

## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY**

**Leader of the Council**

**DECISION NO:**

16/00118

**For publication**

**Key decision** – No: the amount is less than £1m.

**Subject: Visitor Economy Services contract**

**Decision:** As Leader of the Council, I agree to extend the contract for the delivery of visitor economy services to Visit Kent for the period April 2017 to March 2018; and a possible further extension to be decided next year.

**Governance:** 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 thereunder), provides the governance pathway for the implementation of this decision by officers, as it assumes at 1.9 of the scheme that once a Member-level decision has been taken, the implementation of that decision will normally be delegated to officers, so that multiple Member decisions are not required in respect of the same matter. In this instance, the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport will be the lead officer seeking to ensure that all such steps as are necessary to implement the decision are undertaken.

**Reason(s) for decision:** The current contract with Visit Kent has the option to extend for up to 36 months subject to satisfactory performance during the initial three years of the contract for the period April 2014 to March 2017.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

The proposed decision will be considered by the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee at its meeting on 19 January and its comments will be taken into account when the decision is being taken

**Any alternatives considered:** Three options were considered for extending the current contract with Visit Kent:

1. Not to extend the contract with Visit Kent. This would achieve a significant cost saving for the County Council although at considerable cost to the visitor economy in Kent.
2. To extend the contract by three years. However, current budgetary pressures and uncertainty rule this out.
3. To extend the contract by 12 months at a cost of £280,000 in 2017-18, plus a further contribution worth £130,000 to provide support for externally funded projects undertaken by Visit Kent and staffing.

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:** The Cabinet Member for Economic Development is a board member of Visit Kent.

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signed

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date

Name: