

By: Mr Paul Carter - Leader of the Council
Mr Peter Sass - Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: County Council - 14 October 2010

Subject: Quarterly Report On Urgent Key Decisions

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To report two urgent Key Decisions taken in the last quarter.

1. The Constitution requires me to provide a quarterly report to the County Council of any Key Decisions which were taken as urgent matters during the previous three months.

2. Two urgent Key Decisions were taken in the last quarter as set out below.

(a) The procurement of Alternative Provision at Key Stage 4 in Kent from September 2010 – Phase 2 (10/01456)

An urgent decision was taken on 22 July 2010 by Mrs Sarah Hohler, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, as follows:

- (i) to authorise the Managing Director, Children, Families and Education to enter into a contract with a third party supplier on behalf of KCC for the alternative provision of Key Stage 4;
- (ii) that the three contracts in round two, which did not attract suitable bids be withdrawn and provision be made within the existing Alternative Curriculum Pupil Referral Units (AC PRUs) in time to allow the County Council to meet its statutory obligations; and
- (iii) that the single contract in round one, which was left without any bidders following the withdrawal of the KCC organisation that had been successful in round one be withdrawn and provision made within the existing SC PRUs in time to allow the County Council to meet its statutory obligations.

These decisions were deemed as urgent because the delay caused by re-tendering the remaining four contracts and the subsequent legal advice required on TUPE issues left the authority at a significant risk of not delivering adequate provision to children out of school on 1 September 2010.

(b) Kent Connexions and Work Related Learning Services Contract 2010-2013; Budget Savings Options (10/01547)

An urgent decision was taken on 6 September 2010 by Mrs Sarah Hohler, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, as follows:

- (i) the proposal already identified through the Budget Savings Options process to make £5 million of savings from the Connexions Budget over a two year period, or any other sum as Cabinet may deem appropriate. This is based on Kent County Council's anticipation of at least a 20% reduction

- in baseline funding including the Area Based Grant, hence targeted savings currently proposed would seek to save a total of £5 million over the final two years of the contract period;
- (ii) approve the proposed timeline, noting that Connexions was due to hold an emergency board meeting on 9 September and so financial proposals needed to be approved by KCC as soon as possible; and
 - (iii) further identify proposals for savings through meetings with the Connexions Board, the Chairman and Chief Executive of Connexions as well as other stakeholders as appropriate.

These decisions were deemed as urgent because there had been no assurance from the Department for Education that there would be sufficient funding for the Connexions Grant to remain the same for 2011/12 and later years and urgent action was necessary in order to discuss and negotiate the expected changes to be effected in April 2011.

Consultations

3. The Chairman and Spokespersons of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee were consulted about both of these matters and their views were reported to the Cabinet Member prior to the decisions being taken.

Recommendation:

4. The County Council is requested to note this report.

P B Carter
Leader of the Council

*Enquiries: Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership
Ext: 4002*

Background documents: Records of Decision 10/01456 and 10/01547