

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Derek Murphy, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

DECISION NO:

24/00014

For publication

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Signing of Memorandum of Understanding as prerequisite to access to funding to deliver a nutrient neutrality strategy in East Kent

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Economic Development, I agree to:

- (i) AGREE to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to accept £9.8m capital and Memorandums of Understanding for supporting revenue funding from DLUHC to support nutrient neutrality mitigation works in East Kent.
- (ii) DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, and Corporate Director of Finance, to review and agree to the required terms and conditions to enter into the necessary grant arrangements.
- (iii) AGREE for the Director for Growth and Communities to bring a strategy for delivery of nutrient neutrality for adoption to Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee prior to claiming the capital funding.

Reason(s) for decision:

Nutrient neutrality in the catchment for the Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve is having a significant impact on the delivery of homes in East Kent. The government is offering £9.8m of capital for nutrient neutrality mitigation in East Kent along with revenue grants to support the delivery of the strategy. KCC has to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the government to access the grants available.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision was considered and endorsed by members of the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 5 March.

The Section 151 Officer has signed off the Memorandums of Understanding for the supporting revenue funding as these had to be signed off by 6 March, in order to process the payments in time for this financial year, to ensure KCC could access the funding of £531,414.

Assurances were obtained that the signing of these memoranda of understanding will not lead to any financial burden on KCC's base budget.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

To not accept the grant offer. This option is not recommended. Nutrient neutrality is a significant constraint on housing development and requires significant mitigation to offset. Without government support there is unlikely to be sufficient mitigation provided in the catchment to unlock housing in

East Kent.

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

None

DP Murphy

27.03.2024

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signed

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date