

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:

25/00003

For publication

Key decision: YES

Key Decision criteria: The decision will result in savings or expenditure which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function (currently defined by the Council as in excess of £1,000,000).

Title: Disposal of land at Stanhope Road, Ashford TN23 5RA

Decision:

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

1. the disposal of land at Stanhope Road, Ashford TN23 5RA; and
2. delegate authority to The Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services, to finalise the terms of the disposal and execution of all necessary or desirable documentation required to implement the above.

Reason(s) for decision:

The site is surplus to the Council's operational requirements and due to the projected value will require a Key Decision as per Kent County Council's (KCC) constitution.

The sale of the property will result in a capital receipt which will be reinvested back into the Council's Capital Programme.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision was discussed and considered by the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee on 5 March 2025.

The views of the local Member Dirk Ross have been sought. In addition, due to the close proximity of two other constituency boundaries, contact has also been made with the two neighbouring local Members (Steve Campkin, Ashford East; David Robey, Ashford Rural South).

No comments have been received. Any subsequent comments will be reported to the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee meeting and Cabinet Member taking the decision.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The Council has an overarching duty under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 to secure not less than best consideration in respect of property disposals. It also has a fiduciary duty to the taxpayers of Kent.

As the site is not required for the former use, other options were considered:

- *Reuse the site. - no other services have a requirement for the space; the remaining buildings are too dilapidated to bring back into beneficial use;*
- *Continue to hold the site vacant in case of a future requirement. Not feasible due to on-going high costs to keep site secure and the opportunity cost associated with the capital receipt.*
- *Let the property as part of the Tenanted Estate to generate an income - Not feasible due to the poor condition of the buildings and the opportunity cost associated with the capital receipt.*
- *A disposal of the asset to reduce the revenue holding costs and deliver a capital receipt. This is the recommended option.*

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