

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:

25/00024

For publication

Key decision*

Yes - The granting of a lease of land and premises excess of 20 years.

Title of Decision: Granting of Formal Lease for a Solar Panel installation within the grounds of St Nicholas' School, Canterbury.

Decision:

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

1. authorise the granting of a Lease in excess of 20 years to Solar for Schools in order that a new solar panel installation can be built within the grounds of St. Nicholas' School, Canterbury to serve the school; 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 take necessary actions, including but not limited to entering into relevant contracts or other legal agreements, as required to implement this.

Reason(s) for decision:

The County Council will need to grant the lease to ensure Solar for Schools have an estate interest in the site to enable them to provide and operate solar panels to serve the school.

The granting of a Formal Lease in excess 20 years requires a Key Decision in accordance with the County Council's Property Management Protocol.

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 local Members have been sought and any comments reported to both the Cabinet Committee meeting and Cabinet Member taking the decision.

The lease to be granted to Solar for Schools accords with many other leases granted on parts of operational Schools for the provision of solar electricity.

Any alternatives considered:

- Using the County Council's Loan Scheme for Schools - Solar PV systems could be installed through the LASER Energy Department for Education (DfE) Compliant Solar Framework (to be published in Spring 2025). This option could still require capital investment from Schools, which most Schools cannot currently afford.
- Do nothing - Alternatively, the County Council could do nothing and allow its School to continue using electricity as it does at present, which in turn will generate higher running costs. This would not be cost effective, due to the possibility of having a solution presented by Solar for Schools that would not cost any capital to implement and derive lower running costs for the school.

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