

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – URGENT RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY:**

Leader of the Council

**DECISION NO:**

21/00040

**For Publication****Key decision: YES****Decision – Domestic Abuse Act – New Burdens Funding**

**As Leader of the Council**, I agree to:

- 1) Accept the £3.1m Domestic Abuse Act funding for use in line with the Memorandum of Understanding issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
- 2) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Strategic and Corporate Services, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care & Health and the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education to take other necessary actions, including but not limited to entering into contracts or other legal agreements, as required to implement this decision.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

Although the Domestic Abuse Bill is still going through the Parliamentary process, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has allocated £3.1m to KCC to implement the new duties from 1 April. A decision is needed to accept the funding. Further work is underway to assess how the funding will be allocated, in line with the grant conditions.

**Financial Implications:**

The decision is to accept the £3.1m in full, and there should be no direct impact on the council's budget.

**Reason for Urgency:**

MHCLG only notified us of the funding on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, and a key decision is needed to accept the funding. Also, although the allocation of most of the funding will be determined by a needs assessment, some of the funding is required from 1 April to pay for the staff who are implementing the new arrangements.

**Member and other consultation:**

No Cabinet Committee consultation possible due to urgency process.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, in addition to agreeing that the decision could not be reasonably deferred, provided the following comments:

Mr Booth supported the decision.

The Group Spokespeople of the Scrutiny Committee provided the following comments:

Mr Bird stated:

I understand the need to take this decision before the pre-election period commences, and I am supportive of the decision. It is clear that in this instance there was insufficient time to go through the normal decision-making process. However, it is disappointing that the decision was not published earlier as this has precluded proper consideration by non-executive members.

The Chair and Group Spokespeople of the Policy & Resources Cabinet Committee provided the following comments:

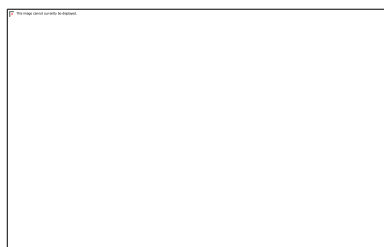
Mr Sweetland supported the decision.

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

The option of turning down the grant was discarded as there are many people in Kent who will benefit from this resource.

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

None



19 March 2021

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signed

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date