

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Jamie Henderson, Cabinet Member for
Environment, Coastal Regeneration & Public Health

DECISION NUMBER:

26/00008

Executive Decision – key**26/00008 – Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2026 – 2031**

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Environment, Coastal Regeneration & Public Health, I agree to:

ADOPT the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2026 – 2031 as KCC’s formal commitment to the partnership approach, subject to formal endorsement by all other partner authorities through their governance processes

DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Transport or other officer as required by the Corporate Director to review the Strategy on an annual basis and revise the strategy where changes do not require additional governance.

DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director Growth, Environment and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Coastal Regeneration, and Public Health, to take the actions required to support the Kent Resource Partnership with the implementation of the strategy, subject to the Councils decision-making process.

Reasons for decision:

It is a statutory requirement of the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 for two-tier council areas to produce joint waste management strategies.

The current strategy review and update is overdue.

Financial implications

The cost of developing the strategy is limited to officer time spent engaging and consulting stakeholders and drafting the document along with minimal design costs ahead of publication.

Approving and adopting the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy is a strategic commitment only. This decision does not authorise immediate changes to KCC’s service delivery. While the strategy will be implemented through the Kent Resource Partnership and overseen by the Kent & Medway Environment Members

Board, any changes to KCC services, budgets, or contractual arrangements arising from delivery will remain subject to KCC's own governance processes.

Legal implications:

Under the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003, it is a statutory requirement for all local authorities in two-tier areas to have a joint waste management strategy and there is a risk of non-compliance if the strategy is not updated. Once the strategy is agreed and published, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will be notified.

Equalities implications:

An Equality Impacts Screening Assessment has been completed, and no significant positive or negative equality impacts have been identified. This strategy does not require changes to delivered services

Data Protection implications:

Not applicable - No personal data was collected or used to inform the revision of the strategy.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

This version of the PROD is included in the agenda pack for committee members to review ahead of the meeting.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Do Nothing and retain current strategy. The existing strategy is outdated and does not reflect current legislation, national targets, or emerging challenges such as carbon taxation and mandatory food waste collections. Retaining it would leave Kent without a clear roadmap for compliance and performance improvement.

Minor refresh of existing strategy. A light update would not adequately address significant changes in policy, infrastructure needs and financial pressures. It risks being a superficial exercise that fails to provide strategic direction or stakeholder confidence.

Full revision with strategic environmental assessment and public consultation

This option would deliver a robust, future-proof strategy that meets statutory and whilst this would offer the highest level of stakeholder confidence and compliance the increase in both time and costs to develop is not considered the right approach at this time.

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