

East Kent Joint Arrangements Committee

3 December 2008

Subject: **Allocation of £50,000 funding to East Kent Cluster by Kent & Medway Improvement Partnership**

Director/Head of Service: Joint Chief Executives

Decision Issues: These matters are within the authority of the East Kent Joint Arrangements Committee (EKJAC)

Decision type: Non-key

Classification: This report is open to the public.

CCC Ward(s): All

Summary: *The report seeks clarification how progress on the various projects that have been awarded funding will be monitored, and who will hold the budget for the allocation. The Joint Arrangements Committee is the accountable body and will have the responsibility for showing how the monies spent are delivering value for money.*

However, in practical terms the East Kent Chief Executive's Forum should be delegated authority to allocate funding to projects with the Joint Arrangement Committee acting as the monitoring body.

To Resolve:

- a) That any four of the Chief Executive's of the parties or their nominated representatives acting together have delegated authority to allocate funding to relevant projects within the agreed shared services programme, with EKJAC acting as the monitoring body
- b) to agree that the principle of a holding fund be recommended to the parties, subject to funding being made available in future years, to enable EKJAC to agree the funding of projects without the need for a referral back to the constituent authorities
- c) that any funds allocated by the Chief Executives as above or voted by the parties or otherwise in respect of specific projects be allocated to the project champion as designated officer, such funds to be managed and expended in furtherance of the

project

- d) the designated officer may appoint or retain external agents or contracts or any officer of any of the parties for any purpose**

Next stage in process To monitor the delivery of supported projects and to spend the remaining budget

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Introduction

This funding has been secured by the Kent & Medway Improvement Partnership from Improvement and Efficiency South East for the establishment of the east Kent Local Strategic Partnership (EKLSP) and to facilitate the creation of a shared service decision making body for East Kent – the Joint Arrangement Committees. Given both of these bodies have already been established the funding can be used for specific shared service projects as the set up costs for both were borne by the districts.

2. Detail

Lead officers for the joint service projects included in the programme that has already been approved by the Joint Arrangements Committee, were asked if they wished to bid for a proportion of the monies to progress shared service projects and if so, for what purpose.

At the East Kent Forum meeting of 3 October, in order to hasten project progress, funding for the joint Building Control service of £8,440 and the joint Human Resources service of £20,000 were approved from those bids received. £5,000 was also allocated to the cost of organising the joint management meetings between the four councils.

The role of the Joint Arrangements Committee is to monitor the delivery of these joint service projects and to ensure the monies allocated are facilitating the projects and delivering good progress.

The Kent & Medway Improvement Partnership Board, at its meeting on 10 October agreed that the £50,000 provided for each of the three – west, mid and east - Kent clusters, would be allocated to the respective Chief Executive group running the projects.

From time to time funding may be voted by the parties, or become available from other sources. This generally happens in relation to specific projects. It is also intended by this report that the Committee approve same provisions which will take effect unless there is a specific decision by the Committee which will override them. The intent is that there should be some delegated powers in place to enable projects to be progressed without further decision.

3. Relevant Council Policy/Strategies/Budgetary Documents

East Kent protocol on Joint Services

4. **Consultation planned or undertaken**

Consultation with the lead project officers has taken place

5. **Options available with reasons for suitability**

- a) To allocate the funding as recommended and select an appropriate budget holder
- b) Find an alternative way to allocate funding to projects

6. **Reasons for supporting option recommended, with risk assessment**

Option a) represents the best means to facilitate the delivery of joint projects

7. **Implications**

- (a) Financial Implications

The £50,000 is for the current financial year only

- (b) Legal Implications

None

Other implications

- (c) Staffing/resource

Likely to be significant, but not known at this time

8. **Conclusions**

This report sets out a suggested approach to spending the £50,000 allocated to the East Kent Cluster and assign an appropriate budget holder. It also makes provision for allocation and disbursement of future funds.

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