

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Robert Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment

DECISION NO:

24/00125

For publication**Key decision: YES**

Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Kent Countryside Management Partnerships – Signing new Memorandum of Agreements (MoA) and future funding

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Environment, I agree to:

- SIGNING of the two expired Kent Countryside Management Partnerships Memorandums of Agreement, and the signing of other Memorandums of Agreement when they expire;
- HOSTING through the MoA for the four Countryside Management Partnerships;
- INCREASE annual contributions for the four hosted Countryside Management Partnerships in line with KCC's pay strategy annual pay award.
- INCREASE annual contributions for the Countryside Management Partnerships in line with inflation; and
- DELEGATE responsibility for the negotiation of any annual increase to contributions to the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Transport

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council relies on the skills, knowledge and volunteers that the Kent Countryside Management Partnerships (CMPs) provide in order to fully deliver our priorities under Framing Kent's Future. The Memorandums of Agreement (MoA) are formal agreements for the partnerships that are required as part of their overall governance and are essential for them to be able to access external funding. They are time limited to allow for review and revision and now require resigning as they expire. The signing of the Memorandums of Agreement commits KCC to hosting arrangements and the provision of small revenue funding arrangements

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposal is being considered by Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 14 January 2025..

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

1. Do nothing: Without the current Memorandums of Agreement (MoAs), CMPs will struggle to access some funding streams because grant-giving bodies require proof of governance arrangements. The MoA serves this purpose. Without it, their ability to generate income and fund staff and resources will be affected.

2. Do not extend the agreements: If the MoAs are not signed, an alternative method to continue the projects would be needed. This could involve Kent County Council (KCC) taking on the service, which would increase financial burden as a new team of KCC employees would need to be formed. This could impact the quality and quantity of work, cause delays, and potentially stop some projects altogether. It could also damage KCC's reputation.

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