

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Mark Dance, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

DECISION NO:

16/00022

For publication

Key decision*

Affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions

Expenditure or savings of > £1m

Subject: Title of Decision: South East Business Boost

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Economic Development, I agree to:

- i. accept grant funding of up to £1.2 million revenue to deliver the programme; and
- ii. delegate to the Director of Economic Development the authority to sign a grant offer letter as required on behalf of KCC.

Reason(s) for decision:

To enable KCC to commit to expenditure of up to £1.2million between 2016 and 2019 to deliver the South East Business Boost service, on behalf of the South East LEP

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Consultation with businesses took place in 2014/15 on new business support services. The proposal was discussed at the Growth, Economic Development and Communities at their meeting on 3 March and was unanimously endorsed.

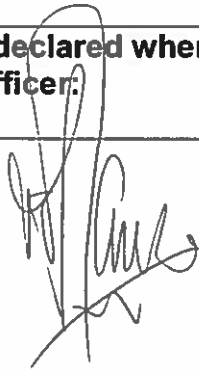
Any alternatives considered:

Three alternatives were considered:

1. Do nothing – this would mean that the Growth Hub service would be delivered using Government funding, but there would be no provision for business advisory support, despite frequent views from businesses that this would be useful
2. Submit an individual application to the ERDF – this would mean that KCC would receive the funding direct and provide KCC with greater control, but was not likely to be successful, given the specification of the ERDF call for projects
3. Seek central management of the South East Business Boost project without dedication funds to KCC – this could be simpler to manage but would limit KCC's ability to align the new service with the other local support services, including the Growth Hub.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:
None

signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. C. S.', written over the signature line.

date 16.03.16