

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:**

Derek Murphy, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

**DECISION NO:**

24/00122

**For publication****Key decision: YES**

**Subject Matter / Title of Decision:** Awarding of Local Nutrient Mitigation Funding to Local Planning Authorities for the delivery of mitigation schemes for Nutrient Neutrality in the Stour catchment

**Decision:** As Cabinet Member for Economic Development I agree to:

- (i) AGREE, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Traded Services to £9.8 million of funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, be used to award grant funding to Local Authority partners to deliver mitigation schemes for Nutrient Neutrality in the Stour catchment.
- (ii) DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport in agreement with the Cabinet Member for Environment, and Cabinet Member for Economic Development to nominate an officer as an observer to sit on the executive board of Ashford Borough Council and Canterbury City Council joint venture company Stour Environmental Credits Ltd which will deliver mitigation schemes on their behalf.
- (iii) AGREE to the adoption of the Stodmarsh Nutrient Neutrality Strategy to support the awarding of grant funding to Local Authority partners.
- (iv) DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to take relevant actions including, but not limited to, finalising the terms of, and entering into, required contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision

**Reason(s) for decision:**

Nutrient neutrality in the catchment for the Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve is having a significant impact on the delivery of homes in East Kent. In December 2024, KCC received £9.8 million funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to fund mitigation works within the catchment. This funding must be committed to a programme of delivery by March 2025.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

The proposal is being considered by the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 22 January 2025..

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

Do nothing - If KCC was to decide to take no action this would prevent the delivery of high-quality locally led mitigation solutions, and result in the housing allocation within the impacted districts not being met. This would have wider implications of negatively impacting economic growth within the county.

**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