

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:**

David Brazier, Cabinet Member – Transport & Environment

**DECISION NO:**

13/00046

For publication

**Subject: Formal endorsement of the Kent Farmsteads Guidance**

**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment, I agree to the formal endorsement of the Kent Farmsteads Guidance by Kent County Council in order to encourage its use by landowners, applicants and planners and to achieve the aim of promoting sustainable development. I also recommend the adoption of this guidance by the district planning authorities and Medway Council as supplementary planning guidance to their local plans.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

Government has long sought to promote the use of redundant buildings to support rural economies, most recently within the Growth and Infrastructure Bill, through the creation of Permitted Development rights to allow the change of use of agricultural buildings to other non-residential uses, and through the National Planning Policy Framework which emphasises the delivery of sustainable development whilst stressing the importance of understanding local character and distinctiveness. The Kent Farmsteads Guidance aims to inform and achieve the sustainable development of farmsteads, including their conservation and enhancement. The formal endorsement of the Guidance by Kent County Council will encourage its use by landowners, applicants and planners and achieve the aim of promoting sustainable development.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

On 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013 the Environment, Highways & Waste Cabinet Committee resolved that:

- (a) the Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment be recommended to formally endorse the Guidance by Kent County Council, in order to encourage its use by landowners, applicants and planners and to achieve the aim of promoting sustainable development; and
- (b) as KCC was no longer able to adopt supplementary planning guidance, the Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment recommends the adoption of the Guidance by the district planning authorities and Medway Council as supplementary planning guidance to their local plans.

The Kent Farmsteads Guidance was also discussed by the Environment, Highways & Waste Policy Overview & Scrutiny Committee in April 2011.

**Any alternatives considered:**

N/A

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:**

None

signed

date

18.7.13