

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:**

Graham Gibbens  
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

**DECISION NO:****For publication or exempt – please state****Key decision**

The need to modernise services and respond to changing demand.

**Subject:**

Proposal to work with the market to develop alternative services with a final outcome of closure of the registered care home, Blackburn Lodge, Sheerness.

**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I propose to

a) work with the market to develop alternative services with a final outcome of closure of the registered care home, Blackburn Lodge, Sheerness once alternative provision has been identified on the Isle of Sheppey 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 key drivers behind the proposal to close this service are:

- People are living longer with more complex conditions and they rightly expect more choice in care.
- People wish to remain in their own homes with dignity and expect high quality care.
- Residential care should be in high quality buildings. Our older buildings have reached the end of their useful life.
- Good quality care can be commissioned for less money in the independent sector. Unit costs for in-house services are substantially higher.

**Financial Implications:**

The ongoing commitment to maintain the operating service through staffing, supplies and building maintenance for up to three years.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

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

Social Care Health and Wellbeing (SCHW) entered into formal consultation on the future of its registered care home at Blackburn Lodge, Sheerness on 28 September 2015. The consultation ran for twelve weeks to 20 December 2015 and followed the agreed protocol on proposals affecting its service provision. SCHW officers met with members of staff, service users and their relatives, trade unions and other key stakeholders to discuss the proposals.

A summary table by type of response and organisation is included below.

Consultation responses from	No. Emails	No. Letters	No. Phone calls	No online responses	No. complaints	No. petitions	No. alternative proposals
Relatives	4	1	5	12			
Staff				19			
Wider Public			2	35			
MPs							
Organisations	2	3	3	2			2
Total Number of Responses	6	4	10	68	0	0	2

No petitions were received against the proposal.

Two alternative proposals from independent sector organisations were received.

All public consultation documents were uploaded onto the KCC Consultations webpage and a dedicated email and freepost mailing address created to handle responses.

**Any alternatives considered:**

As part of this consultation there was initial interest from two providers in possibly purchasing the site and build or refurbish facilities to continue to deliver residential care services. KCC does not struggle to find residential care services in Swale. There is more need for dementia care or nursing provision, neither of which could be accommodated in the existing service at Blackburn Lodge

**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