

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Mathew Balfour, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

DECISION NO:

17/00033

For publication

URGENT DECISION

Key decision: NO

Planning Fees Uplift

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, I agree:

1. That KCC accept the Government's offer of uplift in the nationally set planning application fees.
2. That KCC commit the additional fee income to the planning applications service for at least the duration of this parliament.

Governance:

The Executive Scheme of Officer Delegation contained within the council's constitution provides the governance pathway to allow officers to undertake necessary actions to implement the decision once taken. In this instance, it is envisaged that the Head of Planning Applications will make the necessary administrative amendments and that the S.151 officer will respond to the government's letter regarding the commitment of funds in the form provided by DCLG and contained at appendix C of this report.

Reason(s) for decision:

In order that the council may take advantage of an increase in nationally set planning fees a decision of the cabinet member is considered to be necessary.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision will not be considered by the relevant Cabinet Committee on this occasion owing to the deadline imposed by DCLG for the receipt of responses.

The letter from DCLG was not received until 21 February 2017 and the response must be sent by 13 March 2017, in order to meet this deadline the decision must be taken urgently and consequently will also not be available for call-in.

The constitution sets out at Appendix 4 Part 6 the necessary procedures that should be followed when a non-key decision needs to be taken without recourse to the relevant Cabinet Committee. In

addition, any procedural requirements relating to urgent 'key' decisions have been undertaken in line with KCC's approach to openness and transparency.

In addition, members of the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee had the opportunity to comment as part of the Housing White Paper update received 8 March 2017; none were received in respect of this matter and all members will have had an opportunity to comment on the proposals before it is taken. The following comments were received: [REDACTED] *see report.*

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

1. Do not take advantage of the uplift in fees. Rejected as the opportunity to generate additional income would be lost
2. Do not take the decision urgently. Rejected as the opportunity to generate additional income would be lost

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

None



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signed

13th March 2017
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date