
From: Neil Baker- Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation
Simon Jones, Corporate Director, Growth, Environment and Transport

To: Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee – 14 January 2025

Subject: Network Management Framework

Decision no: 24/00111

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: N/A

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: Countywide responsibilities.

Is the decision eligible for call-in? Yes

Summary: The Network Management plan is a comprehensive document designed to evidence the ongoing and proposed works Kent County Council carry out in line with the Network Management Duty. The plan reflects how the Duty, as defined in the Traffic Management Act 2004, is embedded throughout Highways and Transportation.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation to:

- (i) ENDORSE and ADOPT on behalf of Kent County Council the updated Network Management Plan produced by the Network Management Team in accordance with the Traffic Management Act 2004; and
- (ii) To DELEGATE authority to the Director of Highways and Transportation to take necessary actions including but not limited to entering into relevant contracts, or other legal agreements to implement this decision as shown at Appendix A.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Traffic Management Act 2004 outlines how a highway authority must ensure the appointed Traffic Manager has provision in place to carry out its responsibilities in line with the Act. We must be able to provide a document outlining the council's responsibilities in relation to our Network Management Duty. This is known as the Network Management Plan.

- 1.2 The Plan is not intended to change any services or provide new proposals. The document outlines how KCC currently perform the Network Management Duty and how the requirements of the Traffic Management Act are embedded throughout Highways and Transportation. The highway authority must keep the arrangements under review and update the Plan to comply with legislation.

2. Key Considerations

- 2.1 This decision to endorse and adopt the updated Network Management Plan ensures Kent County Council is fulfilling its duties under the Traffic Management Act 2004.

3. Background

- 3.1 It is acknowledged that the plan provides an insight into the functions being carried out by Highways and Transportation. It is not intended to be an all-encompassing document which details all responsibilities but provides a strong and clear overview into the general functions carried out by KCC Highways and Transportation. The detail within the plan is obtained from other sources within the department which are readily available

4. Options considered and dismissed, and associated risk

- 4.1 Not applicable in this case, as legislation requires KCC to produce a Network Management Plan..

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications. This is a document which supports the Traffic Managers role in adhering to the Traffic Management Act 2004.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 The Traffic Management Act 2004 requires highway authorities to prepare and publish a Network Management Plan which outlines how the authority adheres to its Network Management Duty. Through the approval of this Key Decision, KCC can ensure we are carrying out our responsibilities in line with national legislation. We have ensured the Act is considered throughout the document.

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1 The EqIA identified a concern with the disability protected characteristic. This related to the accessibility requirements to ensure the document was formatted correctly. Throughout the drafting of the document, these concerns were managed by following KCC guidance on formatting and accessibility. The use of Accessibility Checker tools ensured the document achieved all required standards.
- 7.2 The EqIA was updated upon completion of the document as images have been used on the front title page. The process of using alternative text on photos was followed which ensures the document is compatible with text-to-speech applications for visually impaired readers.

7.3 The document aligns with KCC’s Digital Accessibility Team requirements which ensures the Plan complies with the Equality Act 2010.

8. Data Protection Implications

8.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessment screening identified no concerns which required any mitigation measures as all statistics and relevant information remains readily available to the public.

9. Other corporate implications

9.1 The decision will not cause any wider implications to other services within the Council due to the nature of the Plan. This is a document which states the work currently being undertaken by Highways and Transportation officers which meets the expectations of the Network Management Duty.

10. Governance

10.1 The Director of Highways and Transportation will inherit main delegations via the Officer Scheme of Delegation.

11. Conclusions

11.1 The Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation to:

- (i) ENDORSE and ADOPT on behalf of Kent County Council the updated Network Management Plan produced by the Network Management Team in accordance with the Traffic Management Act 2004; and
- (ii) To DELEGATE authority to the Director of Highways and Transportation to take necessary actions including but not limited to entering into relevant contracts, or other legal agreements to implement this decision as shown at Appendix A.

12. Appendix and Background Documents

- Appendix A: Proposed record of decision
- Network Management Plan (PDF document)
- EqiA- Network Management Plan v2 (word document)

13. Contact details

Report Author: Remy Laporte Job title: Senior Network Project Manager Telephone number: 03000 416037 Email address: remy.laporte@kent.gov.uk	Director: Haroona Chughtai Job title: Director of Highways and Transportation Telephone number: 03000 412479 Email address: Haroona.chughtai@kent.gov.uk
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------