensure that decisions on where housing is built are made locally.

We will continue to foster a vibrant, inclusive economy that enables businesses and communities to live, work, visit, and invest. By supporting start-ups, encouraging innovation, and fostering existing businesses and local employment, we will drive growth that is sustainable, skills-focused, and resilient.

## We will:

- protect and promote the health of the people of the District by improving the standard of private rented sector housing and work to increase the number of vulnerable people who are able to live independently at home,
- work with partners to increase support for residents to reduce homelessness and improve routes into permanent affordable accommodation across the District,
- increase the number of empty homes that are brought into use, particularly accommodation that can be used to prevent and relieve homelessness,
- deliver excellent customer service making sure the 'first advice is the best advice',
- put in place a resilient plan that secures the right infrastructure, in the right location, at the right time, to support our communities,
- promote agile town centres and high streets that are able to respond to change,
- maximise funding opportunities to drive business development,
- continue to support local business in rural, town centre and visitor economies,
- continue to work with our West Kent partners to provide and promote business support and training,
- continue delivery of our award-winning business and events space in Swanley,
- maintain a focus on our towns and rural economies, seeking new opportunities to support the distinctive challenges and opportunities that they face.



# Protecting our health, wellbeing and environment

## Aim:

We will work with our residents and businesses to promote health and wellbeing, including preventing social isolation. We will collaborate with our public and voluntary sector partners to maintain low crime rates and will champion initiatives which support and protect our natural environment.

Our District benefits from stunning natural landscapes and access to high quality amenity spaces. We recognise the profound impact of a healthy environment on quality of life and are committed to ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live healthier, happier lives.

It is important that people feel safe within our community, and Sevenoaks District benefits from having one of the lowest crime rates within Kent. We will work to maintain this by partnering with public and voluntary organisations through our Community Safety Partnership to prevent crime and to strengthen safety within our communities.

## We will:

- introduce a food waste recycling service and improve our waste collection for residents through the introduction of wheelie bins,
- deliver high-quality services for residents and businesses, with a strong emphasis on care within the community,
- continue working in partnership with our leisure service operators to increase opportunities to enjoy healthy activities for all ages and abilities,
- deliver on community development projects for all ages,
- work with partners to deliver inclusive events that strengthen community ties, promote volunteering, set up community groups and support community mobilisation, working to reduce social isolation,
- continue to do all we can with our available resources to tackle the challenge of climate change,
- where possible, improve the health, sustainability and quality of our district's rivers, and co-operate with other public organisations in pursuit of this goal,
- continue to protect the Green Belt and community open spaces,
- continue to keep our districts streets clean and free from litter, including a robust response to fly tipping,
- continue to use our assets for the benefit of local residents, optimising income where possible and establishing a biodiversity habit bank for the district,
- encourage residents, visitors and community groups to embrace local climate action,
- improve homes through the Warm Homes grant,
- work with our partners to ensure neighbourhoods are safe for people to live, work and socialise in,
- continue to work in close partnership with Police and other key organisations to reduce offences of domestic abuse, address stalking and harassment and Violence against Women & Girls. Ensure services are available to support those experiencing these crimes.



# Care and quality at the centre of all we do

## Aim:

We will provide high-quality services for residents and businesses, with care and our communities at the heart of everything we do. As our services move to a new unitary council, we will ensure that residents continue to have services that they can rely on.

At Sevenoaks District Council we are proud of the way that our services centre around quality and care. As our services move forward into a new unitary council, we will have a relentless focus on ensuring that delivery to residents is not disrupted as the organisation changes, and opportunities for innovation and improvement are capitalised on.

Our financial strategy has been successful through implementing efficiency initiatives, making savings, improved value for money, maximising external income and focusing on delivering high quality services. This emphasis on financial stability while delivering strongly performing services to our local community will remain central to our work.

## We will:

- put care and quality at the heart of everything that we do,
- maintain strong service performance and resident satisfaction,
- work closely with our neighbouring local authorities, partners and communities in preparation and realisation of local government reorganisation,
- commit to work proactively through local government reorganisation to continually improve our services and deliver the best possible outcomes for our residents,
- communicate clearly and transparently to our residents and our staff as we move through local government reorganisation processes,
- continue to deliver a balanced budget,
- sustain strong management of our investment portfolio,
- ensure service continuity plans are in place as we move through the transition to a new unitary council,
- continue to prioritise equality and diversity, ensuring services are inclusive and responsive to community need,
- take opportunities to deliver digital innovation to improve access to services for our residents.

# What does delivery look like?

By identifying our priorities and outlining key actions, we will maintain a sharp focus on delivery.

With Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) due in 2028, we want to ensure that Sevenoaks District Council services move into the new unitary structure in good health. Achieving our key deliverables will position our services for future success.

These identified deliverables will be reported on through an annual report.

Strategic priority	Our key deliverables
<p><b>Housing, economic growth and infrastructure</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit our Local Plan to government by the end of 2026.</li> <li>• Increase the number of people and families who are prevented from becoming homeless.</li> <li>• Increase the number of affordable homes available.</li> <li>• Deliver the council's Economic Development Strategy.</li> <li>• Delivery of the Otford Road Business Park and the White Oak Residential schemes.</li> <li>• Undertake further feasibility work for a new Hotel development at Bevan Place.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Protecting our health, safety and environment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successfully launch our new waste and recycling services.</li> <li>• Reduce our impact on the environment and increase our recycling rates.</li> <li>• Continue to support our leisure concession schemes to enable accessible and affordable leisure opportunities.</li> <li>• Continued delivery of inclusive community events and promotion of volunteering opportunities.</li> <li>• Deliver a new Biodiversity Strategy for the District.</li> <li>• Deliver improvements to Bradbourne Lakes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Care and quality at the centre of all we do</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep residents and staff informed on the progress of local government reorganisation and what it will mean for them.</li> <li>• Ensure that our budget is balanced.</li> <li>• Maintain resident satisfaction above national comparators.</li> <li>• Maintain the performance of our services as we move through transition, focusing on care and quality.</li> </ul>



For updates on the actions in this document, visit  
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