

## 20 Questions for Kent County Council Election Candidates (May 2025)

1. What is your plan to reduce Kent County Council's overreliance on council tax as its primary funding source?
2. How will you address the long-term structural deficits in adult and children's social care spending?
3. Do you support the 4.99% council tax hike imposed in 2025-26? If not, what would you have done differently?
4. With the tax base growing only 1.22%, how will you ensure future funding keeps pace with service demands?
5. What are your proposals for strengthening the council's depleted reserves and financial resilience?
6. Should the council reverse its policy of avoiding new borrowing, particularly for essential capital projects?
7. How will you address the maintenance backlogs across Kent's schools, roads and public infrastructure?
8. What reforms would you introduce to ensure a more sustainable adult social care model by 2028?
9. How will you safeguard non-statutory services like youth centres, libraries, and community grants?
10. Do you support lobbying central government for a fairer, multi-year funding settlement for Kent?
11. What role do you believe preventative services should play in reducing long-term social care costs?
12. How would you ensure transparency and accountability in how the council allocates its limited funds?
13. Will you commit to a reserve replenishment strategy that protects future budgets from volatility?
14. How will you ensure that capital receipts from asset sales are not simply used to plug revenue

gaps?

15. What measures would you implement to make the council more financially efficient and responsive?

16. How can the council better engage residents in difficult financial decisions affecting local services?

17. What steps will you take to prevent Kent from becoming 'just a care agency' by the end of the decade?

18. Will you push for new models of care delivery that reduce dependency and improve outcomes?

19. How will you ensure fairness in service delivery when care costs dominate the budget?

20. What will you do to restore public trust in the council's financial management and priorities?