

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Susan Carey, Cabinet Member for Environment

DECISION NO:

21/00036

For publication Yes

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Grant Funding - Farming in Protected Landscapes

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Environment, I agree to:

- Accept a Grant from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' funding and
- Delegate authority to Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport to take relevant actions, including but not limited to, entering into contracts and other legal agreements, as necessary to implement decisions to spend the grant

Reason(s) for decision:

Since the UK left the EU a new series of funding structures are being put in place to support farmers and land managers. Rather than having a centrally managed farm subsidy based primarily on area payments the basis for future farm payments will be providing 'public money for public good'. Public goods include carbon management and climate mitigation, public access to land, enhancement of biodiversity, enhancement of the water environment and provision of clean air. Funding can also be provided to support farm business diversification and green jobs.

Authority is needed to receive funding from Defra and for the Kent Downs AONB Unit, under the KCC Scheme of Delegations to disperse it to farmers and land managers in the Kent Downs AONB in accordance with Defra guidelines.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The scheme will be managed in the context of the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan which has undergone substantial public engagement and consultation.

The proposed decision will be discussed by Members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 18 March 2021.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

To not pursue the funding and forego the opportunity for over 31m grant funding to assist Kent's small rural businesses and rural communities.

Farming in Protected Landscapes funding will only be provided through AONB Units and National Park Authorities, there is no other option for Kent to benefit from this new funding

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

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signed

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date

