

Consultation Report



Public Rights of Way Statement of Priorities - Section 53 Applications



Consultation period: 10 February to 23 March 2026

kent.gov.uk/statementofpriorities



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1. Executive summary

From 10 February to 23 March 2026, Kent County Council (KCC) ran a consultation, seeking views on a proposed change to its Statement of Priorities.

The consultation received 128 responses: 126 via the consultation questionnaire and two submitted by email.

Key findings from the consultation:

- The majority of the responses were in support of the proposed amendment.
- Some consultees, including those supporting the proposed amendment, do not wish to see the de-prioritisation of historic-based applications.
- A number wished to see greater resource given to this area of work.
- A small number of consultees raised alternative means of prioritisation, particularly to those that deliver the greatest public benefit.
- A number raised matters outside of the scope of the consultation, relating to Definitive Map Modification Order procedures or wider Public Rights of Way prioritisation and maintenance.

The feedback from this consultation is expected to be reported to Members at the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee on 5 May 2026, and will be taken into consideration before a decision is taken by the Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services.

This report, KCC's response to the consultation feedback, and details of the decision will be published on the consultation webpage.



2. Introduction

This report provides a summary of the feedback received through the consultation on the proposed change to Kent County Council's (KCC) Statement of Priorities.

The Statement of Priorities sets out how the council processes Section 53 applications. The Definitive Map and Statement (DMS) is the legal record of Public Rights of Way (PROW). Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 places a legal duty on KCC as the Surveying Authority to 'keep the DMS under continuous review'. Under Section 53 anyone can apply to KCC to amend the DMS to add, upgrade, downgrade, or delete a PROW. KCC has a duty to investigate and determine every application it receives in accordance with its Statement of Priorities.

Over the past five years, KCC has seen a substantial rise in Section 53 applications, particularly those based on historic (documentary) evidence. This has resulted in a significant increase in the backlog for allocating applications.

To address this, KCC is proposing a change to the Statement of Priorities in Appendix 1 of its Countryside Access Improvement Plan (CAIP), to prioritise user-based applications (those based on proof that a path has been used for at least 20 years). This means taking them out of submission order, so that for every historic-based application allocated, one user-based application would be allocated.

Both types of application would continue to be allocated in the order they were received, unless one of the acceleration criteria in the Statement of Priorities applies.

More information on why KCC is proposing this change was provided in the consultation document, which is available on the consultation webpage:

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/prow-statement-of-priorities>.

A six week consultation launched on 10 February and ran until the 23 March 2026. The consultation provided the opportunity for interested parties to provide feedback on the proposed change in policy.

3. Consultation process

Feedback was captured via a consultation questionnaire which was available from the consultation webpage. A Word version of the questionnaire was provided on the webpage for people/organisations who didn't want to complete the online version. Open responses by letter or email were also accepted.

All consultation material included details of how people could contact KCC to ask a question, request hard copies or alternative formats.

A consultation stage Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was carried out to assess the impact the proposed change could have on the protected characteristics. The EqIA



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was available as one of the consultation documents and the questionnaire invited consultees to comment on the assessment. An analysis of responses to this question can be found in section 6 of this report

To raise awareness of the consultation and encourage participation, the following was undertaken:

- Email to stakeholder list at the launch of the consultation and a reminder sent towards the end of the consultation notifying them of the consultation and asking them to promote through their networks.
- Email to current applicants.
- Invite to 9,139 Let's Talk Kent registered users who expressed an interest in 'PROW and village greens' and 'Environment and Countryside'.
- Media release: <https://news.kent.gov.uk/articles/views-wanted-on-proposed-changes-to-the-public-rights-of-way-statement-of-priorities>.
- Social media posts from KCC's and Explore Kent's accounts/channels.
- Link to the consultation webpage from service pages on Kent.gov.uk.
- Article in KCC's residents' e-newsletter (approx. circulation of 8,800).
- Promoted to Kent's Towns and Parish Councils through the Kent Association of Local Council (KALC).

A summary of interaction with the consultation website and documents can be found below:

- 1,624 visits to the consultation webpage by 1,492 visitors.
- 383 downloads of the consultation document.
- 58 downloads of the current CAIP Operational Management (Appendix 1).
- 48 downloads of the Word version of the consultation questionnaire.
- 19 downloads of the consultation stage Equality Impact Assessment.
- Organic posts via KCC's corporate channels had a reach of 19,978 on Facebook. There were 51,827 impressions on X, LinkedIn, and Nextdoor. Reach refers to the number of people who saw a post at least once and impressions are the number of times the post is displayed on someone's screen. The posts generated 380 clicks through to the consultation webpage. (Not all social media platforms report the same statistics).






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Figure 1. Examples of social media posts

 **Kent County Council**
6d ·   ...

👉 We have launched a consultation on proposed changes to how we prioritise applications for new Public Rights of Way.



We've seen a big rise in applications based on historic (documentary) evidence, creating delays of up to 8 or 9 years. Over this time user-based evidence (proof that a path has been used for at least 20 years) deteriorates, so we are proposing to prioritise these cases.

Find out more and tell us your views at www.kent.gov.uk/statementofpriorities
#Kent #KCC #PROW





Public Rights of Way



Statement of Priorities - Section 53 Applications





Public consultation
Find out more at: www.kent.gov.uk/statementofpriorities
Consultation closes 23 March 2026



 6 6 comments 12 shares

 Like  Comment

 **Kent County Council** 
@Kent_cc  ...

We want your views on proposed changes to our Statement of Priorities, which aims to:


- reduce the backlog of user-based applications
- protect valuable routes still in use
- continue progressing historic applications

Find out more at: kent.gov.uk/statementofpri...



Public Rights of Way

Statement of Priorities - Section 53 Applications

Public consultation
Find out more at: www.kent.gov.uk/statementofpriorities
Consultation closes 23 March 2026



9:04 AM · Mar 12, 2026 · **334** Views


    




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Kent County Council's post ✕



 **Kent County Council**
7 March at 14:30 · 🌐

Do you walk a local path that isn't yet on the Definitive Map? Do you care about preserving access to Kent's countryside?
We're proposing a change to our Statement of Priorities to help reduce delays in user-based Public Rights of Way applications - where evidence depends on lived experience and long-term community use.
Tell us what you think in our consultation running until 23 March 2026.




Public Rights of Way

Statement of Priorities - Section 53 Applications

Public consultation
Find out more at: www.kent.gov.uk/statementofpriorities
Consultation closes 23 March 2026



👍 3 9 shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment

 **Kent County Council** ✓
Let's talk Kent C&E · 2 days ago

🔔 Last chance to tell us your views!
'We're proposing to prioritise one user-based PROW application fc... see more



Public Rights of Way

Statement of Priorities - Section 53 Applications




Public consultation
Find out more at: www.kent.gov.uk/statementofpriorities
Consultation closes 23 March 2026



Posted to **Subscribers of Kent County Council** in 12 areas

❤️ 5 💬 · 5,130 Impressions ➦



Points to note

- Consultees were able to choose which questions they answered or commented on. The number of responses to each question is shown throughout this report.
- Percentages for individual single-choice questions may not total 100% due to rounding.
- Participation in consultations is self-selecting and should be taken into account when interpreting the results.
- Consultees were invited to provide feedback in their own words. While this report presents a thematic summary, all responses have been fully reviewed and considered.

4. Who responded to the consultation?

There were 128 responses to the consultation. 126 questionnaire responses (125 online and one via email) and two open responses by email. The content of these emails have been reviewed alongside open ended feedback received within the consultation questionnaire.

This section details the profile of consultees who completed the consultation questionnaire. The first question asked consultees to select from a list the option that best described how they were responding to the consultation.

Table 1: How people responded to the consultation.

Are you responding as...? (Base: 126)	Number of responses	Percentage
As a Kent resident (living in the Kent County Council authority area)	107	85%
On behalf of a user or local community group	6	5%
As a Parish / Town / Borough / District / County Councillor	4	3%
On behalf of a Parish / Town / Borough / District Council in an official capacity	3	2%
As a resident from somewhere else, such as Medway or further away	2	2%
On behalf of another organisation or business	2	2%
On behalf of a charity, Voluntary, Community or Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisation	1	1%
Something else	1	1%



Geographic profile

The following table shows how many people responded across each of the districts and boroughs.

Table 2: Geographic profile of consultees.

Please tell us the first 5 characters of your postcode. (Base: 121)	Number of responses	Percentage
Ashford	5	4%
Canterbury	14	11%
Dartford	1	1%
Dover	8	6%
Folkestone & Hythe	8	6%
Gravesham	5	4%
Maidstone	17	13%
Sevenoaks	7	6%
Swale	19	15%
Thanet	8	6%
Tonbridge & Malling	13	10%
Tunbridge Wells	13	10%
Outside Kent	3	2%



Demographics of consultees

The tables below show the demographic profile of consultees who completed the consultation questionnaire. Consultees were given the option to skip all or some of these questions and those responding on behalf of an organisation were advised not to answer them. The proportion who left these questions blank or indicated they did not want to answer these questions is not included in the figures below.

Table 3: Age groups of consultees responding as an individual.

Which of these age groups applies to you? (Base: 89)	Number of responses
Under 16	0
16 – 25	1
26 – 35	1
36 – 45	3
46 – 55	9
56 – 65	20
66 – 75	34
76 – 85	21
86 and over	0
I prefer not to say	0

Table 4: Ethnic groups of consultees responding as an individual.

What is your ethnic group? (Base: 88)	Number of responses
White	87
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	1



Table 5: Number of individual consultees with a disability.

Do you have a disability, health condition, physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities? (Base: 89)	Number of responses
Yes	18
No	70
I prefer not to say	1

Table 6: Types of disabilities or health conditions.

If you answered 'Yes', please tell us if any of the following disabilities or health conditions apply to you. (Base: 17)	Number of responses
Physical	9
Sensory (hearing, sight or both)	3
Longstanding illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy	9
Mental health condition	1
Neurodivergent, such as ADHD, autism, dyslexia and dyspraxia	1
A different disability or health condition	2

Please note that the total number of responses is higher than the number of people who answered this question, as some respondents reported more than one condition.

Table 7: Number of consultees who are Carers.

Are you a Carer? (Base: 89)	Number of responses
Yes	12
No	75
I prefer not to say	2



Table 8: Religion or belief of consultees responding as an individual.

What is your religion or belief? (Base: 89)	Number of responses
No religion or belief	37
Atheist	3
Christian	41
A different religion or belief	4
I prefer not to say	4

Table 9: Sex of consultees responding as an individual.

What is your sex? (Base: 88)	Number of responses
Female	32
Male	57

Table 10: Gender identity of consultees responding as an individual.

Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? (Base: 89)	Number of responses
Yes	89
No	0

Table 11: Sexual orientation of consultees responding as an individual.

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation? (Base: 89)	Number of responses
Heterosexual/Straight	81
Bisexual	1
Gay or Lesbian	2
I prefer not to say	5



Consultation awareness

The most common means of finding out about the consultation was from an email from Let's Talk Kent/KCC's Engagement and Consultation Team (98), followed by their Parish/Town/Borough or District Council (8).

Table 12: How consultees found out about the consultation.

How did you find out about this consultation? (Base 124)	Number of responses	Percentage
An email from Let's Talk Kent / KCC's Engagement and Consultation Team	98	79%
From my Parish / Town / Borough / District Council	8	6%
An email from PROW & Access Service	7	6%
Kent.gov.uk website	6	5%
From a friend or relative	5	4%
Social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Nextdoor or X)	4	3%

Please note that this question allowed people to select more than one response option, so the total number of responses may exceed the number of people answering the question.



5. Feedback on the proposal

Consultees were asked if they agreed with the proposal to prioritise user-based applications by taking them out of submission order, so that for every historic-based application allocated, one user-based application is allocated.

94 consultees agreed with the proposal (41 strongly and 53 tended to agree), 17 disagreed (7 strongly and 10 tended to disagree). The table below shows the full breakdown of responses.

A significant majority agreed with the proposed amendment. Examples of some of the reasons given for supporting the proposal are set out below. Of those who disagreed, the main reasons were that greater resource should be provided, concerns over historic applications being de-prioritised and some suggested alternative ways of prioritising applications.

Chart 1: Level of agreement with the proposal.

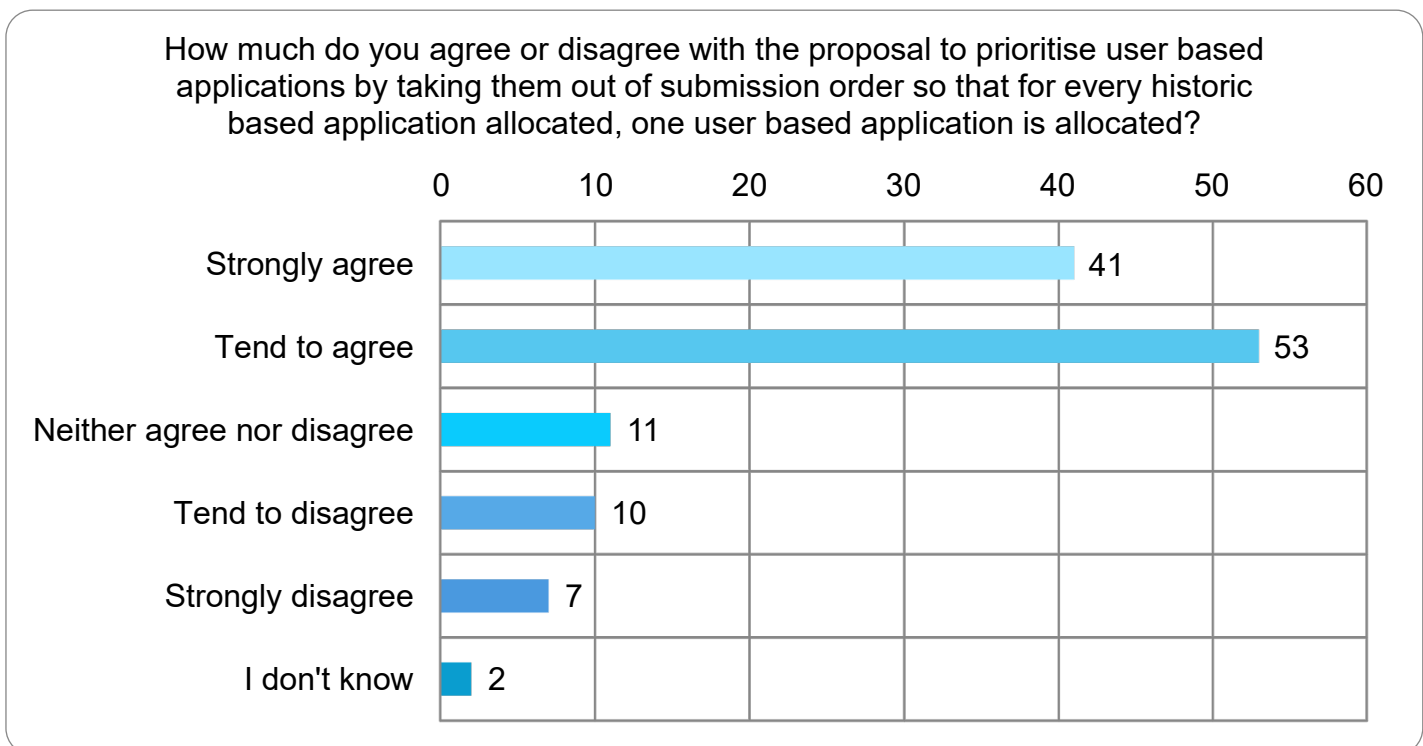




Table 13: Level of agreement with the proposal.

How much do you agree or disagree with the proposal to prioritise user based applications by taking them out of submission order so that for every historic based application allocated, one user based application is allocated? (Base: 124)	Number of responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	41	33%
Tend to agree	53	43%
Neither agree nor disagree	11	9%
Tend to disagree	10	8%
Strongly disagree	7	6%
I don't know	2	2%

Feedback on level of agreement

Consultees were invited to tell us the reason for their response. 111 responses were provided to this question. Two open responses were also submitted by email. These have been reviewed alongside responses to the questionnaire and are included in the themes presented in table 14.

The significant majority are in support of the proposed amendment, with many stating that it is a sensible approach to take, due to the deterioration of user evidence over time. Some also raised the point that user-based applications are generally more relevant to users and therefore should be prioritised.

Some consultees stated that more resources should be allocated to this area of work, in order to address the large backlog. A few mentioned that the process of determining an application should be reviewed, to make it quicker and more efficient.

Some consultees, including those in support of the amendment, raised concerns that historic-based applications should not be de-prioritised. Views were also expressed by some as to how the applications could be prioritised differently.

Lastly, a number of consultees raised matters which were outside the scope of the consultation and did not relate to the question. Such comments referred to the regulatory requirements relating to the determination of applications, the state of the wider PROW network and the amount of development in the area. You can find more detail about the responses received in the 'You Said, Our Response' document.

The table below shows the full breakdown of response themes.



Table 14. Responses grouped into themes.

Please tell us the reason for your answer in the box below. (Base: 113)	Number of consultees who raised this theme	Percentage
In support of the amendments as set out	79	70%
Out of scope of the consultation/misunderstood consultation	21	19%
Impact on historic based applications/de-prioritisation of historic based applications	14	13%
More resource should be provided	13	12%
The value/potential of the applications is more important than chronological order/suggested a different prioritisation method	6	5%
Policy should not be amended	2	2%
Objects to applications based upon historic grounds	1	1%
Downgrading the service provided	1	1%
Agree but suggested additional wording to the policy	1	1%

****Please note that responses may contain more than one theme, so the total number of themes is higher than the number of people answering this question.****

Example quotes illustrating the main themes, in consultees' own words, are set out below. The quotes relate only to responses that were relevant to the question asked. Where the proposal has been misunderstood they have been addressed in our 'You Said, Our Response' document.

In support of the amendment as set out:

"Important to protect the user based submissions which may be negatively impacted by significant delay" (A Kent resident).

"I understand the reasoning behind prioritising user-based applications. Evidence based on long-term public use is time-sensitive and may deteriorate over time as witnesses' recollections fade or witnesses become unavailable. Prioritising these applications may therefore help preserve important local evidence and ensure that routes currently used by the public are properly considered" (A Parish Council).

"User-based applications rely on people's memories and their ability to give evidence, so the evidence is inherently time-sensitive. If someone has to wait eight years before their application is investigated, they may forget important details or no longer be in a



position to provide a statement at all. This creates a real risk that valid routes could be lost simply because the people who used them are no longer able to give evidence. Prioritising user-based applications alongside historic ones is therefore a fair and proportionate way to protect evidence that cannot be recovered later” (A Kent resident).

Impact on historic based applications/de-prioritisation of historic based applications:

“I feel, if this reduces the backlog it's a positive thing but I also feel that historic based applications should always be considered and not given lower priority. This is extremely important, particularly with Kent being one big building site and green spaces and wildlife less accessible to people” (A Kent resident).

“Loss of user evidence over time is a problem but as historical based applications tend to be for higher rights these users will be disadvantaged” (Local Community Group).

More resource should be provided:

“While I appreciate it is a pragmatic approach, to prioritise one type of application over another, the backlog is currently ridiculous. Additional staff should be allocated in resolving the backlog, as it appears to have been under resourced for many years” (A Kent resident).

“Applications should be processed in the order received. If it is taking you a long time to assess applications then that is a short fall on your part and you should allocate more resources towards resolving the backlog and/or review your processes to understand why it is taking you so long” (A Kent resident).

The value/potential of the application is more important than chronological order/suggested a different prioritisation method:

“We feel the value/ potential impact of the application is more important than chronological order” (On behalf of another organisation or business).

“Paths should be prioritised and allocated based on the threats they face rather than on a first-come, first-served basis” (On behalf of a user or local community group).

“A fixed 50/50 allocation risks being too rigid. It may not reflect the complexity, urgency, or public value of individual cases” (A Kent resident).

“We would request that National Trails applications should be prioritised” (On behalf of another organisation or business).



There were two further responses, one suggesting that all historic-based applications are prioritised over user-based and the other suggesting prioritising all user-based applications.

A full response to the alternative prioritisation methods proposed is set out in the 'You Said, Our Response' document.

6. Feedback on the equality analysis

To help make sure we are following the Equality Act 2010, we carried out an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) on the proposal. This looked at how the proposed change in policy might affect people with protected characteristics, such as age, disability, gender identify/transgender, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnerships, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. We also consider the impact on people with caring responsibilities. It was available on the consultation webpage and on request.

We welcome your views on our equality analysis, including suggestions for anything else we should consider relating to equality and diversity

Consultees were asked to provide their views on the equality analysis, including suggestions for anything else that should be considered relating to equality and diversity. 58 consultees provided a response to this question. Consultee comments have been reviewed and example quotes have been provided below.

The vast majority of those who responded to this question, stated that they did not have any comments to make (21). Others stated that the EqIA was comprehensive, complete or good (8), and that the proposed amendment would have a positive impact for older applicants and witnesses (4), as can be seen in the quotes below:

“The long delay in examining the witness statements of local path-users discriminates against the elderly as they may have passed away before their case is even looked at” (A Kent resident).

“With much user evidence coming from the elderly quicker resolution of claims will assist them” (On behalf of a user or local community group).

“Applications supported by user evidence frequently rely on testimony from long-standing members of the community, many of whom may be older residents. Prioritising these cases may help ensure that important evidence is not lost over time and therefore may have a positive impact in enabling these voices to be heard” (A Parish Council”).

“Where applications potentially present significant access benefits to underrepresented groups this should be taken into consideration and prioritised” (On behalf of another organisation or business).



A few consultees did comment on the impact for applicants of the historic-based applications, as it may take longer for their applications to be determined. Some example quotes are provided below.

“This proposal discriminates against the elderly people who are the most likely to have the time to research historic rights of way” (A Kent resident).

“The analysis seems complete and, whilst there could be a negative impact on historical applications that is not, in my opinion, sufficient reason not to make this change” (A Kent resident).

Please see the ‘You Said, KCC Response’ document for responses to other questions raised about the EqIA.

7. Next steps

The feedback from this consultation is expected to be reported to Members at the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee on 5 May 2026 and will be taken into consideration before a decision is taken by the Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services.

The consultation report, KCC’s response to the feedback, and details of the decision will be published on the consultation webpage.



8. Appendix 1. Consultation questionnaire

Consultation Questionnaire

Kent County Council (KCC) is asking for views on a proposed change to its Statement of Priorities, which sets out how the council processes Section 53 applications.

The Definitive Map and Statement (DMS) is the legal record of Public Rights of Way. Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 places a legal duty on KCC as the Surveying Authority to 'keep the DMS under continuous review'. Under Section 53 anyone can apply to KCC to amend the DMS to add, upgrade, downgrade, or delete a Public Right of Way. KCC has a duty to investigate and determine every application it receives in accordance with its Statement of Priorities.

We are proposing to prioritise user-based applications, which would mean taking them out of submission order so that for every historic-based application allocated, one user-based application would be allocated.

Both types of application would continue to be allocated in the order they were received, unless one of the acceleration criteria in paragraphs 4.14–4.25 of the Statement of Priorities applies.

More information is available in the Consultation Document. All of the consultation material is available from our website www.kent.gov.uk/statementofpriorities or in paper copy on request.

If you have any questions regarding the consultation or need any help to take part, please email PROW@kent.gov.uk.

Have your say

We want to hear your views on our proposal and have provided this questionnaire for you to give your feedback.

The consultation questionnaire should be completed online at www.kent.gov.uk/statementofpriorities.

If you can't participate online, please fill in this paper form and return by:

- Email: PROW@kent.gov.uk
- Post: PROW & Access, Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ

Please ensure your response reaches us by midnight on Monday 23 March 2026.



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Privacy: Kent County Council (KCC) collects and processes personal information in order to provide a range of public services. KCC respects the privacy of individuals and endeavours to ensure personal information is collected fairly, lawfully, and in compliance with the United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018. Read the full Privacy Policy at the end of this document.

Alternative formats: If you require any of the consultation material in an alternative format or language, please email: alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call: 03000 42 15 53 (text relay service number: 18001 03000 42 15 53). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.



Section 1 – About You

Q1. How are you responding to this consultation?

Please select the option from the list below that most closely represents how you will be responding to this consultation. Please select **one** option.

- As a Kent resident (living in the Kent County Council authority area)
- As a resident from somewhere else, such as Medway or further away
- On behalf of a friend or family member - [please answer all the questions using their details and not your own](#)
- On behalf of a user or local community group
- On behalf of a Parish / Town / Borough / District Council in an official capacity
- As a Parish / Town / Borough / District / County Councillor
- On behalf of a charity, Voluntary, Community or Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisation
- On behalf of another organisation or business
- Something else, please tell us:

Q1a. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please tell us the name of your organisation. Please write in below.



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Q2. Please tell us the first five characters of your postcode:

Please do not reveal your whole postcode. If you are responding on behalf of a friend or relative, provide their postcode. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, use your organisation's postcode. We use this to help us to analyse our data. It will not be used to identify who you are.

Q3. How did you find out about this consultation? Please select **all** that apply.

- An email from Let's Talk Kent / KCC's Engagement and Consultation Team
- An email from PROW & Access Service
- From a friend or relative
- From my Parish / Town / Borough / District Council
- Kent.gov.uk website
- Newspaper
- Social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Nextdoor or X)
- Something else, please tell us:



Section 2 – The Proposal

Q4. How much do you agree or disagree with the proposal to prioritise user based applications by taking them out of submission order so that for every historic based application allocated, one user based application is allocated? Please select one option.

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

Q4a. Please tell us the reason for your answer in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else in your answer.



Section 3 – Equality Analysis

To help make sure we are meeting our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 we have undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) on our proposal.

An EqIA is a tool to assess the impact any proposals would have on the protected characteristics: age, disability, gender identity/re-assignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. We also include carer's responsibilities. The EqIA is available online at www.kent.gov.uk/statementofpriorities or on request.

Q5. We welcome your views on our equality analysis and if you think there is anything we should consider relating to equality and diversity, please add any comments below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else in your answer.



Section 4 – Equality monitoring

We are asking these optional questions to help us meet our obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. This information really helps us to understand how people with different protected characteristics could be affected by our proposal. **If you would rather not answer any of these questions, you don't have to.**

It is not necessary to answer these questions if you are responding on behalf of an organisation.

If you are responding **on behalf of someone else**, please answer using their details.

Q6. Which of these age groups applies to you? Please select one option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Under 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	16-25	<input type="checkbox"/>	26-35	<input type="checkbox"/>	36-45	<input type="checkbox"/>	46-55
<input type="checkbox"/>	56-65	<input type="checkbox"/>	66-75	<input type="checkbox"/>	76-85	<input type="checkbox"/>	86+ over	<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

Q7. What is your ethnic group? Please select one option.

White

<input type="checkbox"/>	English, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish or British
<input type="checkbox"/>	Irish
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gypsy or Irish Traveller
<input type="checkbox"/>	Roma
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other White background, please tell us:

Please see over the page for more ethnic groups.



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Mixed or Multiple

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other Mixed or Multiple background, please tell us:

Asian or Asian British

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Chinese

Any other Asian or Asian British background, please tell us:

Black, Black British, Caribbean or African

Caribbean

African background, write in below

Any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean background, please write in below:

Another ethnic group

Arab

Roma

Any other ethnic group, please tell us:



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Q8. Do you have a disability, health condition, physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities? Please select **one** option.

Yes

No

I prefer not to say

Q8a. If you answered 'Yes' to Q8, please tell us if any of the following disabilities or health conditions apply to you.

You may have more than one, so please select **all** that apply. If none of these applies to you, please select 'A different disability or health condition' and give brief details.

Physical

Sensory (hearing, sight or both)

Longstanding illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy

Mental health condition

Learning disability

Neurodivergent, such as ADHD, autism, dyslexia and dyspraxia

I prefer not to say

A different disability or health condition

If you have selected 'A different disability or health condition', please tell us:



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A Carer is someone who gives unpaid care or help to anyone because they have a long-term physical or mental health condition or illness, or problem related to old age. Both children and adults can be Carers.

Q9. Are you a Carer? Please select **one** option.

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

Q10. What is your religion or belief? Please select **one** option.

- No religion or belief
- Atheist
- Christian
- Buddhist
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- A different religion or belief, please tell us:
- I prefer not to say



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Q11. What is your sex? A question about gender identity will follow. Please select **one** option.

- Female
- Male
- I prefer not to say

Q12. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?
Please select **one** option.

- Yes
- No, please tell us your gender identity:
- I prefer not to say

Q13. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation? Please select **one** option.

- Heterosexual/Straight
- Gay or Lesbian
- Bisexual
- I prefer to define my own sexuality, please tell us:
- I prefer not to say

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Your feedback is important to us. All feedback received will be reviewed and considered in the development of our proposal. We will report back on the feedback we receive, but details of individual responses will remain anonymous, and we will keep your personal details confidential.

Closing date for responses: 23 March 2026