

Elected Member Annual Report and Review 2015



All activity is from May 2015, when the Member was elected

Name of Member: Councillor Peter Oakford

Ward: St John's

Section 1: Attendance at Council/ Committee and Sub-Committee meetings

This section has been completed by Democratic Services and lists all Council and Committee meetings, including how many meetings of each, you attended for the period from January to December 2015.

Name of Committee	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during the year
Full Council	2	4

Please list how many County Council, Parish/Town Council and Town Forum meetings you have attended.

County Council	Parish/Town Council	Town Forum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-25 Portfolio Board 26/02, 19/03, 25/06, 17/11 • Cabinet 28/01, 23/03, 27/04, 01/06, 06/07, 21/09, 12/10, 30/11 • Children's Cabinet Committee 20/01, 21/04, 22/07, 08/09, 02/12 • Children's Services Improvement Panel 27/01, 24/03, 19/05, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STC Full Council 29/01, 26/02, 26/03, 25/06, 30/07, 24/09, 26/11, 17/12 • STC Finance Committee 22/1, 19/02, 19/03, 18/06, 17/09, 22/10, 19/11, 10/12 	

<p>28/07, 29/09</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Health and Wellbeing Board 03/02, 25/03, 24/09, 25/11 • Corporate Board 19/01, 09/03, 30/03, 18/05, 07/09, 28/09, 14/12 • Corporate Parenting Panel 13/02, 18/06, 03/09, 23/10, 08/12 • County Council 12/02, 26/03, 21/05, 16/07, 17/09, 22/10, 10/12 • Tunbridge Wells Cultural & Learning Hub 05/01, 18/03, 08/07 • Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee 13/01, 08/07, 18/09, 15/12 • Health and Wellbeing Board 28/01, 18/03, 16/09 • International Affairs Board 06/03 • Joint Transportation Board 19/01, 20/04, 20/07, 19/10 • Kent Integrated Children's Services Board 21/01, 13/05, 09/07, 16/09 (workshop), 11/11 • Kent Safeguarding Children's Board 30/01, 25/02, 29/04, 17/06, 07/10, 02/12 • Personnel Committee 		
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09/01, 04/11 • Southborough Hub 25/02, 03/03, 31/03, 10/06, 29/06, 14/07, 05/08, 06/10, 03/11, 04/12		
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Section 2: Community Involvement

Please list details of organisations within the community with which you are involved, including any outside bodies that you have been appointed to by the Council in order to promote joint working and improved service delivery to the public.

Organisation	Brief description of your role
TW Youth Advisory Group (YAG)	Chair – work with young people and youth workers to set agenda, develop action plans to support young people within TW.
Various Residents Associations in area	Attend as requested by residents to help address issues within the area
Southborough Twinning Association/ TW YAG	Supported the association through grant and KCC liaison in bringing over a French youth group to meet with local young people.

Section 3: Assisting Constituents

Please give an illustration of the ways in which you have assisted or liaised with your constituents, or other residents of the Borough (i.e. resolving problems), including details of any surgeries you have held.

As I am an elected member of Southborough Town Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Kent County Council where I am also a member of the the executive as the Cabinet Member for Children Service this section, and others includes all the work I do as a local councillor to support the local community as it is difficult to split this.

Many meetings and phone conversations with constituents/local businesses/schools to try to assist with issues such as on street parking, speed in residential areas and planning applications, street lights, unsociable behaviour, potholes etc.

Some examples of action taken include: 20 MPH zone at St Matthew's school with improved road markings, bollards to stop on pavement parking, road signage and wand operated flashing 20MPH signage for use during school hours, two our parking limit outside shops on London Road and yellow lines on dangerous bend by Skinners playing field. At request of local residents the installation of 'Residents only access signage' on London Road approaching Speldhurst lights junction.

After being lobbied by numerous residents had KCC Highways turn back on the street lights on the section of London Road where they had been turned off.

Currently working with Kent Highways to develop a 20 MPH Zone in an area of St

John's plagued with drivers using the streets as a rat run often at perceived high speeds. Speed surveys within the area on 6 Roads being conducted in early 2016.

Held a number of meetings with KCC Directors and KCC Cabinet Member for Communities to drive forward the need for a TW youth hub as TW was the only district without one! New youth hub opening in the new year.

Have made representations to KCC on behalf of a number of local TWBC to help resolve local issues.

Section 4: Special Responsibilities

Please list any other positions of responsibility that you may hold within this Council (for example: Portfolio Holder, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Lead Member, or Mayoral duties).

Responsibility	Nature of your duties
KCC Cabinet Member for Children's Services	Political management of all children related services within Kent including budget and the huge influx during 2015 of UASC. Updating and lobbying local and national MPs/Cabinet ministers on issues relating to Children's services. Attending meetings as required reference these issues with civil servants and ministers at Westminster.
Chair of the Southborough Hub Working Group	Chair the working group working with officers of all three local councils to work through issues and bring solutions to the project board.
Chair of TW Youth Advisory Group	Chair – work with young people and youth workers to set agenda, develop action plans to support young people within TW
Member of the Tunbridge Wells Cultural & Learning Hub Board	Member of the Board – contribute to discussion.
Member of the TW Local Board	Contribute as a board member

Section 5: Learning and Development

This section has been completed by Democratic Services and lists dates and details of attendance at training sessions, conferences, seminars etc. during the period May to December 2015 which have supported you in your duties as a councillor. Please check this with your own records and contact Emily Metcalf if you have any queries.

Details of event	Date attended
None	

Do you have any other learning and development needs that have not been identified or met by the Council? If so, please set out below.

Although I have not attended any TWBC L&D events I have attended a number of KCC training events and chaired a number of workshops for other members

Section 6: Internal Meetings Attended

Please give details of role and attendance at internal meetings, including Working Parties/Groups and Political Group meetings.

Details of event	Role and purpose
Constitution Review Working Party	Member – to ensure the constitution is up to date
TW Conservative group	Member of group, contribute to debates and update group on KCC activity.
St Johns Conservative Group	Member of group, meet with other local councillors to discuss issues and how to support local community. To discuss plans and programmes within the local community.
Southborough and High Brooms Conservative Group	Member of group, meet with other local councillors to discuss issues and how to support local community. To discuss plans and programmes within the local community.

Section 7: Supplementary Information

Please feel free to add any information you consider may assist in defining your role as an elected Member, any outside obligations that may impact on your role or any additional information you wish to add.

Although having served as a local councillor for some 9 years in Town and County roles this is my first time as a Tunbridge Wells Councillor. I have spent time during 2015 getting to know my colleagues better and have taken the opportunity to participate in all events and meetings that I could to broaden my knowledge of the Borough Council.

As an elected member representing local residents on both TWBC and KCC I find that I am able to respond to their questions and issues more speedily and completely. There is an advantage in not having to refer issues to a county colleague. I really enjoy the role of a local councillor; having retired 2 years ago to focus on this I now work full time supporting local residents and am happy to help in any area I can. If I don't know the answer to a question I can very quickly find someone that does.

I do enjoy working with councillor colleagues, the council's officers and MPs. The role is extremely diverse as I sit as a back bencher within TWBC but a front bench spokesman within KCC as a Cabinet Member which ensures no two days are the same and each week brings forward fresh challenges. It is great to be back in a position where I look forward to going to work each day....

Dated: 31 December 2015