KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

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

DECISION NO: 23/00072

For publication

Key decision: YES

Key decision criteria. The decision will:

a) 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: Property Accommodation Strategy – Strategic Headquarters (SHQ)

Decision:

As the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services to agree to:

- 1. AGREE to discontinue with the Preferred Option as set out decision 21-00064;
- 2. NOTE AND AGREE the current business case and Value for Money assessment recommendations and that a further market test of Sessions House will be progressed to enable the next steps and approach to be agreed;
- 3. ALLOCATE £3.4m from the 2023-33 approved capital budget to enable the essential and urgent backlog maintenance works at Invicta House to be completed; and
- 4. AGREE to delegate authority to the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services to authorise the execution of necessary contractual and land agreements required to implement the above with authority to take other relevant actions as required to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council's (KCC's) Strategic Headquarters requires significant investment to address building condition issues and deliver accommodation which is fit for purpose. This decision supports the Councils considerations in making best use of its resources and estate whilst remaining options are assessed and enables the urgent maintenance works required in Invicta House to progress.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Reports were taken to the following Committees:

Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, 11 September 2020

Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, 6 November 2020

Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, 13 July 2021

Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, 24 March 2022

Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, 23 November 2022

Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, 26 July 2023

Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, at its meeting on 26 July 2023, endorsed the proposed decision.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

A number of alternatives were considered which are set out in the Policy Resources committee reports from July 2023.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None.

11 September 2023
date