

By: Mr Paul Carter – Leader of the Council
Mr Peter Sass – Head of Democratic Services

To: County Council – 21 July 2011

Subject: Quarterly Report On Urgent Key Decisions

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To report one urgent Key Decision 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. One urgent Key Decision was taken in the last quarter as set out below.

(a) Kent Safe Schools (KSS) transfer to Social Enterprise Project Salus Community Interest Company (CIC)

An urgent decision was taken on 26th April 2011 by Mrs Sarah Hohler, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills, to authorise the Director of Governance and Law to seal the Grant Agreement allowing Project Salus Community Interest Company to take over all undertakings of Kent Safe Schools as defined by the Grant Agreement.

This matter was deemed urgent because of the need to ensure that the Grant Agreement came into effect on the agreed date (1st June 2011) to enable CIC to:

- TUPE staff and set up appropriate processes to ensure that transfer is successful (payroll, accommodation, IT and accounting)
- Tender for contracts which would become available over the subsequent months, where failure to do so would effectively lock CIC out of these markets during the critical formation years

Consultations

3. The Chairman and Spokespersons of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee were consulted about this matter and their views were reported to the Cabinet Member prior to the decision being taken. Mr. Christie advised that he could not support the decision on principle that he disagreed with the privatisation of a service provided by Kent County Council. Mr. Christie also stated that any future decisions must be scrutinised fully. Both Mrs. Dean and Mr. Manning advised that they could not agree or disagree with the decision, asking for further information. Mr. Lees advised that he was not opposed to the decision in principle, but agreed with Mr. Christie that the decision should be scrutinised properly.

Recommendation:

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

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Leader of the Council

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Background documents: Record of Decision 11-01671