

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:
**Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for
Community & Regulatory Services**

DECISION NO:
25/00034

For publication

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision Proposed merger of the existing four coronial jurisdictions covering Kent and Medway into one jurisdiction

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Community & Regulatory Services, I approve the proposal to merge the existing four coronial jurisdiction covering Kent and Medway into one Jurisdiction covering the same geographical area

Reason(s) for decision:

According to the Chief Coroner’s Office, there are currently 85 coroner Jurisdictions in England and Wales and the long-term joint target with the Ministry of Justice is to reduce the number to around 75. Mergers are always considered when the opportunity arises, invariably when a senior coroner retires. The merging of coronial jurisdictions has many benefits as combining areas leads to greater consistency and uniformity of approach within the coroner service. A reduction in the number of coroner Jurisdictions over the last few years has been of considerable benefit.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision is scheduled to be discussed by Members of the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee on 06 March 2025

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

- Do nothing. This would be counter to the direction of travel of the Chief Coroner who has supported the existing temporary arrangements for three of the four jurisdictions It is likely that those three Jurisdictions would need to be merged, leaving one single jurisdiction without a Senior Coroner and needing to have one appointed. Doing nothing would also limit the ability for efficiencies to be introduced into the services supporting the coroners.

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