

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

## DECISION TAKEN BY

Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member – Environment, Highways & Waste

## DECISION NO.

12/01931

**Subject:** Kent County Council's approach to the use of mirrors on the highway in Kent

**Decision:** As Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste I agree that the limited use of traffic mirrors on the highway be supported and delegate authority to the Director of Highways & Transportation to agree the specific sites where mirrors are appropriate, providing that site meets the DfT criteria, passes an independent safety assessment and has been the subject of consultation with the Police.

## Reason for decision

The County Council for many years has not supported the use of traffic mirrors on the highway despite other Highway Authorities and the Department for Transport (DfT) allowing them in certain circumstances. It has become clear that the lack of flexibility inherent in a blanket approach to any issue was limiting the council's responses to issues of road safety in some circumstances and therefore a more pragmatic approach should be adopted. Therefore the County Council will now adopt a new approach, allowing the limited use of traffic mirrors at specific locations to assist in the delivery of one of the key objectives of reducing road casualties. Growth Without Gridlock stated road safety as a priority for central and local government.

## Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation

On 15 November 2012 the Environment, Highways & Waste Cabinet Committee RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the policy set out in the Cabinet Committee report allowing limited use of traffic mirrors on the highway be endorsed; and
- (b) the Cabinet Member be recommended to introduce the policy.

Internal consultation was carried out with the Operations department and Management team.

## Any alternatives considered

Two alternatives were considered; waiting for the revised TSRGD due in 2014 at the earliest which is expected to allow the Government to authorise the use of mirrors in specific circumstances by the Government or to continue with KCC's existing policy of not approving any mirrors on the highway.

It was considered that a policy of limited use, with criteria controlled by KCC, was the best way to create flexibility of approach in order to meet the needs of the County, where appropriate.

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

None

**Supporting Documents**

'Policy for the use of mirrors on the highway in Kent' – EHW Cabinet Committee report, 15 November 2012

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s36424/Item%20B3%20-%20Mirrors.pdf>

Department for Transport – Signing the Way

<http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/signing-the-way/signing-the-way.pdf>

signed



date: 21/12/ 2012

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Decision Referred to Cabinet Scrutiny			
YES		NO	

Cabinet Scrutiny Decision to Refer Back for Reconsideration			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration Record Sheet Issued			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration of Decision Published			