

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Derek Murphy, Cabinet Member for
Economic Development

DECISION NO:

23/00121

For publication

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Kent and Medway Economic Framework

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Economic Development, I agree, on behalf of Kent County Council to:

- (i) ENDORSE the Kent and Medway Economic Framework;
- (ii) SUPPORT the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership in its implementation; and
- (iii) DELEGATE to the Director Growth and Communities to take any necessary actions, including but not limited to entering into contracts or other legal agreements as required to implement this decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

In August 2020, Kent and Medway Leaders and Kent and Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP) approved an Economic Renewal and Resilience Plan. This was a short-to-medium term strategy which set out a series of actions to support the economy during the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

As the Renewal and Resilience Plan came to the end of its natural life, Leaders agreed in late 2021 to prepare a longer-term Kent and Medway Economic Framework, which would help to guide actions to support the growth and prosperity of the region through to 2030.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

A first draft Framework was prepared in September 2023, following earlier consultation on the emerging themes and structure. Further consultation took place in the autumn, including with Kent and Medway Economic Partnership and Kent and Medway Leaders.

The proposed decision will be considered by Members of Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 18 January 2024.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Do nothing: There is no statutory requirement to develop an Economic Framework, however, the absence of an up-to-date Kent and Medway economic strategy could jeopardise the case for future public investment into the county.

Reduced scope: A Framework could have been developed with a shorter time horizon, taking account of current spending pressures. However, since the purpose of the Framework is to 'make

the case' for longer term investment in Kent, this would be of no real benefit, and would mean that further work will be required in the next couple of years.

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