

## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

### DECISION TAKEN BY

Matthew Balfour, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

### DECISION NO:

16/00130

For publication

### Key decision\*

Yes

**Subject: Introduction of a pre-application charging scheme for sustainable urban drainage advice**

### Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, I agree to introduce a pre-application charging service for sustainable urban drainage advice to developers as set out in **Appendix A** of the report accompanying this decision for engagement with representatives from the development industry via the Kent Developers Group. The interim Charging Scheme to be reviewed as part of the wider GET Charging Review in 2017.

### Reason(s) for decision:

In 2015, the County Council became a statutory consultee to the planning authorities in Kent responsible for providing technical advice on surface water management including sustainable drainage matters.

As a result of the new consultee role, a number of 'potential developers' are seeking pre-application advice from the County Council on SuDs matters prior to the submission of a planning application to the borough and district councils.

This discretionary engagement provides an opportunity to shape development at an early part of the development process and can lead to quicker decision making and higher quality development. Developments that are unlikely to be successful during the planning process can also be discouraged, resulting in potentially expensive consultancy and survey work being avoided for the developer.

Providing this service will obviously cost the authority in staff time and other resource. Unlike other parts of the GET Directorate and other local authorities, the cost of this pre-application advice is currently not met by the developer. However, with current financial pressures on the public purse, it is proposed that the service seeks to recover its costs.

### Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed Charging Scheme is to be reported to Kent Developer's Group in December 2016. This engagement will raise awareness of the scheme and afford an opportunity for representatives of the development industry to comment on the proposal. Any views raised will be considered by the Cabinet Member prior to implementation of the scheme.

The proposal was considered by Members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 17 November where Members agreed to endorse the decision including for the charges to be reviewed as part of a wider GET Charging Review in 2017.

### Any alternatives considered:

The proposed interim rate schedule for SuDs is to be based on the service currently offered by the

Planning Applications Group.

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

None

*M Balfour*

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signed

*23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016*

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date

Name: *MATTHEW BALFOUR*