

By: Peter Sass – Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 5 August 2009

Subject: Extension to the Kent TV Contract

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: To consider the process behind the extension to the Kent TV contract

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### Introduction

- (1) The Chairman and Spokespeople of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee had a number of questions about the extension to the Kent TV contract for a period of seven months from 1 September 2009 to 31 March 2010. An informal briefing was held with the Chairman and Spokespeople on 15 July at which the Chief Executive, the Director of Strategic Development and Public Access and the Barrister, Contracts and Procurement Team were in attendance – a note of that meeting is attached.
- (2) The note was circulated at the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee meeting on 21 July and Members had a discussion about the reasons for the extension to the contract and how the decision was made.
- (3) Following the meeting, serious concerns were expressed that a discussion had taken place on the extension of the Kent TV contract without the relevant witnesses, in this case the Chief Executive and the Director of Strategic Development and Public Access, being invited to attend the meeting. Opinions were expressed at the Committee meeting about the actions of Mr Gilroy and Ms Oliver without them having the opportunity to explain their actions. The Chief Executive's perspective is that the discussion led to a number of conclusions being drawn that were fundamentally inaccurate and the process followed by the Committee on 21 July fell well below the standard expected by the Authority.
- (4) In view of the potentially damaging effect on the reputation of the Authority and its officers of inaccurate statements being in the public domain, the Chairman of the Committee has, therefore, agreed to call an extraordinary meeting to allow the extension of the Kent TV contract to be discussed formally with the Chief Executive and Director of Strategic Development and Public Access present.

## Recommendation

(5) The Committee is invited to examine this matter accordingly

(6) Background documents attached:

- a. Note of informal briefing with the Chairman and Spokespeople regarding the extension to the Kent TV contract;
- b. Summary of the discussion of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee meeting on 21 July 2009.

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