KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:	DECISION NUMBER:
David Wimble Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Special Projects	26/00063

Executive Decision – key

26/00063 - Reallocation of Getting Building Funding

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

REALLOCATE £370,000 external grant from the Getting Building Funding (GBF), originally awarded to Tech Hub Flexible Workspace, Gravesend, to the A249 Bearsted Road Project. and

DELEGATE authority to the Director of Growth & Communities, to take relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of, and entering into required contract or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

Reasons for decision:
The decision is required to reallocate £370,000 of existing Getting Building Fund grant from the Tech Hub Flexible Workspace project in Gravesend to the A249 Bearsted Road project, ensuring the funding can continue to support the delivery of growth-enabling infrastructure and be utilised for an eligible purpose.

Financial implications:
The reallocation of GBF to the A249 Bearsted Road scheme will enable scheme delivery to continue as planned and provide an additional £370,000 towards the £10.8m construction contract, replacing other previously identified match funding which has been withdrawn and currently leaves KCC with a funding gap. This will help reduce the potential cost pressures for KCC and avoid the money being returned to Central Government.

Legal implications:
The Gravesham Borough Council funding agreement has lapsed. As accountable body for the Getting Building Fund, KCC may reallocate the funding to the A249 Bearsted Road project and report the change to central government. No further funding agreement is required.

Equalities implications:
There are no equality implications directly arising form the reallocation of the funding.

The long-term effects of the A249 Bearsted Road improvement are expected to be mainly positive, particularly for age, disability and pregnancy and maternity. Most negative effects are temporary construction-related impacts and are intended to be managed through accessible, well-lit and clearly signed diversions, advance communication, alternative-language information, maintained access to services and inclusive design standards.

Data Protection implications:

Not required as there are no foreseen data processing implications.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:
The proposal was discussed and endorsed by Members of the Growth, Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 10th November 2026.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:
Not to reallocate the GBF to Bearsted Road- the GBF would need to be returned to Central Government, with associated risk of reputational damage of not retaining funding allocated within Kent which have already been earmarked for investment in the County. This option may also leave KCC with a potential cost pressure on the A249 Bearsted Road project, as other match funding has not been confirmed.

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

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Signed Date