

## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:**

**Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform**

**DECISION NO:**

16/00003

**For publication**

**Key decision\***

Expenditure of more than £1m and affects more than two electoral divisions

**Subject: Healthwatch Kent**

**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform, I propose to:

- a) extend the current Healthwatch Kent contract for a further two years from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2018 (as per the terms of the original contract) and
- b) delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

The contract was let on 1 April 2013 and is coming to the end of the first three years of delivery. However a contract extension clause is in place that allows for 2 further years 2016 to 2018. The current provider, Engaging Kent a Community Interest Company has delivered good quality services as Healthwatch Kent so extending the current contract is the preferred option.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

The matter will be discussed at the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 14 January 2016 and the outcome included in the decision paperwork which the Cabinet Member will be asked to sign.

**Any alternatives considered:**

KCC has a statutory responsibility to maintain a local Healthwatch, therefore the other option available was to end the current contract and recommission the service. The current service is providing good quality outcomes and an extension is available it was, therefore, considered inefficient to recommission.

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:**

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signed

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date