

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY

Mark Dance Cabinet Member for Economic Development

DECISION NO:

19/00041

For publication

Non-Key decision

Subject: RGF – Transfer of Funds to Thurrock

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Economic Development, I propose, to agree that:

- (a) administration of and funding-decision authority for the monies previously recovered from companies based in Thurrock and handled via the Tiger Scheme, be transferred to Thurrock Council for management via their own new business loan scheme; and
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Director of Economic Development to take appropriate actions, including but not limited to, entering into legal agreements as necessary to implement this decision.

Financial Implications: Subject to agreement by BEIS, the County Council would transfer the value of loan repayments from Thurrock based recipients to Thurrock Council. Responsibility for monitoring repayments and reporting to BEIS would remain with the County Council: this would incur minor staff costs.

KCC does not currently have the legal authority or administrative procedures in place to spend the recovered loan repayments obtained from Thurrock companies who received loan funds via the former RGF Tiger programme. Without transferring these funds to Thurrock Council they would remain ring-fenced within KCC finances potentially until our funding agreement with the government ends.

Legal Implications

A legal agreement will need to be drawn up between the County Council and Thurrock Council to effect the transfer of funds. The County Council would retain responsibility to BEIS for monitoring repayments from Thurrock based businesses.

Equality Implications

There are no equalities implications arising from the proposal to transfer funds to Thurrock Council.

Reason(s) for decision:

The decision is required to allow for the transfer of these funds to increase investment in small and medium sized enterprises to create jobs and increase productivity.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation: The proposed decision will be discussed at the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee on the 9 May 2019.

Any alternatives considered:

The main alternative would be to operate a joint Thurrock and Kent investment programme managed by KCC. The analysis of the former Tiger scheme highlighted the problems of managing a

scheme across the same geographical area (marketing, administrative and logistical issues). There is no evidence that this would be a more effective in achieving the outcomes of improving investment in small and medium sized enterprises, creating jobs and increasing productivity.

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

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Signed

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date

Name: