



AGENDA

CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Friday, 9th April, 2010, at 10.00 am
Darent Room, Sessions House, County
Hall, Maidstone

Ask for: **Peter Sass**
Telephone: **01622 694002**

Refreshments will be available 15 minutes before the start of the meeting

Timing of items as shown below is approximate and subject to change.

County Councillors who are not Members of the Committee but who wish to ask questions at the meeting are asked to notify the Chairman of their questions in advance.

Please note that this meeting will be webcast

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

A. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- A1 Substitutes
- A2 Declarations of Interests by Members in Items on the Agenda for this Meeting
- A3 Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2010 (Pages 1 - 6)
- A4 Notes of the Informal Member Group on Budgetary Issues held on 25 March 2010 (to follow)
- A5 Follow-up Items from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee (Pages 7 - 8)

B. CABINET/CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS AT VARIANCE TO APPROVED BUDGET OR POLICY FRAMEWORK

C. CABINET DECISIONS

- C1 Weather Damaged Roads: Major Road Repair Blitz (Pages 9 - 12)

Mr P Carter, Leader of the Council, Mr M Austerberry, Executive Director, Environment, Highways and Waste Directorate and Mr J Burr, Director of Kent Highway Services will attend the meeting from 10.15am to 11.00am to answer Members' questions on this item.

C2 Safeguarding Children in Kent: Defending and Developing the Service (Pages 13 - 14)

Provisional item subject to the discussion at the Children, Families and Education - Vulnerable Children and Partnerships Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 31 March and the County Council meeting on 1 April.

Would Members please bring their copy of the Safeguarding Children report contained with the County Council papers (Item 12 pages 39 – 88) for this item.

Mrs S. Hohler, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, and Mrs Kay Weiss, Head of Policy and Performance (CFE) will attend the meeting from 11.30am to 12noon to answer Members' questions on this item.

D. CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

D1 Kent Digital Service (Pages 15 - 22)

Mr R Gough, Cabinet Member for Corporate Support Services and Performance Management, and Ms T Oliver, Director of Strategic Development and Public Access will attend the meeting from 11.00am to 11.30am to answer Members' questions on this item.

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership
(01622) 694002

Tuesday, 30 March 2010

Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers maybe inspected by arrangement with the officer responsible for preparing the relevant report.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday, 10 February 2010.

PRESENT: Mrs T Dean (Chairman), Mr R W Bayford, Mr R Brookbank, Mr L Christie, Mr G A Horne MBE, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr R F Manning, Mr M J Jarvis, Mr R E King, Mr J A Kite, Mrs J Law, Mr R J Lees and Mrs P A V Stockell (Substitute for Mr J E Scholes)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr R W Gough and Mr A Sandhu, MBE

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms A Honey (Managing Director Communities), Mrs T Oliver (Director of Strategic Development and Public Access), Ms A Slaven (Director Youth Services and KDAAT), Miss C Martin (Head of Supporting People), Mr P Sass (Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership) and Mrs A Taylor (Research Officer to Cabinet Scrutiny Committee)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

34. Minutes - 9 December 2009

(Item A3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 9 December 2009 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

35. Minutes - 25 January 2010

(Item A4)

- (1) Mr Horne asked that, when it became known, Members be informed of the level of funding package which the Government was offering to Kent County Council.
- (2) Mr Kite asked that, following the release of the council tax rates, Members look at the emerging evidence of possible efficiencies from some of the new unitary authorities.
- (3) Following questions raised at the meeting on 25 January Mr Christie asked for confirmation of the other local authorities which had also raised a separate precept to cover the budget gap resulting from Asylum costs.
- (4) The responses to these queries would be made available to all Members.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 25 January 2010 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

36. Notes - Informal Member Group on Budgetary Issues - 7 January 2010

(Item A5)

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee approve the notes of the Informal Member Group on Budgetary Issues held on 7 January 2010.

37. Notes - Informal Member Group on Budgetary Issues - 29 January 2010

(Item A6)

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee approve the notes of the Informal Member Group on Budgetary Issues held on 29 January 2010.

38. Follow-up Items from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

(Item A7)

- (1) The Chairman explained that the Gully Schedules information would be available in July 2010, the 6 month review of the ways in which Local Members can input into Highways Issues would be put to the Scrutiny Board for consideration by the Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (2) The Kent Design Guide meeting had been arranged for 10 March which clashed with a Member meeting; this would be re-arranged on a date suitable for the majority of Members.

POST MEETING NOTE: This meeting has been re-arranged for 14 April 1.30pm – 4pm, further information would be circulated to Members.

- (3) The Chairman updated Members of the Committee on discussions she had been having regarding the possibility of allowing members of the public to email in questions live to future meetings. Members were interested in trying to do this although accepted that further thought was required.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee note the follow up items report.

39. Decision to award the Kent TV contract to an external company

(Item C1)

(Mr R W Gough, Cabinet Member for Support Services and Performance Management and Mrs T Oliver, Director of Strategic Development and Public Access were in attendance for this item to answer questions from Members of the Committee)

- (1) Mr R King declared a personal interest as he was a Member of the Board of Kent TV.
- (2) The Chairman explained that in light of the decision made on 9 February to terminate the Kent TV contract at the end of the pilot period in March 2010 there was no longer a formal item for call in. The Chairman thanked the

witnesses for attending; she had three questions to put to them if they were content to answer them at the meeting.

1. What was the position regarding the termination of the contract and the notice period to staff
 2. Were any of the organisations who submitted a tender bid for the Kent TV contract willing to deliver the service without a subsidy from Kent County Council
 3. What was the position with the Webcasting contract which it was understood was interlinked with the Kent TV contract
- (3) The witnesses explained that they were happy to try to answer Members questions at this stage.
- (4) In response to the first question from the Chairman, Mrs Oliver explained that the Procurement Team were in discussion with Ten Alps (the company who ran Kent TV)
- (5) In response to the third question from the Chairman, Mrs Oliver explained that it was the Council's intention to continue with the webcasting service and discussions would be had over the best way to retender for the service.
- (6) In response to the second question from the Chairman, Mr Gough explained that no tenders had been received with did not rely on subsidy from Kent County Council. It was made clear that revenue generation was very important to the Council, had Kent TV come at zero cost it might have been a different situation.
- (7) Mr Christie asked how much money was now being put back into the budget. The decision to terminate the Kent TV contract was made following the difficult economic situation, the combined contract value of Kent TV was £750,000 and would this now be put back into the budget. Mr Gough explained that this would be covered in the budget statement.
- (8) In response to a question from Mr Manning about how the service provided by Kent TV was going to be replaced Mr Gough explained that Kent TV had made a number of important achievements and there were many aspects which the Council would like to take forward and this would be the subject of further discussion.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee:

1. Thank Mr Gough and Mrs Oliver for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions.

40. The Kent Supporting People Programme and the Five Year Supporting People Strategy 2010 - 2015

(Item C2)

(Mr A Sandhu, MBE, Deputy Cabinet Member for Communities, Ms A Honey, Managing Director Communities, Ms A Slaven, Director Youth Services and KDAAT and Miss C Martin, Head of Supporting People were in attendance for this item to answer questions from Members of the Committee)

- (1) Mr Christie explained that this item had been called in following concerns that the overall Direction of Travel of the Supporting People Programme would lead to residential wardens being increasingly replaced by non residential and floating support for elderly and vulnerable people.
- (2) Ms Slaven explained that the Direction of Travel of the Supporting People Programme aimed to meet the needs of those significant vulnerable groups whose needs were not currently being met by the programme.
- (3) Miss Martin explained that there had been extensive consultation, there were significant pressures on some groups and the programme aimed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups. There was a commitment to maintain scheme managers and wardens within category 2 housing (sheltered housing where scheme managers were present) and there was a commitment to fund alarms in category 1 housing. However, some providers, such as Dartford Borough Council, Ashford Borough Council and Amicus Horizon, had provided the service through floating wardens, which worked well to provide 24hr cover, to cover sick and annual leave. Home Improvement Services were considered sacrosanct and it was vital to ensure that the services which were being funded were meeting the needs of the vulnerable groups.
- (4) In response to a question from Mr Christie regarding the final decision maker for the system for service provision Miss Martin explained that the Council would consult with the service users, KCC administer the grants and there were a mixed economy of providers however if KCC wished to prevent the provider from removing residential wardens it could.
- (5) The Chairman stated that in the past there had clearly been bad feeling from the residents, many of whom moved into sheltered accommodation on the understanding that there would be a residential warden, had this been tested in law? Miss Martin explained that a test case went to the High Court and it was being tested in the Civil Courts. Where Managers/Wardens had been removed some of the tenants had gone to court, however the courts were acknowledging the situation but not insisting that the wardens should be reinstated.
- (6) Mr Kite stated that it was Government Policy to move towards floating services, there had been a year on year reduction in funding whilst the client groups were expanding. Occupants of the residential homes wanted stability more than anything else. Mr Kite asked for confirmation that there had been a shift in funding and that the changes were guided by Government Policy. Miss Martin explained that in Kent the funding had been managed to ensure that the level of funding had been maintained or increased. Supporting people funding nationally had been reduced.

- (7) Mr Horne concurred with Mr Kite in that stability was vitally important for residential in sheltered housing. There was undoubtedly pressure to remove wardens and make changes to the regime, however Mr Horne asked for assurance regarding the policy for the warden schemes that were currently in place, were they safe? What would happen in cases of retirement? Miss Martin explained that the Council was reliant on funding from the Government, assuming the funding continued the Council would expect providers to continue to provide services required by residents even after retirement.
- (8) Miss Martin explained that there had been difficulties in recruiting to residential manager posts. Mr Horne asked whether these difficulties had, in part, been due to the lack of certainty over the future of the posts. Ms Honey explained that it was a question of how to 'future proof' the service, if the Government funding were to change the services would have to be re-prioritised, however there was no greater risk to the warden staff than any other staff in the Directorate. In response to a further question from the Chairman about the reasons behind the recruitment problems Miss Martin explained that it was generally because the expectations on scheme managers were quite onerous, there was a perception from residents that they should be available 24/7, however in practice this was not the case.
- (9) Mr Brookbank asked about the timeline for consultation over future proposals and had some more specific questions about people with learning difficulties being placed in older people's homes, these would be followed up with the relevant officers after the meeting.
- (10) Mr Hotson welcomed and supported the paper but asked for confirmation on whether the supporting people programme covered the armed services. Miss Martin explained that funding supported the Royal British Legion; the programme recognised that single homeless people had less ability to access services and the programme would pick up on the needs of the armed forces.
- (11) In response to a question from the Chairman about the timescale Ms Martin explained that there was an 18 month lead in time during which funding would be agreed and relevant planning permission would be sought. There were a number of other services currently being funded such as the rough sleepers service which helped encourage rough sleepers into sheltered accommodation.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee:

- (1) Thank Mr A Sandhu, MBE, Ms A Honey, Ms A Slaven and Miss C Martin for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions;
- (2) Ask that the relevant officer clarify in writing the Council's position of preventing providers from removing residential wardens.

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By: Peter Sass - Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 9 April 2010

Subject: Follow up items from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report sets out the items which the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee has raised previously for follow up

Introduction

1. This is a rolling schedule of information requested previously by the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.
2. If the information supplied is satisfactory it will be removed following the meeting, but if the Committee should find the information to be unsatisfactory it will remain on the schedule with a request for further information.

Recommendation

3. That the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee notes the responses to the issues raised previously.

Contact: Peter Sass
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Background Information: *Nil*

	Issue	Response
10.12.08	Highways Business Plan IMG 02.12.08 - A list of gully schedules be supplied to all Members after the elections	In July Members will be supplied with specimen gully emptying schedules following the completion of route optimisation work for gulleys countywide. When all this is complete, gully emptying schedules will be available.
25.01.10	The Committee requested: - an annotated (to enable a brief update) copy of the report into funding received from Government by the County Council; - a breakdown of Asylum costs to the Committee; - written confirmation of the money spent and allocated to implement Select Committee recommendations; - further information on the call numbers relating to Healthwatch and the cost to KCC of advertising the service.	This information has been provided and was circulated to the Committee via email on 17 February 2010.
10.02.10	Mr Horne asked that when it became known, Members be informed of the level of funding package which the Government was offering to Kent County Council in relation to the transfer of the Learning and Skills Council Service.	When this information is known Members will be informed.
10.02.10	Mr Kite asked that, following the release of the council tax rates, Members look at the emerging evidence of possible efficiencies from some of the new unitary authorities.	The Scrutiny Board will decide whether to take this issue forward at their next meeting on 22 April 2010.
10.02.10	Confirmation of the other local authorities which had also raised a separate precept to cover the budget gap resulting from Asylum costs.	Members will be aware from the County Council meeting on 18 February that it was not necessary for the Council to precept for unmet asylum costs. Officers are not aware of any authorities who have separately precepted, but some (like Hillingdon) have included an amount for asylum within overall council tax charge. At the time of the scrutiny meeting, it was believed that other authorities were considering including Asylum in their precept, indeed Hillingdon have done this for the last two years
10.02.10	Supporting People Ask that the relevant officer clarify in writing the Council's position of preventing providers from removing residential wardens.	This information has been provided and was circulated to the Committee via email on 26 February 2010.

By: Peter Sass: Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 9 April 2010

Subject: Weather Damaged Roads: Major Road Repair Blitz (Cabinet Decision)

1. Background

The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee noted from the Cabinet report that it is hoped, as far as possible, that the tendering process for the road surface repair contracts would be won competitively by local small and medium-sized contractors. Members have queries about this process, how it will be administered, the cost of this administration and the inspection arrangements for work undertaken.

Members also had concerns with regard to the standard of work to repair the roads prior to this winter.

The Cabinet report is attached for Members' information.

The Chairman and Spokespeople agreed that it was not the intention of this call in to require implementation of the decision to be postponed, rather to discuss the process and monitoring of work.

2. Recommendation

Members may:

- (a) make no comments
- (b) express comments but not require reconsideration of the decision

Contact: Anna Taylor Tel: 01622 694764

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By: Paul Carter, Leader of the Council
To: Cabinet – 29 March 2010
Subject: WEATHER DAMAGED ROADS: Major Road Repair Blitz
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Update to Cabinet on the progress and planned approach to delivering repairs to roads with externally tendered contractors.

Background

The extreme winter weather conditions of late 2009/early 2010 have caused high levels of damage to Kent's roads. Potholes and broken road surfaces are clear evidence of the coldest and wettest winter for thirty years.

But we have been preparing for action. At a meeting on 11 January 2010, Cabinet agreed to make an initial additional £1m available to Kent Highway Services to deliver extra, essential road surface repairs. This extra spend will be awarded through competitive tendering using Kent County Council's existing procedures, and as far as possible I hope it will be won competitively by local small and medium-sized contractors.

The objective is to deliver a high volume, rapid repair service for minor carriageway damage. Work will be undertaken on a "find and fix" traditional piece work basis to pre-determined quality standards, with real incentives for hard-working, properly equipped crews during this time of economic downturn.

This substantially enhanced road repair activity is planned to commence on 12 April 2010. I believe we should put additional funding into this project, if needed, to complete the job fully.

Process

There has been widespread media coverage to ensure that local companies were aware of this business opportunity and the specifications and contracts were available on the South East Business Portal. Contractors were invited to apply for a pre-qualification pack and tender documents were sent to contractors on 12 March, for return by 26 March.

Upon receipt of the tender submissions, a formal report will be provided outlining the selection criteria and the assessment results. This report will be used as the basis for the formal decision, as approved and signed off by me as Leader of the County Council.

The contractors for the "find and fix" blitz will be flexibly deployed across all districts. The initial focus will be a concentrated attack on minor roads (including rural and estate roads) which make up 71% of the total (6,100km) and a higher proportion in terms of need. Work will continue in parallel, as appropriate, through the term maintenance contractor, Ringway.

Contractors will be appointed for each District Council area. The aim is to encourage local accountability and teamwork, with a “pride in your patch” quality-focused approach to the localised winter repairs. No contractor will be awarded a contract for more than 2 areas, and successful contractors will be tasked and managed to avoid potential local conflict of road works.

Whilst undertaking the works, gangs will be visited on a daily basis to build positive relationships and to monitor quality and progress. The rate of spend during the contract will be analysed on a daily basis and an audit regime established for checking on validity of claim, size and number of repairs.

Timescales

○ Publish contract notice	12 Feb 10
○ Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) available	16 Feb - 1 Mar 10
○ Assessment of PQQs	2 Mar – 11 Mar 10
○ Issue Tenders to those passing PQQ	12 Mar 10
○ Tenders returned	26 Mar 10
○ Assess tenders	26 Mar – 31 Mar 10
○ Leader signs formal decision to award contracts	1 Apr 10
○ Mobilise contracts	2-11 April
○ Start work	w/c 12 Apr 10

Recommendations

- That Cabinet endorses the progress of the project.
- Following the Leader of the Council taking the formal decision on successful contractors, and subject to him being satisfied as to the detailed terms and conditions, the Executive Director for Environment, Highways and Waste be authorised to sign the contracts on behalf of the County Council.

Background Documents: none

Contact

Mike Austerberry
Executive Director for Environment, Highways & Waste
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone

01622 694130

By: Peter Sass: Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 9 April 2010

Subject: Safeguarding Children in Kent: Defending and Developing the Service (Cabinet Decision)

1. Background

Provisional item subject to the discussion at the Children, Families and Education - Vulnerable Children and Partnerships Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 31 March and the County Council meeting on 1 April.

The Chairman and Spokespeople have concerns about the information flow on serious case reviews to Members of the County Council.

2. Recommendation

Members may:

- (a) make no comments
- (b) express comments to the Managing Director or Cabinet Member

Contact: Anna Taylor Tel: 01622 694764

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By: Peter Sass: Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 9 April 2010

Subject: Kent Digital Service (Urgent Cabinet Member Decision)

1. Background

In accordance with the urgency procedures set out in the Council's Constitution on 25 February 2010, Mr R Gough the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Corporate Support Services and Performance Management took an urgent decision in respect of Kent Digital Service the details of which are set out in attached reports.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee would like clarification on the following points:

- a) the urgency of the decision
- b) cost
- c) governance
- d) advertising revenues

2. Recommendation

Members of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee may:

- (a) make no comments
- (b) express comments but not require reconsideration of the decision

Contact: Anna Taylor Tel: 01622 694764

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By: Tanya Oliver – Director of Strategic Development and Public Access

To: Roger Gough - Cabinet Member for Corporate Support Services and Performance Management

Subject: Kent Digital Service

Summary: This report explores the opportunities post-Kent TV for Kent County Council to engage digitally with Kent's Citizens

1. Introduction

Following the decision not to continue with Kent TV, it is necessary to look forward and find new ways of engaging the public through digital media. Increasingly more authorities are looking towards online video content to interact with their citizens and with new technology, more and more is possible in this field.

The County Council budget set on 18 February 2010 retained an element within the Strategic Development Unit to run a "Kent Digital service".

This paper has been drawn up in a short period of time and therefore costs and proposals are indicative. Further work will need to be done to ensure a more robust business case but this will at least give a holding solution for 2010/11 whilst we take a more measured look at the future of digital provision.

The content produced during the two year pilot of Kent TV remains the property of KCC and will be used within the kent.gov website to enhance our digital offering to the public. There is also scope to continue to encourage tourism into the county through the retention of a 'What's On' function and the creation of content with highlights the best the County has to offer.

2. Digital Engagement

The following proposal has been drawn up in consultation with the Head of ICT Commissioning, Corporate Web Manager, Head of Communications, the Cabinet Member for Corporate Support and Performance Management and the Leader of the Council.

It is proposed that:

- 2.1. Kent County Council enables video streaming on kent.gov to broadcast programmes which are of value to Kent citizens and also to attract international visitors.
- 2.2. The video channel will be incorporated into Kent.gov and would not be a community channel like Kent TV but would have a stronger focus on KCC initiatives.
- 2.3. We would draw upon the wealth of content that is already in existence and ensure this continues to be embedded in the kent.gov and other websites, including You Tube.
- 2.4. Video content will focus initially on "How To" and tourism, building on the work already done in these areas.

- 2.5. A focus on young people will be a key part of any digital service KCC has and as far as possible is will be driven by young people - covering their priorities and their issues and providing an outlet for work and content they already do either through schools, universities, youth groups, etc. We will of course work closely with the Youth Service, Children, Families and Education department, KDAAT and further and higher education partners in any discussions on this.
- 2.6. The 'What's On' function will be retained and will still enable local residents, groups and businesses to upload their own events onto the site.
- 2.7. The webcast function will continue in some form and will focus more heavily on engaging Kent residents in the democratic process.
- 2.8. Establishing a digital service will require additional staff capacity and expertise and the KCC can benefit from some of the existing expertise in the former Kent TV team.
- 2.9. Relevant content could also be embedded throughout kent.gov and other platforms such as You Tube ensuring the reach of the content is extended.

3. Budget

The budget within the MTFP for 2010/11 is £100k for a "Kent Digital service", £100k for 'What's On' and £50k for webcasting. This gives a **net budget of £250k**. In addition, the MTFP allows for £100k income generation. If the income is achievable, the total potential **gross budget** is £350k.

Costs are indicative at this stage but this budget should deliver the above proposal, including an enhanced webcasting facility and the minimum IT support and adjustments that need to be made.

This proposal will not deliver the same functionality and service as the existing Kent TV service. The main differences will be as follows:

- Significantly reduced volume of content:
 - No dedicated budget within the £250k net spend to commission content from Kent production companies (this does not preclude KCC units commissioning content directly from production companies as they currently do)
 - A reduced capacity to directly produce content on such a wide range of topics and areas
- A variety of reduced functionality, for example:
 - There will not be a video player as currently visible on the home page of Kent TV
 - There will no longer be a live schedule of programming being streamed
 - A more complicated search-engine optimisation process online
 - There would not be an ability for Kent residents to upload their own content (outside the static events system)

- There will not be a voting function
- There will not be a carousel ability
- There will not be the capacity (unless it is commissioned from elsewhere) to deliver initiatives such as Hollywould or Battle of the Bands.

4. Funding

It is proposed that in the longer-term, the video site and the staff could be funded from a number of sources, which could include money from KCC's overall communications budget, enabling a reduction in print communications and funding from external organisations such as Visit Kent to create tourism focused content. In the future it may also be possible to obtain match funding from various sources such as Interreg funding.

5. Conclusion

The pilot of Kent TV has supplied a wealth of content which has been transferred to Kent County Council. The proposal above ensures that this is not lost and the benefits are still available to the people of Kent. It will no longer be a community channel in the same way as Kent TV as there will be a reduction in content and functionality, but it will continue to offer a quality service in a different way.

6. Author Contact Details

Tanya Oliver – Director of Strategic Development and Public Access

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Mr Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Corporate Support Services and Performance Management

DECISION NO.

10/01442

If decision is likely to disclose exempt information please specify the relevant paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Subject:

Delivering a Kent Digital Service

Decision:

(a) The Director of Strategic Development and Public Access in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Support Services and Performance Management be authorised to develop and agree ongoing proposals for a Kent Digital Service which will:

(i) retain some of the existing functionality and services previously delivered through Kent TV in order to actively engage with Kent residents and continue to pursue an alternative digital service.

(ii) provide services in an integrated way with the KCC website with options to include:

- What's On
- How To
- Tourism
- Youth channel
- Webcasting/democracy

(iii) provide under TUPE arrangements for the timely transfer of staff from Ten Alps to the County Council

Any Interest Declared when the Decision was Taken

None

Reason(s) for decision, including alternatives considered and any additional information

This decision has been taken in accordance with the urgency provisions set out in the Council's Constitution in order to secure under TUPE arrangements the timely transfer of staff from Ten Alps to KCC.

The decision not to proceed with Kent TV but to retain some form of digital function (as outlined above) means TUPE applies. Given the timescales of the termination of the contract with the provider of Kent TV (Ten Alps), consultation needed to begin with staff urgently and Ten Alps needed confirmation to avoid issuing notices of redundancy. .

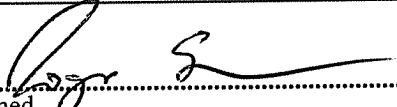
It was also important for KCC to continue to communicate effectively with staff within the existing Kent TV team.

The County Council budget approved on 18 February 2010 confirmed the intention of the County Council to have some form of digital service and therefore made budgetary provision for this service.

The option to "do nothing" was considered and rejected on the wealth of evidence that an increasing number of people wish to engage online and the proportion using video content to do this is also increasing. It is also important to utilise and not lose the wealth of content commissioned and produced as part of Kent TV and to ensure the kent.gov website has additional functionality to deliver an enhanced digital service.

Background Documents:

report to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Support and Performance Management which for completeness is attached to this Record of Decision



 signed

25/2/10

 date

FOR LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES USE ONLY

Decision Referred to Cabinet Scrutiny			
YES		NO	

Cabinet Scrutiny Decision to Refer Back for Reconsideration			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration Record Sheet Issued			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration of Decision Published			