

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Gary Cooke, Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services

DECISION NO:

16/00044b2

For publication

Key decision*

Expenditure or savings of > £1m

Subject: New Ways of Working Programme Strategy and Proposal to Develop Premises for an East Kent Office Hub

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services, I agree to

1. The continued implementation of the New Ways of Working Programme in the East Kent region;
2. The award of a Design & Build contract to undertake the refurbishment of the St Peters House building in Broadstairs as set out in the report, subject to project costs remaining within the stated budget;
3. That 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 there under) provides the governance pathway for the implementation of this decision by officers. In this instance, the Director of Property, Infrastructure & Support (on behalf of the Corporate Director of Strategic & Corporate Services) will take all such steps as are necessary to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

To deliver the final elements of the accommodation strategy for East Kent as set out in the New Ways of Working Programme

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision was considered by the Property Sub-Committee at its meeting held on 8 July 2016. The proceedings were as follows:

1. Mrs Spore introduced the report and explained that, since last reporting the issue to the Sub-Committee at its 12 April meeting, a key decision had been taken to award two refurbishment contracts subject to finalising some detail. The final costs of the two projects were now known, and these were higher than anticipated. A new key decision was being sought to approve progression of the two projects, subject to the additional funding being available.
2. In response to a question, Mrs Spore confirmed that the savings planned when the New Ways of Working programme had been proposed had already been met and could not be endangered by the increase in costs for the final two projects.

3. The Cabinet Member, Mr Cooke, added that, although the project costs had proved higher than expected, he had been faced with a choice of proceeding at slightly greater cost or abandoning the final two projects and leaving the New Ways of Working programme incomplete. He stated his wish to continue with the projects on the basis set out in the report, subject to the additional funding being available.

4. RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services, to award two building contracts to undertake the New Ways of Working Programme at the Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne, and St Peter's House, Broadstairs, subject to the additional funding being available, and to delegate authority to the Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services, to finalise terms and enter into the necessary agreements, be endorsed.

Any alternatives considered:

As set out in the report

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

None

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signed

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date

21/7/2016