

By: Paul Carter, Leader of the County Council  
Peter Gilroy, Chief Executive

To: County Council – 19 June 2008

Subject: KCC Annual Plan 2008/09

Classification: Unrestricted

---

## **Summary:**

This report attaches the final draft of the KCC Annual Plan 2008/09 for approval.

FOR DECISION

---

## **1. Introduction**

The Local Government Act 1999 introduced the statutory requirement for authorities to produce a Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP). The contents are strictly prescribed. Kent's BVPP is known as the KCC Annual Plan. The statutory deadline for publication is 30 June. This will be the last year that authorities will be required to prepare a BVPP.

The principal audiences are KCC's staff and Members as well as partners, groups and organisations with an interest in our activities. It is nevertheless a public document and potentially an important means of communicating with local people directly.

The Constitution states that the Leader shall submit a draft Annual Plan to County Council. This meeting of the Council to approve the plan has been arranged to allow Members to see as near final a draft as possible.

## **2. Purpose of the KCC Annual Plan**

The KCC Annual Plan goes further than the statutory minimum BVPP content requirements. It brings existing KCC planning processes together in one document and is an important mechanism for incorporating elements of Towards 2010, The Kent Agreement, Supporting Independence Programme, Vision for Kent and other Directorate priorities, for example.

It acts as a bridge between KCC's strategic objectives and corporate priorities and its service and financial plans, and avoids duplicating large amounts of detailed information contained elsewhere. It reports upon progress made against many priorities for the previous financial year as well as setting new targets for the current year and beyond. Much of the information included is therefore taken from existing Member approved information sources.

The KCC Annual Plan is also a central part of the Authority's performance management processes bringing together performance information and comparing KCC with other authorities.

The Annual Plan follows the Towards 2010 format with Directorate and Portfolio information being allocated under Towards 2010 headings.

### **3 Completion of the Plan**

This year the Annual Plan will be published on CD. The CD will also include the Vision for Kent, Towards 2010, The Kent Agreement and the Supporting Independence documents to enable easy reference. A published hard copy of the Annual Plan will also be available on request.

The final published version will be in colour and will contain relevant illustrations.

### **4. Approval and publication**

Cabinet will consider the KCC Annual Plan on 16 June 2008 and its views will be reported orally at this meeting. There will also be an oral report on the view of the Governance and Audit Committee Group of Members who met on 4 June to consider the Plan's compliance with statutory requirements.

For the last four years the draft Annual Plan has been presented to Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee (POCC) to enable Members to make any comments they think are appropriate prior to its approval at County Council.

This year the process has been amended and instead the draft Annual Plan was submitted to each Policy Overview Committee (POC). This enabled each committee to focus specifically on areas which are the responsibility of their committee in relation to the policy objectives and performance targets set.

Following approval, copies will be sent to all Members of the County Council, the Authority's principal partners and relevant voluntary organisations, senior KCC managers and our external auditors, amongst others. The Plan will also be available on KCC's web-site before the end of June 2008. This will be a web-based version to enable better access to the public and other interested parties. A copy will also be available on KNET to allow access to all our staff.

### **5. External Audit**

The requirement for such Plans to be externally audited currently remains. KCC's previous external auditor's reports on the last eight years Plans have been unqualified with no statutory recommendations in the last seven years.

An early draft of the Plan will be made available to our new appointed external auditors, the Audit Commission, in order to ensure KCC meets the statutory requirements prior to publication.

### **6. Recommendations**

County Council is asked to APPROVE the KCC Annual Plan 2008/09.

*Contact officer:-*

*Janice Hill, Performance Management Group, Corporate Services, Ext. 1981*