

Minutes of the meeting of the **EAST KENT (JOINT SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Wednesday 25 April 2012 at 9.30 am.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor K Mills (Dover District Council)

Councillors: B Copping (Shepway District Council)
G Glover (Canterbury City Council)
I Gregory (Thanet District Council)
D Hannent (Dover District Council)
G Lymer (Dover District Council)
Z Wiltshire (Thanet District Council)

Also Present: Director of Shared Services (EK Services)

Officers: Chief Executive (Dover District Council)
Solicitor to the Council (Dover District Council)
Democratic Support Officer (Dover District Council)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Cragg, M Dance, C Goddard, D Green, J Holben, I Linfield, R Manning and M Vye.

13 ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor G Lymer, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That Councillor K Mills be appointed Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 25 January 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16 OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee considered the operating arrangements.

RESOLVED: That the operating arrangements be noted.

17 ISSUES REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE EAST KENT (JOINT ARRANGEMENTS) COMMITTEE

The Committee noted that at the meeting of the East Kent (Joint Arrangements) Committee (EKJAC) held on 14 March 2012 it had been resolved to undertake a review of the operating arrangements of the two East Kent committees, which would be reported to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the East Kent (Joint Arrangements) Committee be noted.

18 ITEMS PLACED ON THE AGENDA BY A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE

DDC Members ICT Update

Councillor D Hannent agreed to consider this item as part of the following agenda item due to the linked nature of the items.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to consider this item as part of the EKS ICT Update item.

19 EKS ICT UPDATE

The Director of Shared Services presented the update on the shared ICT service.

EKS employed 340 staff based across 3 sites providing ICT, Customer Service and Revenue and Benefits services to the three partner authorities. The shared ICT service supported 2,130 computers operating 140 different software systems.

A 'Sharing the Gain' strategy had been development that was based on the core business objectives of the three partner authorities and examined current and future opportunities for the use of technology to deliver business benefits. This included developing on-line, mobile and automated services for customers and more flexible 'anytime, anywhere' access for staff.

The Committee was advised that the budget for the shared ICT service was set locally by each authority and following the recent computer health check undertaken it would be for individual partner authorities to determine how to allocate funding in response to the findings.

The members of the Committee discussed the different approaches to Member ICT provision across the five authorities. In respect of EKS ICT provision, it was noted that each of the three authorities operated on a different email system, with Dover District Council using Outlook 2003, Canterbury City Council using Outlook 2010 and Thanet District Council in the process of moving from GroupWise to Outlook 2010.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

The meeting ended at 10.17 am by reason of falling inquorate.