

June 2026 Report

Greater Scrutiny of Water Resilience for Kent

KCC Leader Linden Kemkaren has announced plans to create a new strategic partnership to oversee the strategic resilience of water across the county and oversight across water supply.

The move follows a further series of water outages affecting residents and businesses across the county in recent days, reinforcing concerns about the resilience of the local water system and building on recent work by KCC's Scrutiny Committee. A short, focused inquiry into supply failures highlighted the significant impact on communities and identified the need for stronger resilience, co-ordination and accountability across the system.

Kent Water and Resilience Partnership will bring together water companies, local authorities, regulators and key partners to focus on long term planning performance and public visibility on how water challenges are being addressed.

New Folkestone Library and Adult Education Centre

On May 26th KCC officially opened Folkestone's new Library and Community Learning Centre bringing key facilities back to the heart of the town for the first time in 3 years.

Located at 14 Sandgate Rd, visitors can now benefit from everything in one place from borrowing books, attending events, activities, classes, and using public computers and WiFi, to registering life events and exploring local history.

The building also features adult education facilities, supporting residents to gain new skills, build confidence and access employment and training opportunities.

This marks a major moment for Folkestone and for KCC, as the new Town Centre Library in many years.

Kent Travel Saver KTS bus passes

KCC Councillors voted to increase the KTS bus pass scheme by £35 per annum for all fee-paying customers.

The reason is to ensure the KTS remains sustainable and deliverable.

This scheme has been in operation since 2007 and offers subsidised travel on bus services across the county for students aged 11-16 to support their access to school or work-based learning. There are currently over 23,000 passes issued to eligible scheme users, paying variable amounts due to their status. Full payers pay £580 per year, those on low income pay £135. Application fees paid by families represent a contribution to scheme costs.

Subject to the proposed increase being progressed, the full pass will equate to £3.15 per school day/ £1.57 per journey and a reduced cost £0.87 per school day/ £0.43 per journey.