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**To:** Cabinet, 12 October 2009

**Subject:** Regeneration Framework

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:**

This paper summarises the outcomes of consultation on the first draft of *Unlocking Kent's Potential*, KCC's Regeneration Framework and seeks Cabinet approval of the final draft.

It also explains how the Regeneration Framework will be taken forward, sets out the role of the Regeneration Board as an advisory body to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and seeks Cabinet approval of the Regeneration Board's terms of reference.

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**1. Introduction**

1.1. *Unlocking Kent's Potential*, KCC's Regeneration Framework, was published as a consultation draft in January 2009. The draft Framework took a long term view of the county's regeneration needs and recognised that regeneration is a cross-directorate priority, impacted by (for example) skills provision, transport infrastructure and housing conditions as well as economic growth. It also proposed the development of a series of more detailed strategies, the preparation of which is now under way.

**2. Regeneration Framework consultation and final draft**

2.1. Open consultation on the draft Framework closed on 30 April. At the close of the consultation period, we had received 46 written responses from external partners. In addition, consultation meetings were carried out with each of the district councils and the draft Framework has also been presented to the Kent Partnership.

2.2. The written responses received break down as follows:

Kent districts and Medway Council:	12
LSPs/ partnership bodies:	10
MPs:	2
Private sector:	3
Voluntary and community sector:	5
Public agencies:	11
Higher education institutions:	1
Individuals:	2

- 2.3. Responses to the draft Framework have been generally positive. However, there were some consistent messages that emerged from the consultation which have been taken into account. In particular, these focused on the need for:
- Increased weight on post-19 learning (especially workforce skills);
  - Greater reference to the role of the voluntary sector;
  - Expanded analysis of the policy landscape and the opportunities and challenges facing the county;
  - Recognition of the challenge of climate change as a cross-cutting issue throughout the document.
- 2.4. Following analysis of the consultation responses and consideration at the Regeneration Board (see below), a final draft has been prepared and is attached with this report.

### **3. Taking the Regeneration Framework forward**

- 3.1. In taking the Regeneration Framework forward, there are three key strands of work. Firstly, our ability to deliver the ambitions set out within the Framework will depend on KCC's ability to work effectively with our partner organisations. We have sought to engage our partners – especially colleagues in the Kent districts – through the preparation of the Framework, and we intend to cement this by seeking the endorsement of Kent Partnership to the final document following Cabinet approval.
- 3.2. Secondly, work is now well underway in taking forward the more detailed strategies highlighted in the Framework, including (among others) the Integrated Housing Strategy, Integrated Transport Strategy, Sectors Strategy, Cultural Strategy, Kent Environment Strategy and the Strategy for Later Life. The outcomes of these, with the general direction set out in the Regeneration Framework, will help to inform KCC's priorities for the period to 2014 and set out in detail the actions that the County Council and its partners will take to deliver the aims of the Framework.
- 3.3. Thirdly, to oversee the development of the strategies emerging from the Regeneration Framework and to act as a forum for the discussion of cross-directorate regeneration issues, a Regeneration Board has been established. This consists of a number of Cabinet Members and senior officers and is an advisory group to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration. The work of the Regeneration Board will be reported back to Cabinet by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration on a regular basis.

## **4. Recommendations**

### **4.1. Cabinet is asked to:**

- a) NOTE the consultation process carried out in relation to the draft Regeneration Framework;
- b) APPROVE the final draft Regeneration Framework attached
- c) NOTE the establishment of the Regeneration Board as an advisory body to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration

## **Annexes**

*Unlocking Kent's Potential*, KCC's Framework for Regeneration (Final draft)

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