

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Cabinet

DECISION NO:

20/00011

For publication**Key decision: YES****Subject Matter / Title of Decision**

Kent Rail Strategy 2021

Decision:

Cabinet agrees to adopt the Kent Rail Strategy 2021 as the Council's rail policy, the principal purpose of which will be to inform the rail service specification in the next South Eastern concession agreement.

Reason(s) for decision:

The principal purpose of the Kent Rail Strategy 2021 is to influence the infrastructure outputs, rolling-stock fleet and rail service specifications which will inform the next South Eastern concession agreement, for the operation of Kent's rail passenger network for at least the next decade.

This strategy therefore sets out in detail Kent County Council's ambitions for the next South Eastern concession:

- To determine the required passenger service levels in each sector of the network: High Speed, Mainline and Metro.
- To determine the requirements for rail infrastructure enhancements to facilitate these levels of passenger service.
- To establish the requirements for new fleets of rolling-stock in each sector to enable these levels of passenger service to operate.
- To improve the provision of passenger station facilities and communications.

Reason for urgency

The notice of decision was not published on the list of Forthcoming Executive Decisions for the normal 28 days in advance of this meeting due to a minor administration error.

The intention that the decision to adopt the Kent Rail Strategy be taken by Cabinet on 25 January has been recorded at previous Cabinet Committee meetings and has been stated elsewhere on KCC's website.

More than 5 days' notice of the decision was given on the list of Forthcoming Executive Decisions list.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The draft Kent Rail Strategy 2021 was considered by Members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 15 September 2020, prior to commencement of the strategy's public consultation.

The public consultation on the draft rail strategy ran for eight weeks 23 September to 17 November 2020. Key stakeholder groups were also consulted including public bodies, rail travellers' and rail

users' groups.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Not to renew the Kent Rail Strategy, however this was rejected as the Strategy is needed to influence the next South Eastern concession agreement so that the new agreement meets the needs of Kent's rail users.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

No.

25 January 2021

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date