

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Peter Oakford, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services

DECISION NO:

21/00059

For publication

Key decision – Yes

The decision will result in savings or expenditure which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function (currently defined by the Council as in excess of £1,000,000).

Subject Matter / Title of Decision:

Dover Discovery Centre Community Hub Redevelopment

Proposed Decision:

To authorise the creation of a Dover Discovery Community Hub including the following KCC services, Community Learning and Skills, Children Social Services, a Library, Good Day Programme Services. Delegate authority and authorise the Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services, to enter into a Funding Agreement setting out the funding arrangements with Dover District Council and to enter into any contracts or property arrangements required to deliver the Community Hub.

Reason(s) for decision:

To support the relocation of the Children's Services Team and provision for The Good Day Programme to the site, redevelopment of the library and adult education offering, with improved public access, and opportunity for an improved co-ordinated service, as well as bringing higher footfall to the town centre. The scheme also improves public access to both the archaeology which sits below the building and the external ruins of the St. Martin's Le Grand Church and the Classis Britannica Fort. The proposals have provided an opportunity to incorporate the provision of a walk-in archive facility and education room within the Dover District Council owned area, which provides an opportunity to co-locate the Dover District Council and Kent County Council local studies archive within one single space. The proposed archive facility will provide improved facilities for those undertaking local studies research and allow enhanced access to the extensive artefacts and ephemera held by the Museum.

By bringing together key services, KCC will enable a more holistic service offer to the residents in Dover, in a key location that supports the wider regeneration of Dover Town Centre in a modern, fit for purpose building.

Funding has been allocated from the Capital MTFP to progress with the redevelopment. Dover District Council's Cabinet have agreed to enter into an agreement with KCC to contribute towards the cost of delivering the scheme.

The funding is proposed as follows:

COST	FUNDING	
<i>Stage 2 Cost</i>	<i>KCC</i>	<i>Dover District Council</i>
£7.75M	£7.2M	£0.550M

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, 13th July 2021.

Any alternatives considered:

Alternative options for the re-provision of services were considered along with alternative uses for the Dover Discovery Centre.

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

None.

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Signed

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date