

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Rob Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment

DECISION NO:

24/00094

For publication

Key decision: YES / NO

Subject Matter Adoption of Kent County Council Environment Plan**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Environment, I agree to:

- To adopt the Kent Environment Plan on behalf of Kent County Council.
- To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to refresh and/or make revisions to the Strategy as appropriate during the lifetime of the strategy.
- To delegate authority to the Corporate Growth, Environment and Transport to take relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of, and entering into required contract or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The UK environment is facing challenges from climate change, habitat and biodiversity loss, flooding and sea level rises, invasive species and pollutants contaminating our natural and marine ecosystems, air and water quality problems and resource depletion. The UK government has responded to environmental challenges by implementing several key policies and pieces of legislation including the 25-Year Environment Plan, the Environment Act 2021, the 2023 Green Finance Strategy and the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. KCC has responded by developing its own knowledge, strategies and action plans in response to the increase in duties and responsibilities required of the Authority. Kent County Council's Environment Plan outlines KCC's role in delivering the national agenda locally and focuses on a holistic approach that delivers maximum benefits. The Environment Plan does not seek to replace previous strategies and policies but acts as an umbrella plan to provide clarity of priorities and action and enabling progress to be made most efficiently and effectively.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee will consider the proposal at their meeting on 14 November 2024.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

To not have a Plan rejected as the Environment Plan as written will act as an umbrella plan to provide clarity of priorities and action and enabling progress to be made most efficiently and effectively across a range of existing policies and strategies.

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