

## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

### DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

David Wimble, Cabinet Member for the (Kent) Environment

### DECISION NO:

25/00067

### For publication

### Key decision: YES

**Subject Matter / Title of Decision:** Procurement for the Receipt and Processing of Paper and Card Waste Contract Countywide CN260429

### Decision:

As Cabinet Member for the (Kent) Environment, I agree to:

- I. APPROVE the procurement and contract award of a paper and card recycling contract for an initial 5 years (plus an extension of up to 2 years);
- II. DELEGATE authority to the Director of Environment and Circular Economy to take relevant actions to facilitate the required procurement activity;
- III. DELEGATE authority to the Director of Environment and Circular Economy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, to take relevant actions including but not limited to awarding, finalising the terms of and entering into the relevant contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary, to implement the decision; and
- IV. (iv). DELEGATE authority to the Director of Environment and Circular Economy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, to award extensions of the contract in accordance with the relevant clauses within the contract

### Reason(s) for decision:

Existing contracts held by Kent County Council (KCC), as the Waste Disposal Authority, for the receipt and processing of approximately 30,000 tonnes per annum of paper and card are due to expire on 30th November 2026. A decision is needed to procure and award new countywide contractual arrangements from 1st December 2026 to meet statutory duties for waste disposal.

### Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

A market engagement questionnaire was posted to the Kent Business Portal with responses received on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 202.

The proposal is being considered by members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 9 September.

### Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Do nothing – the current arrangements will cease and KCC will be unable to accept the waste - this is not an option due to KCC's obligation to receive this material under waste legislation and dispose of it as per the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Separation of Waste (England) Regulations 2024

Option 2 - Continue to accept the waste but utilise alternative disposal options by using landfill or incineration - This is not a viable option. KCC has a legal obligation to manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy, which prioritises recycling over disposal. Sending paper and card to landfill or incineration would not only undermine the Council's recycling and landfill diversion targets (currently less than 1%) but would also result in a significant financial burden. Furthermore, the inclusion of Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities such as Allington in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme from 2028 will introduce new carbon levies on all fossil-derived waste emissions, further increasing the cost of disposal.

Option 3 - Extend for a further period - This is not legally possible, as the paper and card contract has been extended within the parameters of the existing contracts.

**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