

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Peter Oakford, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services

DECISION NO:

25/00028

For publication

Key decision: YES

Title: Construction of new office building at Henwood Highways Depot - Disposal of surplus office building

Decision:

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services to agree to:

1. **APPROVE** the Henwood Project and **NOTE** the contribution towards Corporate Landlord Medium-Term Financial Plan savings targets;
2. **APPROVE** the allocation of £1.5m from the Capital Programme Budget 2024-34 as approved by County Council on 19 February 2024 for the delivery of the proposed capital works at the Henwood Depot site;
3. **APPROVE** the disposal of the Existing Henwood Office building following delivery of the Henwood Depot Project; and
4. **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services, to enter into the necessary contracts and legal agreements to facilitate the implementation of the decisions.

Reason(s) for decision:

The proposed decision involves capital expenditure and capital receipts in excess of £1m.

Decision will involve allocation of capital budgets towards the delivery of new office and welfare accommodation within the Henwood Depot site to ensure the operational requirements of the highways service and provide authority to dispose of the Henwood Office building.

The decision supports policy objectives set out in Securing Kent's Future 2022 -2026: [Securing Kents Future - Budget Recovery Strategy.pdf](#)

- Proposed decision will approve capital spend in order to deliver a capital and revenue savings to the Council as required by its Medium Tern Financial Plan. The construction of dedicated welfare and office accommodation on the Depot site will generate an ongoing revenue saving to KCC.
- Proposed decision will authorise the disposal of a surplus building releasing a capital receipt.
- Proposed decision promotes the efficient use of the KCC corporate estate by reduction of surplus space in its office accommodation.
- Proposed decision reduces size of KCC estate in line with commitments to Carbon reduction and in compliance with adopted asset management strategy. Improves the condition by replacing life expired assets.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision will be considered at Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee.

The views of the local Member have been sought and are contained within the committee paperwork.

The Local Member will continue to be engaged as the project progresses.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

- Do nothing – Rejected
- Retention of the Henwood Office building as an investment asset – Rejected
- Full reoccupation of the Henwood Office building by Highways or other KCC services – Rejected
- Part occupation and let of Henwood Office building – Rejected

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None.

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signed

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date