

**Motion from Cllr Lyn Suddards
Seconded by Cllr Sojan Joseph**

“Council notes

The discontinuation of the Civic and Ceremonial Board.

That this board met quarterly, chaired by the leader and was a cross party group, with the mayor in attendance, which planned & approved the civic and ceremonial calendar for the year. The terms of reference of the board focused on restoring Civic pride through finding & commemorating the history, heritage & achievements of local people.

That it worked with the local champion for the Military Covenant & Ceremonial Liaison to ensure appropriate commemoration of significant events.

That the board planned & approved community events such as the Create Festival.

That the board notably marked International Women’s Day in 2023 for the 1st time.

Council Recognises

That the population of Ashford has increased by 12.5% in the last 2 years to 135,000. The percentage of ethnic minorities has notably increased by 50%.

Societal changes post covid, the increase of people working from home, have contributed to Ashford’s desirability as a place to live.

That Ashford is in a period of growth & change.

Council resolves

To set up a new Community, Civic & Ceremonial Committee.

That this committee will have a cross party membership, that is chaired by the Leader/portfolio holder, with relevant officers & with the Mayor & deputy Mayor in attendance.

This committee will prioritise, plan, agree & approve the council calendar of events. This will be to reflect the interests and concerns of all residents of Ashford Borough.”