

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Leader of the Council

DECISION NO:

17/00009

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 visitor economy services contract with Visit Kent for a further twelve months to March 2018, plus a further contribution worth £130,000 to provide for externally funded projects and staffing in 2017-18, as set out in Option 3 below.

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 was considered and endorsed by Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee at its meeting on 19 January 2017.

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 (**Preferred option**).

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

18/2/2017

Name: