

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Derek Murphy, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

DECISION NO:

23/00089

For publication

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Transition of Local Enterprise Partnership Responsibilities to Kent County Council

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Economic Development, I agree to:

- a) the transfer of relevant South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) responsibilities to Kent County Council from April 2024 including:
 - Business representation
 - Strategic economic planning
 - The delivery of government programmes (where directed); and
- b) to delegate authority to the Director for Growth and Communities to take other 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:

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) were set up by Government in 2011 as business-led partnerships bringing together the public, private and education sectors to have a central role in determining local economic priorities and undertaking activities to drive growth and job creation. As part of the Spring Statement on 15th March 2023 and in line with a commitment to empower democratically elected local leaders, the government announced its intention for the functions of LEPs to be delivered by upper tier and combined local authorities in the future. This was confirmed on 4th August 2023. Following a recent SELEP Strategic Board Decision, SELEP is now working towards its closure in March 2024 with the responsibility for its core functions being transferred to local authorities including KCC.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposal is being considered by Members of the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 26 September.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

None – The transition of LEP responsibilities to local authorities is mandated by government

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

