

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

*David Wimble, Cabinet Member for Economic
Development and Special Projects*

DECISION NUMBER:

26/00026

Executive Decision – Key**26/00026 - Position Statement on Solar Generation**

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Special Projects, I agree to:

ADOPT the Solar Developments Position Statement.

DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director to take all necessary actions and make all consequential decisions to give effect to and implement the position statement.

Reasons for decision:

To update the 2014 position statement ‘Development of Large-Scale Solar Arrays’ to provide guidance to applicants, communities, and district councils to help support well designed and appropriately sited solar installations across Kent.

Financial implications:

None

Legal implications:

The Position Statement is non-statutory, does not form part of the development plan, and does not prejudice KCC’s role as a statutory consultee in individual planning applications. It provides guidance only and does not bind KCC, allowing responses to depart from its principles where justified by the circumstances.

Equalities implications:

The EQIA identified **no positive or negative impacts** on protected characteristic groups

Data Protection implications:

None

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision was considered by the Growth, Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 5 May 2026. Members queried the status and purpose of the

Position Statement, expressing concerns that it was not clear what outcomes were expected.

The committee considered proposals from Members to note the Position Statement or to recommend deferral to allow for more information to be provided in a more comprehensive strategy or policy report.

Following debate and votes on the above motions, the Committee resolved by majority vote to endorse the proposed decision.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Withdrawing the 2014 position statement without replacement. This would leave KCC without a clear, articulated stance on solar development aligned to its current strategic priorities.

Retaining the 2014 statement. This was discounted because it relies on outdated national policy and does not reflect the current administration's position on solar generation

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