

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Derek Murphy, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

DECISION NO:

24/00102

For publication

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision; Connect to Work Programme

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Economic Development I agree to:

- Kent County Council to ACT as Accountable Body and oversee the delivery of the Kent & Medway element of the national 'Connect to Work' supported employment programme; and
- To DELEGATE to the Director of Growth & Communities in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance to take necessary actions including but not limited to entering into relevant contracts, or other legal agreements to implement this decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) is launching a new national supported employment programme called 'Connect to Work'. KCC has been asked by DWP to become the Accountable Body for the C2W programme in Kent & Medway. As such KCC will be responsible for management and oversight of the local programme, commissioning a range of service providers to deliver programme activity and reporting back to DWP on progress and outcomes.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposal is being considered by the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 22 January 2025.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Not engaging with the C2W programme. This would miss a significant opportunity to help a large number of local people to access the labour market while tackling known skills gaps in Kent & Medway. It would also reflect poorly on Kent and Medway's commitment to Growth, undermining positioning work undertaken to date with the new Government.

Not using TEP as a key delivery partner and relying solely on the external market place to source providers to deliver the programme. This would delay the launching of the programme and the implementation period in Kent & Medway.

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