

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Mike Whiting

Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport & Waste

DECISION NO:

17/00133

For publication

Key decision*

Yes

Subject: Developing our Asset Management Approach in Highways

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport & Waste, I agree to adopt and publish '***Developing our Asset Management Approach in Highways Maintenance***', in order to maximise Capital Funding issued by the Department for Transport.

Reason(s) for decision:

Changes to Department for Transport (DfT) rules for funding highway maintenance have been introduced through its Incentive Fund to encourage local authorities to embed the use of asset management techniques into their management of highway maintenance and decision making around funding and priorities. The main aim of the asset management approach being encouraged by DfT is to clearly link investment decisions with an understanding of what that means in terms of outcomes. In January 2016, Kent assessed itself as a Band 1 authority for Incentive Fund purposes. Kent's target was to get to Band 2 during 2016 for 2017/18 and Band 3 during 2017 for 2018/19, to maximise Capital maintenance resource. We achieved Band 2 in January 2017.

This key decision concerns the adoption of a development of the approach described in the "Our Approach to Asset Management in Highways" and "Implementing our Approach to Asset Management in Highways", by adopting "Developing our Approach to Asset Management in Highways 2018/19 – 2020/21" which reflects the use of better information and more advanced asset management methodology.

Assuming "Developing our Approach to Asset Management in Highways 2018/19 – 2020/21" is formally adopted, Kent will be able to submit a Band 3 Incentive Fund rating in February 2018.

Legislation:

Changes to Department for Transport (DfT) rules for funding highway maintenance have been introduced through its Incentive Fund to encourage local authorities to embed the use of asset management techniques into their management of highway maintenance and decision making around funding and priorities

Financial Implications:

Adopting and publishing Developing our Approach to Asset Management in Highways - 2018/19 – 2020/21 will enable KCC to evidence to Government a Band 3 rating which in turn will enable Kent to secure an Incentive Fund allocation of £4.6m in 2018/19 compared to £3.2m for a Band 2 rating.

This is not new money – rather it is a case of demonstrating we have good asset management in order to secure current funding levels.

Equalities:

Available with the report going to ETCC on 31 January 2018.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposal is being discussed by Members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee (ETCC) on 31 January.

Changes to the DfT funding were first reported to ETCC in January 2016. Subsequently a Member Task & finish Group was established to support the development of our approach to highways asset management in Kent.

In July 2016, ETCC endorsed ‘Our Approach to Asset Management in Highways;’ a short document setting out the principles in applying asset management. Later on January 2017, ETCC endorsed our detailed Strategy Document, ‘Implementing our Approach to Asset Management In Highways.’ Both documents have since been formally adopted and are available on the Kent County Council website.

Any alternatives considered:

None

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

Name: