

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

## DECISION TAKEN BY

Sarah Hohler, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education

## DECISION NO.

10/01547

### Subject:

### **KENT CONNEXIONS AND WORK RELATED LEARNING SERVICES CONTRACT 2010-2013; BUDGET SAVING OPTIONS**

### Decision:

As the Cabinet Portfolio holder for Children, Families and Education I **agree to**;

(1) the proposal already identified through the Budget Savings Options process to make savings from the Connexions budget over a two year period,

(2) approve the proposed timeline, noting that Connexions are holding an emergency board meeting on 9 September, and so financial proposals need to be approved by KCC as soon as possible

(3) further identify proposals for savings through meetings with the Connexions Board, Chair and Chief Executive of Connexions as well as other stakeholders where appropriate.

### **Any Interest Declared when the Decision was Taken**

No.

### **Reason(s) for decision, including alternatives considered and any additional information**

The Secretary of State for Education wrote on<sup>1</sup> 16 June 2010 to all Directors of Children's Services and Chief Executives about reductions in government spending on education. The letter set out that it will be for local authorities to manage the reduction in the Area-Based Grant across their funding sources to protect frontline services, and details the measures taken to protect formula grant and remove ring-fences in order to give local authorities increased flexibility to do so. Funding for Connexions Services falls under the Area-Based Grant.

There has been *no assurance* from the DfE that there will be sufficient funding for the Connexions Grant to remain the same for 2011/12 and later years. The definitive financial future of Connexions funding can only be clarified following the Comprehensive Spending Review this Autumn. For savings to be achieved for 2011/12 and beyond, all negotiation would need to be undertaken in time to enable change to be effected in April 2011, i.e. well developed plans are needed in the autumn.

A report setting out the background and details leading to this decision is attached. Due to the timescales involved there is insufficient time for an entry to be added to Kent County Council's Forward Plan of key decisions.

In undertaking consultations in respect of this matter in accordance with the urgency procedures set out in the Council's Constitution the following views were received

Mrs Dean agreed with the proposal but raised concerns about how this would affect the young people in generational poverty.

Mr Christie had concerns about whether this area of work should be cut at all and that it should be a priority area.

Mr Manning supported the proposal and the taking of the decision

A report is attached as appendix 1.

**Background Documents:**  
None.

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signed

.....  
date

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Decision Referred to Cabinet Scrutiny			
YES		NO	

Cabinet Scrutiny Decision to Refer Back for Reconsideration			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration Record Sheet Issued			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration of Decision Published			