

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – Proposed RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Leader of the Council

DECISION NO:

17/0009b

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 at its present level for a further 24 months to March 2020 - £280,000 per annum plus £30,000 per annum to provide staffing support for the development of externally funded projects, as set out in Option 2 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, to March 2020, subject to satisfactory performance during the initial three years of the contract for the period April 2014 to March 2017. A 12 month contract extension for 2017-18 was awarded to Visit Kent in February 2017 (Decision 17/0009).

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 7 March 2018.

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

1. To extend the contract by 12 months at a cost of £280,000 in 2018-19, plus £30,000 per annum to provide for staffing to support the development of externally funded projects.
2. To extend the contract by 24 months at a cost of £280,000 per annum, plus £30,000 per annum to provide for staffing to support the development of externally funded projects. This would provide some certainty to Visit Kent for planning future visitor economy services **(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.

signed

date

Name: