

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Georgia Foster, Cabinet Member for Communities
and Regulatory Services

DECISION NUMBER:

26/00018

Executive Decision – key**26/00018 Prioritisation of Definitive Map Modification Applications**

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Communities and Regulatory Services, I agree:

APPROVE the changes to the Statement of Priorities for Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) applications.

DELEGATE to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Regulatory Services to implement the approved amendment to the Statement of Priorities for Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) applications, including:

- giving effect to the amended statement in operational practice;
- making any minor, non-material drafting or presentational changes required to ensure clarity and accuracy; and
- issuing associated guidance or communications necessary to support consistent application of the amended priorities

Reasons for decision:

Kent County Council is legally required, as the Surveying Authority, to look into and decide every valid Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) application. The backlog is growing mainly because there has been a sharp rise in applications based on historic documents. This means there can be a long wait before a case is passed to an officer (100 were waiting to be allocated on 16 March 2026).

The proposed amendment to the Statement of Priorities for DMMO applications for user-based and historic-evidence applications to be considered on a 1:1 basis rebalances the programme to keep the prioritisation approach fair and fit for purpose while continuing to meet legal duties

Financial implications:

None

Legal implications:

The County Council is the Surveying Authority for Kent, responsible for the production of the Definitive Map and Statement and keeping it under continuous review. It is required to investigate and determine every duly made Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) application it receives. (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 53 applications (Definitive Map Modification Order applications))

Equalities implications:

The EqlA indicates a net benefit from the proposed change in that applications based on use tend to be made by older applicants or are supported by evidence from elderly witnesses. It could be argued that the current system of prioritisation discriminates against more elderly applicants and witnesses whose evidence may be diminished as memory fades or, in the worst-case scenario, they pass away before the application is considered..

Data Protection implications:

None

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision will be considered by the Growth, Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 5 May 2026

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:

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