

## KCC Report April 2026

### Kent's East Coast Marmot Region

Leader of KCC, Linden Kemkaren announced the UK's first Marmot Coastal Region where young people, not in education or training will be supported, as a landmark programme to end the postcode lottery affecting health and life chances for East Kent Coastal communities. KCC aims in the Marmot Coastal Region to support

200 more young people not in education or training into jobs.

Help 100 residents with additional disadvantages, including care leavers, carers and people with mental ill health into employment.

Enable 150 more people on probation to access education and work by 2028.

Marmot Places bring together government, councils, charities and community groups

Kent's Marmot Coastal Region stretches from Swale to Folkestone and Hythe and includes Canterbury, Thanet, Dover and Ashford.

Director of Public Health at KCC , Anjan Ghosh said "Reports , including from the chief Medical Officer, have highlighted the severe impact of health inequalities on coastal communities. Life expectancy in coastal areas , on average is 2.1 years lower , with even larger gaps in places such as central Margate , where men live seven years less than those in Tunbridge Wells"

Higher rates of lung cancer, chronic respiratory disease and liver disease are main drivers in the life expectancy gap. Higher pupil absence, lower GCSE attainment is 9% below inland areas and 50% more unemployment benefit claims than inland areas.

### Kent Food Waste Recycling

Food waste recycling is skyrocketing across Kent saving £75,000 in disposal costs in just 1 month. Food waste produces high quality fertiliser for Kent farms and helps generate energy that powers homes. Redirecting this material from the county's Energy from Waste plant which turns nonrecyclable waste into energy helps to reduce costs. Food is the largest component of household rubbish in Kent, making up 28% of everything thrown away. Separating food waste often makes avoidable waste more visible helping to reduce unnecessary purchases and saving money.

## Proposed Changes to Public Rights of Way Statement of Priority

KCC is inviting residents and other stakeholders to share their views on proposed changes to its statement of Priorities, which sets out how the Council prioritises Section 53 applications to Public Rights of Way.

The Definitive Map and Statement (DMS) is the legal recording of Public Rights of Way Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and places a legal duty on KCC, as the Surveying Authority to keep the DMS under continuous review. Under Section 53 anyone can apply to KCC to amend the DMS. KCC has a duty to investigate and determine every application it receives in accordance with its Statement of Priorities. Over recent years KCC has seen a substantial rise in applications, particularly those based on historic documentary evidence. This has resulted in a significant increase in the backlog for allocating applications. To address this KCC is proposing to prioritise user based applications (those based on proof that a path has been used for at least 20 years) This means taking them out of submission order so that every historic based application allocated ,one user based application would be allocated.