

From: Jamie Henderson, Cabinet Member for Public Health
Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health

To: **Health and Wellbeing Board** – 30 September 2026

Subject: Kent Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Selection and Member Services Committee and Full Council

Summary

1. The purpose of this paper is to **update** members on the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Health and Wellbeing Board.
2. The draft ToR were discussed at the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board in July. The paper was produced prior to the Local Government Reform (LGR) announcements. It was subsequently considered that the ToR might benefit from further small changes to membership that would better enable alignment with the proposed future Unitary Authorities. It was planned to share these with the HWB virtually for comment prior to submission to the Selection and Membership Committee.
3. It was planned that the proposed ToR be discussed at the Kent Selection and Member Services Committee in advance of discussion at Full Council in line with governance processes. However a decision was taken not to progress this in view of the national pausing of LGR.
4. This allows the ToR, incorporating the changes endorsed by the Board at its last meeting on 23 July 2026, to be returned to the Board for further consideration.

The Board is asked to:

NOTE the draft Terms of Reference

CONSIDER and COMMENT on the draft Terms of Reference, including whether any amendments should be recommended for consideration prior to submission to the Selection and Member Services Committee.

NOTE that any revisions to the Terms of Reference endorsed by the Board will be subject to consideration by the Selection and Member Services Committee prior to formal approval and adoption by Full County Council.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Board discussed the enhanced role of the HWB going forward in July including consideration of ToR with a focus on membership to optimise the opportunity offered.
- 1.2 The proposed changes discussed and endorsed at the July Health and Wellbeing Board were prior to the announcement of proposed Unitary boundaries. It was felt the Board ToR would benefit from further small changes to reflect LGR to help ensure developed strategies and plans are best owned, and remain relevant, into the future.
- 1.3 It was proposed these limited changes be shared with Board members virtually in advance of further progression through Council Governance.
- 1.4 The announcement to pause LGR was made before the Kent Selection and Member Services Committee and a decision was taken because of this, to refer the ToR back to the Board.

2. Terms of Reference changes to Membership to optimise working

- 2.1 Membership changes were discussed at the July board. Additional changes were proposed post LGR and as detailed below.
- 2.2 The importance of local place and local partners highlighted the need for an enhanced local place focus within the Board. It was therefore proposed that three local Health Alliance representatives and a representative local district/borough/city Chief Executive become members.
- 2.3 Subsequent to the LGR announcement in July it was felt there was merit in considering that the number of local Health Alliance representatives and the number of Chief Executive Representatives were increased to four to mirror the planned Unitary boundaries with an Alliance representative and Chief Executive from each.
- 2.4 All other elements of the ToR remain as proposed and discussed at the July Board meeting.

- 2.5 Given the changing position around LGR, the Board are asked to consider whether any further changes to those endorsed in July are required.
- 2.6 The draft ToR, incorporating the changes endorsed by the Board at the July meeting, are attached as Appendix 1. These remain subject to the Council's formal governance process.

3. Governance

- 3.1 As the Terms of Reference form part of Kent County Council's governance framework, revisions endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board will be considered by the Selection and Member Services Committee before onward recommendation to Full County Council. The revised Terms of Reference will only take effect following formal approval and adoption by Full County Council.

4. Recommendation(s):

Recommendation:

The Board is asked to:

NOTE the draft Terms of Reference

CONSIDER and COMMENT on the draft Terms of Reference, including whether any amendments should be recommended for consideration prior to submission to the Selection and Member Services Committee.

NOTE that any revisions to the Terms of Reference endorsed by the Board will be subject to consideration by the Selection and Member Services Committee prior to formal approval and adoption by Full County Council.

5. Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Draft ToR

6. Contact details

Author

Dr Mike Gogarty
Interim Strategic Lead for Public Health
Mike.gogarty@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director

Dr Anjan Ghosh

Director of Public Health

Anjan.ghosh@kent.gov.uk

03000 412633