
By: David Cockburn
To: Corporate POSC
Subject: Kent Recommitment

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

The Kent Recommitment establishes new partnership arrangements within the county which place local democracy at their heart. This paper introduces the draft Kent Recommitment and will be accompanied by an oral update on progress.

1. Introduction

The Kent Recommitment has been developed by Kent's County and District Leaders as the foundation for joint working within the county, to plan and deliver public services in Kent more effectively, more accountably, at less cost and as close to service users as possible.

2. Background

The Kent Recommitment has been agreed by Kent Leaders subject to governance arrangements being finalised.

It was drafted for Kent Leaders by the Kent Leaders Sub Group of Andrew Bowles (Chairman and Leader of Swale), Peter Fleming (Leader of Sevenoaks), Paul Watkins (Leader of Dover) and Alex King (Deputy Leader – KCC) and has been shaped and developed by Kent Leaders as a whole.

3. The Kent Recommitment

The final draft of the Kent Recommitment is attached. This establishes a Kent Forum (or Senate) arrangement and the principles and framework for new and streamlined working relationships within the county with local democracy at their heart.

Through the Kent Recommitment, Kent Leaders will press for greater devolution of powers and budgets from national and regional quangos and agencies to make us better able to respond to the needs and aspirations of local people and to save taxpayers money. Kent Leaders wish to make the £8 billion currently spent in the county by the public sector increasingly democratically accountable.

Through the Kent Recommitment, and now developed further in “Bold Steps for Kent”, we will also consider where services could be better co-ordinated through local, outcome-based commissioning, bringing together District, County Council and KCC Cabinet members saving money and better addressing local need.

The Kent Recommitment also recognises the strength of Kent Leaders fighting together for local communities on issues of both county-wide and national importance in standing up for the interests of Kent’s residents.

4. Next Steps

Full governance arrangements are currently under discussion by Kent Leaders and final amendments are currently being made.

A further update will be provided orally at the meeting.

5. Recommendation

The Corporate Policy Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

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Background Documents: Kent Recommitment (attached)
“Bold Steps for Kent”, KCC - October 2010