

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services

DECISION NO:

23/00008

For publication

Key decision*

Yes

Subject: Gypsy and Traveller Site Improvement Project

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services, I agree to procure and delegate authority to the Director for Growth and Communities to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to carry out a range of refurbishment and improvement works on the KCC owned Gypsy and Traveller Sites which will be funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Traveller Site Fund.

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council has secured funding to carry out essential refurbishment on the 7 KCC owned Gypsy and Traveller Sites. The works would be funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Traveller Site Fund with the KCC match contribution coming from the Modernisation of Assets capital budget, managed by Infrastructure.

Reason for Urgency

Due to the numerous changes in central government last year, the decision around the award of the DLUHC Traveller Site Fund was delayed, and it was only advised to us on 23rd December 2022 that we had been successful in all our applications and have been awarded £3.8million in capital grant. Consequently, the timeframe for accepting the funding awarded is extremely short (13th January 2023).

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Failure to accept this grant funding will mean that the refurbishment and other critical maintenance that is needed on sites will not be funded and will not be completed, which will pose a risk to KCC as it will not be fulfilling its responsibilities as Landlord.

Any alternatives considered:

Not to proceed with the Improvement Project – this would mean foregoing the opportunity to use grant funding to significantly enhance the KCC designated Gypsy and Traveller Sites.

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

None



30 January 2023

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signed

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date

Name: Michael Hill, OBE