

Get to know Kent County Council

Managing taxpayers' money in 2025/26



Managed a
£1.5 billion
budget

Reduced debt by
£122 million
repaying **£90 million** of this debt
early and the rest as planned



Reduced the amount of interest KCC
has to pay by around **£3,400** every day

Set Council Tax at
3.99%



lower than
89%
of county and
single tier councils



Forecast to deliver
£100 million
of savings

Removed
£39.5 million
of potential future spending



Negotiated
£54 million
of savings or contract
improvements in 2025-26

Set balanced budget for 2026/27 including:

Net increase in money set aside
for unexpected costs (called
reserves)

Investing more money for
council services



Managing taxpayers' money means setting Council Tax responsibly, keeping costs under control, and making sure funding is focused on the services residents rely on most. In 2025/26, KCC took the following steps to manage its finances:

- **Council Tax** – Set an increase lower than most County, Metropolitan and Unitary councils.
- **Savings** – Forecasting £100 million in savings in 2025/26 as part of the planned budget (final figure confirmed in financial outturn report in June 2026)

- **Future spending** – Removed £39.5 million from future spending plans
- **Contracts** – Negotiated £54 million of savings or contract improvements in 2025-26
- **Total debt** – Reduced the Council's overall debt by £122 million, repaying £90 million of this debt early and the rest as planned, which eases long-term financial pressures

- **Cost of debt** – Reducing council debt delivers a net saving of around £3,400 every day – that's interest saved, minus a small amount of investment income no longer earned.
- **Budget position for 2026/27** – Set a balanced budget with no new borrowing, kept money aside to help protect services in future years (called 'reserves'), and will be investing more money in council services - Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Environment, Highways and Transport.

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Council decision and actions taken in 2025/26

Local government reorganisation option 1A developed,



with estimated potential savings of
£450 million
over 10 years

Reforming Kent 3-year strategy for the county published



Climate Emergency Declaration removed along with Net Zero targets

Illegal Migration Emergency declared



Made Government representations in support of nuclear power in Dungeness



and reopening international rail services at Ashford and Ebbsfleet

Developed proposals for an environmental levy for foreign-registered lorries



Some of the decisions and actions taken by the Council in 2025/26 include:

- Developed an option (1A) for local government reorganisation, estimating potential savings of up to £450 million over 10 years
- Published the 'Reforming Kent' plan, setting out the Council's priorities and approach
- Removed the Climate Emergency Declaration, including the associated targets of Net Zero by 2030

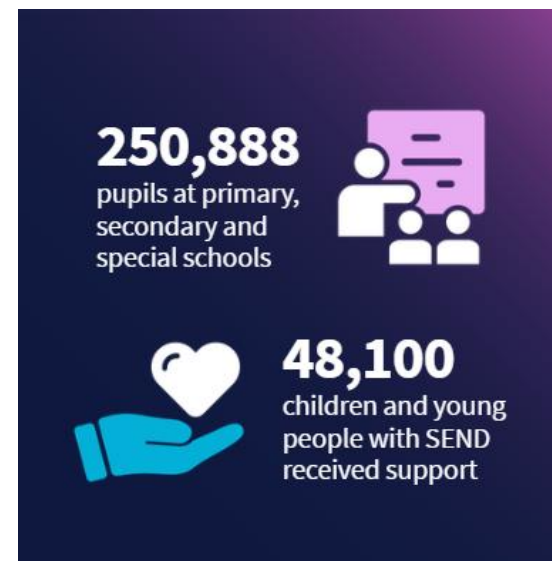
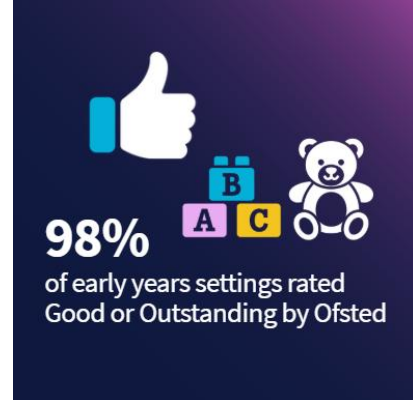
- Declared an 'Illegal Migration Emergency' in Kent to highlight local cost, capacity and safety pressures
- Made representations to Government in support of new nuclear provision at Dungeness and the reopening of international rail services at Ashford and Ebbsfleet
- Developed proposals to secure a foreign-registered HGV environmental levy, for use by KCC's Highways service

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Delivering services for babies, children and families in 2025/26

Services delivered for babies, children and young people in 2025/26:

- **Early years** – 98% of Kent’s early years settings were rated *Good or Outstanding* by Ofsted.
- **Kent Family Hub**, supporting children and families across the county – reached 13,653 families and delivered 31,101 interventions and sessions.
- **Childcare places** – almost 4,000 new wraparound childcare places were delivered from September 2025



- **Schools** – 250,888 pupils were educated in Kent’s primary, secondary and special schools
- **School places** – 96% of secondary pupils and 98% of primary pupils were offered a place at one of their preferred schools
- **Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)** – 48,100 children and young people accessed SEND services

- **Health visiting** – 66,000 health and wellbeing reviews for babies and young children were delivered to families
- **Fostering** – 594 foster households worked with the Council to care for children

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Services for adults and communities in 2025/26



23,174 adults
received care and support

39,933
Blue Badges issued



Total in Kent: **94,317**

510,698
contacts handled by
KCC's contact centre



891 people
took part in Connect to Work

443
empty homes
brought back into use



3.2 million visits
to Kent's 99 libraries

123,541
uses of archive collections
and documents

240,898
people attended library
and archives events



7,422
ceremonies delivered



1.26 million
visits to Kent country parks

Adult and community-focused services delivered in 2025/26:

- **Adult social care** – 23,174 adults who received care and support, either in the community or a care home
- **Blue Badges** – 39,933 badges were issued, bringing the total in Kent to 94,317
- **Contact Centre** – 510,698 contacts received by the Council's main customer contact service

- **Employment** – 891 people took part in the Connect to Work programme to move closer to employment
- **Housing** – 443 long-term empty homes were brought back into use through the No Use Empty scheme
- **Libraries and archives** – Kent's libraries welcomed 3.2 million visits, and there were 123,541 uses of Kent's

archive collections and documents, while 240,898 people attended library and archives events and activities

- **Registration services** – 7,422 marriages, civil partnerships and citizenship ceremonies delivered
- **Country parks** – Welcomed 1.26 million visits, offering accessible green spaces for residents and visitors

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Keeping Kent moving in 2025/26



In 2025/26, Kent County Council:

- Spent £67 million on road repairs and maintenance across the county
- Maintained 5,500 miles of roads and 4,000 miles of footways, one of the largest local authority networks in the country
- Filled around 50,000 potholes, using the Council's agreed inspection and repair processes

- Resurfaced 353,356 square metres of road, improving the condition of heavily used routes
- Treated 793,000 square metres of road to extend their working life, helping prevent future deterioration

- Cleaned 112,258 drainage gullies and completed 11 large drainage schemes to help reduce surface water issues
- Repaired or carried out minor works on 467 gullies, improving drainage and road safety

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Managing waste and recycling across Kent
in 2025/26

In 2025/26 the council delivered the following as part of its waste and recycling responsibilities.

- Handled 671,353 tonnes of waste across the county
- Diverted 99.6% of household waste away from landfill, meaning almost all rubbish was reused, recycled or used to generate energy
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671,353

tonnes of waste
handled in the 12 months
to February 2026

- Food waste recycling – Between September 2025 and February 2026 over 3,200 extra tonnes of food waste were recycled, which is a 22% increase. Reducing waste disposal costs by over £380k.

Household waste refers to everyday rubbish and recycling collected from homes by your local district council or at Household Waste Recycling Centres.

99.6%

of household waste
diverted from landfill



Between September 2025
and February 2026



over 3,200
extra tonnes of food
waste were recycled
which is a **22%** increase



Reducing waste
disposal costs by
over £380k

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Helping business grow in 2025/26

Local businesses play an important role in Kent's economy. As part of the **Get to know Kent County Council** series, this post looks back at what Kent County Council delivered in **2025/26** to help businesses grow, win work and access advice.

In 2025/26, Kent County Council:

- Published Kent's first Commercial Strategy, setting out how the Council buys goods and services and works with local businesses
- Awarded £55 million in council contracts to Kent-based companies, helping keep more public spending in the local economy
- Worked directly with 500 Kent supplier companies, helping them understand and access council opportunities
- Reached 1,400 businesses through the Kent and Medway Growth Hub, providing advice and guidance.

Based on information published on the Council's website and in council documents.

Kent's first
Commercial Strategy
published



£55 million
more in council contracts
awarded to Kent companies



1,400
businesses accessed the
Kent & Medway Growth Hub

500
Kent supplier companies
working with the Council



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Feedback from residents in 2025/26

Listening to residents and understanding how council services are experienced is an important part of improving how they are delivered. While satisfaction levels can vary by service and individual experience, these figures reflect results from feedback and surveys for services where regular satisfaction monitoring is carried out.

- **Contact Centre** – 97% of callers rated the advisor they spoke to as good



97%
of callers rate Contact Centre
advisors as good

95%
satisfied with
library services



96%
satisfied
with Kent Archives

96%
satisfied with registration services



- **Libraries** – 95% of library users were satisfied
- **Archives** – 96% satisfied with the service received
- **Registration services** – 96% satisfied, based on feedback from April to December 2025
- **Household Waste Recycling Centres** – 96% satisfied
- **Live Well Kent** – Over 99% of clients said they would recommend the service to family, friends or someone in a similar situation (April–December 2025)



96%
satisfied with Household Waste
Recycling Centres

More than
99%
would recommend
Live Well Kent
(Apr–Dec)

