

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Susan Carey, Cabinet Member for Environment

DECISION NO:

21/00027

For publication Yes

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

Kent County Council Adoption of the third revision of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2020-2025

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Environment, I agree to adopt the revised Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2020-2025

Reason(s) for decision:

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 requires local authorities within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to act collaboratively to prepare and publish an up-to-date plan, which 'formulates their policy for the management of the area and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it'.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Cabinet Committee views were sought on the key areas for revision at the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee meeting on 23 January 2020, in advance of the draft Management Plan public consultation which was carried out between 14 July 2020 and 7 September 2020.

Consultation also included a series of 'expert opinion debate' meetings, presentations, and discussion with a wide range of other key stakeholders including public bodies and voluntary organisations, parish councils, farmers, and land managers.

The Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee was then asked to consider and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Environment on the proposed KCC response on 15 September 2020. The County Council responded to the consultation on 22 September 2020.

A final draft plan was then circulated for comment to the Joint Advisory Committee in December 2020 and reviewed by the Committee on the 26 January 2021.

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:

A statutory requirement in the CRoW Act is placed on the council to act jointly with the other local authorities to prepare and review a management plan for the landscape

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