

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY

**Paul Carter,
Leader and Cabinet Member for Health Reform**

DECISION NO:

19/00046

For publication

Key decision*

Yes –

Subject: : No Use Empty (NUE) update and continuation of the initiative

Decision:

Agree to the continuation of the NUE initiative as approved in the Budget Book 2019-20 to at least 2021-22 with a further update to be provided at that time.

Agree that authority be delegated to the Director of Economic Development for the NUE initiative to take appropriate actions including, but not limited to, KCC entering into legal agreements (loan agreements, legal charges, personal guarantees, equity loans, joint ventures, deed of priority, deed of postponement), consider and approve requests which may require KCC consent and discharge of legal charges, recovery of loans through legal action, as necessary to implement this decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council (KCC) launched the No Use Empty (NUE) initiative in 2005 in East Kent. Following the success of NUE in East Kent, the initiative was rolled out across Kent in 2008/09 and is now delivered by KCC in partnership with all 12 district and borough councils.

The primary aim of the initiative is to improve the physical urban environment in Kent by bringing long-term empty properties back into use as quality housing accommodation through a range of interventions. In addition to this NUE is helping to deliver increased Council Tax receipts and collection of Business Rates.

NUE operates a loan scheme providing short term secured loans registered as a first or second charge. On repayment of the loan, funds are recycled to the next project.

The purpose of this decision will confirm support for the continuation of the initiative, including authority to bid for additional sources of funding which will help contribute to accelerating the delivery of good quality housing in the County. Approval is also sought to ensure the appropriate delegations of authority are in place to satisfy Governance requirements.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The matter is being discussed at the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee on 26 June

Any alternatives considered:

N/A

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: