

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

Executive

DECISION TAKEN BY:
Corporate Director
Adult Social Care and Health

DECISION NO:
OD/25/00031

For publication

Subject matter: People's Voice Activity (including Healthwatch Kent) Extension

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates: [22/00062](#) People's Voice Activity (Including Healthwatch Kent)

Decision: To **APPROVE** up to two single year extensions of the Healthwatch Kent contract, to the current provider (EK360) from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2027.

Reason(s) for decision: The Care Act sets out local authorities' adult social care responsibilities under law. Kent County Council has a statutory duty to commission a local Healthwatch organisation to carry out the eight statutory activities laid out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, in an objectively reasonable way.

The current contract commenced on 1 October 2022 for an initial three-year period. Options to extend it for two single year periods were included in the decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health who delegated authority to enact the relevant extensions to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health ([REPORT](#)).

The contract extension option is required to ensure service continuity up to the point that a decision can be made on the future of the contract.

Financial Implications: The total budget of the Healthwatch Kent contract is made up from various sources:

Source	2025/26	2026/27
Government Grant (for Statutory Healthwatch Service)	£363,000	£363,000 (tbc)
Adult Social Care	£311,130	£0
Kent and Medway ICB	£78,129	£78,129 (tbc)
Annual Contract Value	£752,129	£441,129 (tbc)

Healthwatch Kent is the biggest local Healthwatch in terms of population served, and therefore has the largest local authority funding envelope, but as a per capita spend, we are in the lowest 10% of the national range.

Legal implications: The provision of Healthwatch Kent is a statutory responsibility of the council.

Equalities implications: An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken as part of the original tender process. If the contract is terminated or the service redesigned the Equality Impact Assessment will be updated.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

Both the Corporate Director Finance and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health have been consulted and endorsed the decision.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Not to use the contract extension – this was discarded as the provision of Healthwatch is a statutory responsibility.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None



8 September 2025

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signed

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date