# MEETING OF THE COUNCIL



Thursday, 22nd February, 2024

7.00 pm

**Council Chamber Thanet District Council Margate** 

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Email: gabriella.stewart@thanet.gov.uk



You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the Thanet District Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent on Thursday, 22 February 2024 at 7.00 pm for the purpose of transacting the business mentioned below.

Head of Legal and Democracy & Monitoring Officer

To: The Members of Thanet District Council

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#### AGENDA

<u>Item</u> No

- 8c **CEASEFIRE MOTION** (Pages 3 8)
- 13. **COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION REPORT** (Pages 9 16)

#### NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING CEASEFIRE

Council: 22 February 2024

Report Author Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager

Portfolio Holder Councillor Yates, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

Status For Decision

Classification: Unrestricted

Ward: All Wards

# **Executive Summary:**

This Council is being asked to consider a notice of motion requesting that the Council resolves to call upon the UK Government and Opposition Government to call for an immediate ceasefire and open humanitarian corridors into Gaza to allow aid and other vital medical resources to flow in. Additionally, to provide an opportunity to seek the immediate release of all hostages and all Palestinians held in arbitrary military detention.

# Recommendation(s):

With reference to the options in section 2.0 of the report, Council is invited to consider the motion.

# Corporate Implications:

#### Financial and Value for Money

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

#### Legal

This motion has been allowed in accordance with the provisions of procedure rule 3,8 (a) (i) which provides the following:

Motions must be about matters for which the Council has responsibility or which affect the district.

Council Procedure Rule 3.7 provides that: "the Member whose name appears first on the notice will move the motion during his or her speech and call for a seconder. If seconded, a

Member from the controlling political group will be entitled to a reply, after which the motion shall stand referred without further discussion to the Cabinet or appropriate committee for determination or report unless the Council decides to debate the motion in accordance with Rule 16" (rules of debate)

#### Risk

#### Corporate

Council Procedure Rule 3 provides the opportunity for Councillors to give advance notice of motions to be put to Council.

#### Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no specific equality issues arising from the decision to debate this Motion.

#### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- To keep our district safe and clean
- To work efficiently for you

# 1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 The following motion has been received from Councillor Wing in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 3:

"That this Council:-

(a) notes:-

i. In response to the Hamas-led attacks on 7th October, that 'by mid-December the Israeli army has dropped 29,000 bombs, munitions and shells on the strip. Nearly 70% of Gaza's 439,000 homes and half of its buildings have been damaged or destroyed' (1). Gaza is one of the most densely populated places in the world and home to 2.2 million Palestinians (2) (of whom almost half are children) (3).

- ii. 'As of 21 st January 2024, 25,105 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and another 62,681 wounded'
- (4) . Over 1 million Palestinians have been displaced, and many of the killed and injured are children (5) .
- iii. That collective punishment (6) is against international law under the Geneva Conventions. (7).
- iv. This escalation in violence has been felt acutely across the district by residents and in particular

among health care workers and clinical staff at QEQM hospital, the main medical centre for Thanet, which has a far higher level of diversity than the general population, some of whom have lost loved ones. That residents in Thanet, as in other communities, have been further affected by the rise in antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents across the UK and elsewhere. Thanet has a significant Jewish community and heritage, and 'more than seven out of ten Jews living in the UK have family in Israel, making the horrific 7 th October attack by Hamas personal' (8). UK Police have also reported a 'record rise in religious hate crimes, with the Community Safety Trust, a Jewish charity describing the figures as 'shocking' and campaigners against Anti-Muslim abuse stating they are 'deeply worrying'. It further notes that it is affecting communities 'trust in authorities and their sense of identity and belonging' (9). The lack of criticism by Thanet District Council for the unprecedented attacks on a predominantly Muslin/brown civilian population is having a further impact on this part of our community.

- v. That the Israeli government have cut off water, food, and electricity to Gaza which is a recognised war crime under International Humanitarian Law (10).
- vi. That on the 30 th October 2023 the World Bank warned that 'oil prices could reach \$150 in 2024 due to the consequences of the war leading to further oil supply disruption' which would 'inevitably mean higher food prices' (11) . 'The IMF estimates that a sustained 10% increase in oil prices shaves 0.15 percentage points off global economic growth and adds 0.4 points to inflation in the following year'. It further adds that 'the cost of a barrel of crude oil is now about 10% higher than it was before the Hamas attack' (12) . Government poverty data continues to rank 'Thanet as the most deprived local authority in Kent', it also 'has the most LSOAs within the most deprived decile with 18' and has seen no change since 2015 (13). Clearly, the impact of increased food and fuel prices now and as predicted into the coming year, will be felt by all Thanet residents but disproportionally felt by the significant number of residents that live in poverty. In addition, higher costs will also negatively affect the Councils finances. With no end in sight and tensions growing 'if the conflict spreads to major oil-producing nations in the region such as Iran, the global economy could face severe repercussions as energy costs for businesses and households spike' (14).
- (b) believes:-
- What is happening in Gaza is a humanitarian catastrophe with horrific escalations of violence.
- ii. Loss of all civilian lives and atrocities committed against civilians in both the Hamas attacks and the continuing bombardment of the Gaza strip by Israel, is horrific and must be condemned and investigated.

- iii. All forms of racism, including Anti-Palestinian racism, Antisemitism and Islamophobia have no place in Thanet or the wider world and condemns any attacks on these groups
- iv. Polls show that UK citizens surveyed overwhelmingly support a humanitarian ceasefire (15), which has been called for by the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF, Save the Children, the head of the WHO, as well as Oxfam. While Ipsos found '7 out of 10 UK citizens are concerned about the impact of the conflict on Palestinians and Israeli civilians' and that they 'are more likely to want the UK Government to be a neutral mediator or not be involved at all than support a particular side' (16).
- v. All political leaders, at all levels of government, have duties under international law to prevent genocide; and that
- vi. Thousands of Thanet residents have joined protests, meetings and other events and gatherings, written to MPs, or contacted their councillors backing these calls for a ceasefire (17) (18) (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (26) (27) (28) (29) .
- (c) therefore resolves to:-
- (i) call upon the UK Government and Opposition Government to:-
- i. call for an immediate ceasefire,
- ii. open humanitarian corridors into Gaza to allow aid and other vital medical resources to flow unhindered in,
- iii. provide an opportunity to seek the immediate release of all hostages and all Palestinians held in arbitrary military detention,
- iv. call for an arms embargo to be enacted by all involved in the conflict and v. call on Israel to resume negotiations with the Palestinians to seek a peaceful solution that ensures justice, safety, fairness and equality for all;
- (ii) request that the Leader submits this Motion to the UK Prime Minister and Opposition Leader.

#### Citations:

(1)

https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/gaza-destruction-bombing-israel-aa528542--WSJ

- (2) Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory 2023 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs occupied Palestinian territory (ochaopt.org) -- OCHA
- (3) WHO pleads for immediate reversal of Gaza evacuation order to protect health and reduce suffering WHO

(4)

- https://www.npr.org/2024/01/21/1225883522/palestinian-death-toll-soars-past-25-000 -in-gaza-with-no-end-to-war-in-sight --NPR News
- (5) Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update 39 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs occupied Palestinian territory (ochaopt.org) OCHA
- (6) UN experts say Israel strikes on Gaza amount to &39; collective punishment; | Reuters –UN

(7) Doctors without borders | The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law (guide-humanitarian-law.org) – Doctors without Borders

(8

https://www.jpr.org.uk/reports/how-conflict-israel-and-gaza-affects-jews-uk-and-what-you-can-do-about-it -- JPR

- (9) https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-67836607.amp -- BBC
- (10) The Siege of Gaza and the Starvation War Crime (justsecurity.org) Just Security

(11)

https://www.offshore-technology.com/features/what-are-the-implications-of-israel-pale stine-war-on-the-global-oil-and-gas-markets -- Offshore Technology

(12)

https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/oct/18/israel-hamas-war-oil-peices-glob al-economy -- The Guardian

(13)

https://www.kent.gov.uk/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0006/7953/Indices-of-Deprivation-headline-findings.pdf -- KCC

(14)

https://www.qmul.ac/uk/media/news/2023/hss/how-the-israel-hamas-war-could-affect -the-world-economy-and-worsen-global-trade-tensions -- QMUL

(15)

https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israel-palestine-war-76-percent-britons-want-im mediate-ceasefire -- Middle East Eye

(16)

https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2023-10/ipsos-uk-polling -middle-east-october-2023.pdf -- IPSOS

- (17) https://www.kentlive.news/news/thanet-councillor-calls-ceasefire-gaza Kent Live
- (18) 18th November Margate for Palestine gathering at Margate Steps
- (19) 2nd December Thanet Marches for Palestine, Cecil Square
- (20) 7th December rally outside Council meeting/ speaker from public gallery/ Mike call for ceasefire in his response to Ricks Leader speech
- (21) 30th December vigil for Palestine in Margate, 231 Northdown Rd
- (22) 6th Jan Voices for Palestine meeting at Cliftonville CC, speakers; Dr Shahd Hammouri (Law lecturer at University of Kent), Naomi Wimborne Idrissi (Jewish Voice for Labour, although stated her Labour Party membership had been removed) & Almaouq (Journalist and co-founder of 'We Are Not Numbers')
- (23) Fri 26th Jan Cllr Raushan Ara's Multi-Faith Vigil for Peace speakers; Rabbi Cliff of the Thanet & District Reformed Synagogue & Whitehead of the Ramsgate Salvation Army, held in Ramsgate town centre
- (24) Sat 27th Jan Day of Action boycott rally outside Barclays in Ramsgate
- (25) Sat 27th Jan Holocaust Memorial Day service at synagogue
- (26) FEAST for PEACE at Curve Coffee Store, Margate, which has also now raised just under 8K for Gazan Civilian's and Israel/Palestinian Peace to be equally split between Doctors Without Borders and Standing Together.
- (27) 1st Feb antisemitism workshop in Cliftonville with JVL
- (28) 10th Feb, rally in Margate re boycott of McDonalds&39; & Tesco
- (29) 22nd Feb, rally planned outside Council meeting."

# 2.0 Options

- 2.1 To debate the motion please refer to paragraph 3.0
- 2.2 Not to debate the motion, in which case the motion will fall.

# 3.0 Decision Making Process

3.1 If the motion is debated, at the end of the debate a vote will be taken to agree the motion or not. As only Council can agree to this motion, if the motion falls then it will not be referred to any other committee.

Contact Officer: Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager

Reporting to: Ingrid Brown (Head of Legal and Democracy & Monitoring Officer)

#### **Annex List**

There are no annexes with this report.

#### **Background Papers**

There are no background papers with this report.

#### **Corporate Consultation**

Finance: Chris Blundell (Director of Corporate Services - Section 151)
Legal: Ingrid Brown (Head of Legal and Democracy & Monitoring Officer)

#### **Council Tax Resolution 2024/25**

Meeting 22 February 2024

Report Author Chris Blundell (Director of Corporate Services - Section 151)

Portfolio Holder Cllr Rob Yates, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

**Status** For Decision

Classification: Unrestricted

**Key Decision** Yes

**Reasons for Key**Budget and Policy Framework

Ward: All Wards

## **Executive Summary:**

This report enables the Council to set the Council Tax for 2024/25 for each part of its area, after taking into account the precepts of the Kent County Council, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Service.

# Recommendation(s):

(i) That Members approve the Thanet District Council element of Council Tax charges as set out below for the listed property bands:

COUNCIL TAX PER PROPERTY BAND FOR 2024/25								
BAND	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
Proportion of band D	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
Annual Charge	175.45	204.70	233.94	263.18	321.66	380.15	438.63	526.36

(ii) That Members approve the determinations at Section 1 of this report.

# **Corporate Implications**

#### **Financial and Value for Money**

The financial implications for the General Fund are laid out in the budget report that went to Council on 8th February 2024.

#### Legal

The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires that the above statutory resolution be made.

The requirements of other relevant statute have been referenced within the body of this report, where relevant.

#### Corporate

Corporate priorities can only be delivered with robust finances. The budget and the level of reserves recommended are believed to be sufficient to meet these priorities and develop Services.

#### **Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty**

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

This report relates to the following aim of the equality duty: -

- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- To advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- To foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

No direct equality implications are recognised in this report.

# **Corporate Priorities**

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- To keep our district safe and clean
- To deliver the housing we need
- To protect our environment
- To create a thriving place
- To work efficiently for you

## 1.0 Council Tax Setting

- 1.1 At the Cabinet meeting on 11 January 2024, Cabinet approved the formal resolution determining the Council Tax Base for 2024/25. It has been determined that the Council Tax Base for the whole Council area is 46,454.06, calculated in accordance with Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, The calculation of the Tax Base has been undertaken in accordance with the current Regulations, "Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (SI: 2012:2914)", which came into force in November 2012 as amended (the "Act").
- 1.2 The Council's budget for 2024/25 was approved by Council on 8 February 2024. The budget is predicated on a Council Tax requirement for the council's own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding Parish precepts) of £12,225,780. This is determined after taking into account the council's net budget requirement and other available funding sources including our share of retained business rates, government grants and the council's share of the Collection Fund deficit. The calculation for 2024/25 is set out in Table 1.

Table 1 - CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT FOR 2024/25

	£'000
Net Budget Requirement for 2024/25	22,752
Less:	
Government Funding (including RSG and New Homes Bonus)	(1,365)
Retained Business Rates & Section 31 Grants	(9,469)
Collection Fund Deficit	312
Council Tax Requirement	12,230
Divided by Tax Base	46,454
Council Tax for Band D property 2024/25	£263.18
Compared to Council Tax for Band D in 2023/24	£255.54
Increase in Council Tax charge (at Band D)	£7.64
Percentage Increase	(2.99%)

- 1.3 The following amounts have been calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
- 1.3.1 £104,766,383 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
- 1.3.2 £89,920,842 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- 1.3.3 £14,845,540 being the amount by which the aggregate at 1.3.1 above exceeds the aggregate at 1.3.2 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
- 1.3.4 £319.57 being the amount at 1.3.3 above divided by the tax base of 46,454.06 calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- 1.3.5 £2,619,761 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- 1.3.6 £263.18 being the amount at 1.3.4 above less the result given by dividing the amount at 1.3.5 above by the tax base of 46,454.06 calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

# 1.3.7 Table 2 - Part of the Council's Area (District and Parish combined at Band D)

Parish/Charter Trustees of

	£
Acol	348.68
Birchington	304.40
Broadstairs	345.80
Cliffsend	294.41
Manston	301.25
Margate	274.43
Minster	336.08
Monkton	318.80
Ramsgate	348.77
St Nicholas-at-Wade and Sarre	315.11
Westgate	345.08

Being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 1.3.6 above the amounts of special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the appropriate tax base calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its

Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

#### 1.3.8 Table 3 - Part of The Council's Area Valuation Bands

Parish/Charter	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
Trustees	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Acol	232.45	271.20	309.94	348.68	426.16	503.65	581.13	697.36
Birchington	202.93	236.76	270.58	304.40	372.04	439.69	507.33	608.80
Broadstairs	230.53	268.96	307.38	345.80	422.64	499.49	576.33	691.60
Cliffsend	196.27	228.99	261.70	294.41	359.83	425.26	490.68	588.82
Manston	200.83	234.31	267.78	301.25	368.19	435.14	502.08	602.50
Margate	182.95	213.45	243.94	274.43	335.41	396.40	457.38	548.86
Minster	224.05	261.40	298.74	336.08	410.76	485.45	560.13	672.16
Monkton	212.53	247.96	283.38	318.80	389.64	460.49	531.33	637.60
Ramsgate	232.51	271.27	310.02	348.77	426.27	503.78	581.28	697.54
St Nicholas-at-Wade and Sarre	210.07	245.09	280.10	315.11	385.13	455.16	525.18	630.22
Westgate	230.05	268.40	306.74	345.08	421.76	498.45	575.13	690.16

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 1.3.6 and 1.3.7 above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

1.3.9 Members should note that for the year 2024/25 Kent County Council, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown in Table 4.

**Table 4 - Precepting Authorities Valuation Bands** 

	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
	£	£	£	Ŧ	Ŧ	Ŧ	Ŧ	£
Kent County								
Council	1,073.88	1,252.86	1,431.84	1,610.82	1,968.78	2,326.74	2,684.70	3,221.64
Kent Police								
and Crime								
Commissioner	170.77	199.23	227.69	256.15	313.07	369.99	426.92	512.30
Kent Fire and								
Rescue	59.94	69.93	79.92	89.91	109.89	129.87	149.85	179.82
Total	1,304.59	1,522.02	1,739.45	1,956.88	2,391.74	2,826.60	3,261.47	3,913.76

1.3.10 Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 1.3.8 and 1.3.9 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts of Council Tax for the year 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings shown in Table 5.

Table 5 - Part of the Council's Area Valuation Bands

Parish/	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
Charter								
Trustees	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Acol	1,537.04	1,793.22	2,049.39	2,305.56	2,817.90	3,330.25	3,842.60	4,611.12
Birchington	1,507.52	1,758.78	2,010.03	2,261.28	2,763.78	3,266.29	3,768.80	4,522.56
Broadstairs	1,535.12	1,790.98	2,046.83	2,302.68	2,814.38	3,326.09	3,837.80	4,605.36
Cliffsend	1,500.86	1,751.01	2,001.15	2,251.29	2,751.57	3,251.86	3,752.15	4,502.58
Manston	1,505.42	1,756.33	2,007.23	2,258.13	2,759.93	3,261.74	3,763.55	4,516.26
Margate	1,487.54	1,735.47	1,983.39	2,231.31	2,727.15	3,223.00	3,718.85	4,462.62
Minster	1,528.64	1,783.42	2,038.19	2,292.96	2,802.50	3,312.05	3,821.60	4,585.92
Monkton	1,517.12	1,769.98	2,022.83	2,275.68	2,781.38	3,287.09	3,792.80	4,551.36
Ramsgate	1,537.10	1,793.29	2,049.47	2,305.65	2,818.01	3,330.38	3,842.75	4,611.30
St Nicholas- at-Wade and Sarre	1,514.66	1,767.11	2,019.55	2,271.99	2,776.87	3,281.76	3,786.65	4,543.98
Westgate	1,534.64	1,790.42	2,046.19	2,301.96	2,813.50	3,325.05	3,836.60	4,603.92

#### **Council Tax Increases**

- 2.1 The average Council Tax for the Council for a Band D property for 2024/25 will be £2,276.45.
- 2.2 Kent County Council, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Service have issued precepts of £74.829m, £11.899m and £4.177m respectively. KCC have increased their Council Tax charge by 4.99%, whereas Kent Police and Kent Fire have increased their Council Tax charges by 5.35% and 2.99% respectively.
- 2.3 The average total tax at Band D is summarised in table 6, showing an overall increase of £103.28. This is primarily due to changes to KCC, Kent Police and Kent Fire precepts. Thanet's share of the bill represents only 11.56% of the overall total.

Table 6 - Average Total Council Tax at Band D

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £	Increase £	Increase %
Thanet District Council	263.18	255.54	7.64	2.99
Town & Parish Councils	56.39	52.95	3.44	6.51
Total District Council	319.57	308.49	11.08	3.59
Kent County Council	1,610.82	1,534.23	76.59	4.99
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner	256.15	243.15	13.00	5.35
Kent and Medway Fire & Rescue Service	89.91	87.30	2.61	2.99
Overall Total	2,276.45	2,173.17	103.28	4.75

Contact Officer: Joanne Kemp (Finance Manager)

Reporting to: Chris Blundell (Director of Corporate Services - Section 151)

**Annex List** 

N/A

**Background Papers** 

N/A

**Corporate Consultation** 

Finance: N/A

**Legal:** Ingrid Brown (Head of Legal and Democracy & Monitoring Officer)

