

From: Mike Hill, Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services  
Barbara Cooper, Corporate Director, Growth Environment and Transport

To: Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee - 9 May 2018

Subject: Kent Social Enterprise Fund (formerly Kent Big Society Fund):  
Report to Kent County Council

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: The performance report is presented to Cabinet Committee under the agreed governance arrangements for the Fund.

Future Pathway of Paper: N/A

Electoral Division: All divisions

**Summary:** Kent County Council has received the attached report from Kent Community Foundation (KCF) on the Kent Social Enterprise Fund (formerly Kent Big Society Fund). The report contains performance information on the Fund over the lifetime of the Fund (2012/2017). The report is provided to Kent County Council as part of the agreed governance arrangements of the Fund. It is for information only.

**Recommendation:**  
The Cabinet Committee is asked to note KCF's report.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Kent Big Society Fund was set up under the Bold Steps for Kent framework as part of KCC's commitment to support growth in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors in Kent and to create employment opportunities for those disadvantaged in the labour market. The Fund offers loan and grant packages to new and emerging social enterprises.
- 1.2 The Fund was established in January 2012 by a £3 million donation from Kent County Council (KCC) to Kent Community Foundation (KCF). The Key Decision (11/01755) was taken by the Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities on 16 December 2011. There is no on-going financial contribution from KCC to KCF. KCF's network of donors has provided funding of £213,000 and £507,543 has recently been secured as a grant from the Big Lottery Growth Fund.
- 1.3 Decisions as to whom should be supported are made by a Fund Investment Panel, chaired by KCF with representation from KCC members and KCF trustees.

## **2. Performance of the Fund**

2.1 KCF's report (Appendix A) demonstrates the Fund is performing well and is meeting the original aims in terms of jobs and growth:

- 400 jobs directly created or safeguarded, with £3,773 being the cost per job.
- Creation of 100 volunteer positions.
- Bad Debt is currently £210,271.76 (14% of facilities drawn). The original bad debt was expected to be 20%.

## **3. Conclusions**

3.1 The report from KCF demonstrates that the Fund is performing well and meeting the original aims in terms of jobs and growth.

3.2 The Cabinet Committee may like to invite KCF to make a presentation at a future meeting and provide some case studies on the enterprises that its fund has supported.

## **4. Recommendation:**

4.1 The Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee is asked to note KCF's report.

## **5. Appendices:**

Appendix A – Kent Big Society Fund Review 2012 - 2017

## **6. Contact details**

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