

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Paul Carter CBE
Leader of Kent County Council

DECISION NO:

14/00053

Linked to 07/00936 &
10/01499

For publication

Non-Key Decision

Subject: Re-profiling of East Kent Opportunities LLP Funding

Decision:

As Leader of Kent County Council, I agree to re-profile the County Council's outstanding loan to East Kent Opportunities Limited Liability Partnership (EKO LLP) as detailed follows:

- (1) agree that the Eurokent Spine Road costs, estimated at £5.4m plus interest, be equally shared with Thanet District Council going forward; and
- (2) for the remaining sum and that owing to the outstanding loans for Eurokent Spine Road and from the Regeneration Fund to be fully repaid by East Kent Opportunities LLP before by the end of the 2016-2017 financial year or sooner if the LLP's income stream support it

The Executive Scheme of Delegation for Officers set out in Appendix 2 Part 4 of the Constitution (and the directorate schemes of sub-delegation made thereunder) provides the governance pathway for the implementation of this decision by officers. In this instance, the Director of Economic Development (on behalf of the Corporate Director Growth, Environment & Transport) will take all such steps as are necessary to implement the decision, including determination of the detailed arrangements of the repayments schedule for the Eurokent Spine Road costs with Thanet District Council and East Kent Opportunities LLP.

Reason(s) for decision:

Despite the economic downturn and the challenge of bringing together and developing two sites in a complimentary way the need for good quality employment space and family housing remains very important for the Thanet economy. There is now activity in terms of sales, ongoing interest and a current planning appeal that indicate a level of progress that has not previously been experienced by EKO for the two sites in question.

The proposed re-profiling of the outstanding loans as defined above will ensure that EKO is able to build upon current momentum and be best placed to move forward on the development of both sites and especially Eurokent once the appeal is determined. The current requirement to re-profile funding and raise loans is as anticipated when the Members' Agreement was established and in accordance with its provisions.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The decision has not been considered by a Cabinet Committee as it is not possible to defer the decision until the next meeting is scheduled. However all members will be alerted to the intention of the Leader to take the decision and have 5 clear working days in which to make comments to which he will have regard when taking the decision.

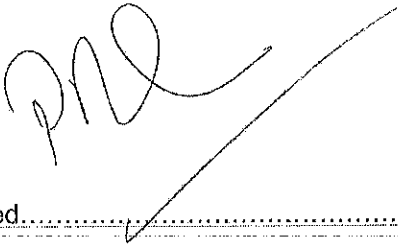
Any alternatives considered:

Not agreeing to re-profile the loan would put at risk the future work of East Kent Opportunities in realising the regeneration ambition it was set up to achieve and, in turn, KCC's overall ability to recoup the loans

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the

Proper Officer:

None

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PND', written over a dotted line.

Signed.....

17 June 2014

Date.....