

By: Richard Parry - Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee  
Peter Sass -Head of Democratic Services

To: Scrutiny Committee – 21 September 2016

Subject: KCC's Consultation Protocol (response to consultations received) following KCC's response to planning application OL/TH/16/0550 (Stone Hill Park – Manston)

Status: Unrestricted

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Summary: Following a letter sent from KCC to Thanet District Council formally responding to a planning application for the redevelopment of the former Manston Airport site (Appendix 1) Members have requested that formal arrangements for responding to consultations be discussed, with particular reference to the proposed revisions to KCC's Consultation Protocol, to ensure that it reflects the requirement for Local Members to be kept informed of issues affecting their area.

Attached at Appendix 2 is the draft Consultation Protocol for KCC, discussed at Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee on 8 September, which sets out proposals on how Officers and Members should deal with the drafting and submission of responses to consultation received from other bodies. The formal decision to determine the protocol has been postponed to allow the Scrutiny Committee to make recommendations on the content of the Protocol.

Recommendation:

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations on the Consultation Protocol as set out at Appendix 2 prior to its approval by Cabinet.

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## **1. Introduction**

- (1) On 30 August a letter was sent (Appendix 1) from KCC to Thanet District Council formally responding to the hybrid planning application received for the comprehensive redevelopment of the former Manston Airport site.
- (2) On 8 September the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee received a report on KCC's Consultation Protocol (response to consultations received), prior to it being submitted to Cabinet for approval (Appendix 2). The Scrutiny Committee Chairman requested that, in view of the letter sent on 30 August, the Scrutiny Committee also be given opportunity to contribute to this protocol.

- (3) On 12 September a meeting was held with the Chairman and Spokespersons and the Cabinet Member and Corporate Director to discuss the response sent regarding the planning application, without relevant local member involvement as required by paragraph 13.1 of Appendix 6 Part 3 of the Constitution. As a result of this meeting Members agreed to place an item on the Scrutiny Committee agenda to provide an opportunity for Members to consider and comment on the Consultation Protocol with a specific emphasis on Local Member engagement.

## **2. Witnesses**

- (1) The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, Mr Balfour and Corporate Director, Growth, Environment and Transport, Mrs Cooper will be present to answer Members' queries on the response sent by KCC to Thanet District Council on planning application OL/TH/16/0550 (Stone Hill Park – Manston).
- (2) KCC's interim General Counsel, Ben Watts and Democratic Services Manager (Executive), Lou Whitaker, will be present to answer Members' queries on the Consultation Protocol and Local Member involvement.

## **3. Attached Documents**

- (1) KCC's response to Thanet District Council on planning application ref: OL/TH/16/0550 Stone Hill Park – Former Manston Airport Site, Manston Road, Ramsgate – Appendix 1
- (2) Consultation Protocol (Responses to consultations received) – Appendix 2

## **4. Recommendation, that:**

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations on the Consultation Protocol as set out at Appendix 2.

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Background information – discussion had at Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee 8 September 2016  
[http://kent.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/234351](http://kent.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/234351)