

# Paul Carter re-elected leader as Kent County Council meets for first time since May election

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## The Conservatives romped to power by claiming 67 of the 81 seats on offer following the vote on May 4

Paul Carter was once again confirmed as leader of Kent County Council as the authority met for the first time this morning since the local elections earlier this month.

The Conservatives romped to power by claiming 67 of the 81 seats on offer following the vote on May 4, and the newly-assembled authority descended on County Hall at 10am for its first full council meeting.

Other items on the agenda included election of the chairman and vice-chairman, appointment of Liberal Democrat councillor Rob Bird as the leader of the opposition, a report by the council leader and changes to the authority's spending plan following chancellor Philip Hammond's spring budget.

Several newly-elected councillors will take to the chamber for the first time, including Conservative Paul Cooper, who caused a stir this week by refusing the offer of a free iPhone and iPad to members for council duties, believing it to be a waste of public money.

Speaking to Kent News shortly after the result was announced earlier this month, Cllr Carter said: "We've run a very good, clean campaign and we've got an extraordinarily good result for the county council, building on our track record of delivering improved services with a lot less public money coming our way from central government."