KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:	DECISION NUMBER:
David Wimble Cabinet Member Economic Development and Special Projects	26/00066

Executive Decision – key

26/00066 Kent and Medway Spatial Development Strategy – Kent and Medway Strategic Planning Board

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

RECOGNISE the statutory establishment of the Kent and Medway Strategic Planning Board under the applicable Regulations and Kent County Council's status as a constituent authority;

APPROVE, subject to the final Regulations and agreement of the governance, financial and operational arrangements, and in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer, Kent County Council undertaking the role of Host Authority for the Board;

DELEGATE authority to the Director of Growth and Communities, to take all relevant including but not limited to finalising the terms of, and entering into any relevant contract or legal agreements as necessary to implement the decision contractual, governance and operational arrangements**.**

Reasons for decision:
The decision is required to recognise the statutory establishment of the Kent and Medway Strategic Planning Board as a joint committee of Kent County Council and Medway Council, responsible for preparing the Kent and Medway Spatial Development Strategy.

The Board will be established through the proposed Kent and Medway Strategic Planning Board Regulations 2026, under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025).

Financial implications:
- £765,000 ringfenced MHCLG revenue grant has been received by Kent County Council to support preparation of the Strategy; long-term funding commitments remain subject to this decision.

- The total Kent and Medway revenue grant allocation is expected to be confirmed in winter 2026 and should reflect the additional resourcing required for the Strategic Planning Board.
- The total ringfenced grant is likely to exceed £1 million, meeting the Key Decision threshold; acceptance remains subject to satisfactory final terms and conditions.

Legal implications:
- The decision is required to implement the statutory arrangements for the Kent and Medway Strategic Planning Board under the proposed 2026 Regulations and relevant planning legislation.
- Kent County Council and Medway Council will be the constituent authorities of the Strategic Planning Board.
- The Board will need to consider appropriate district representation, reflecting districts' local planning responsibilities and the requirement for Local Plans to be in general conformity with the adopted Spatial Development Strategy.

Equalities implications:

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken, and it does not identify any negative impacts for any protected characteristics.

Data Protection implications:
The Data Protection Impact Assessment screening tool has been completed. A Data Protection Impact Assessment is not required.

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:
- **Take no action or defer** – rejected because KCC needs arrangements in place to participate effectively in the statutory Board.
- **Prepare separate Kent and Medway strategies** – rejected because the Board will be the strategic planning authority for the combined area.
- **Establish a voluntary joint committee** – rejected because it could not replace the statutory Board or exercise its functions.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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Signed Date