

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BETAKEN BY:

Mike Hill, Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services

DECISION NO:

18/00040

For publication

Key decision: NO

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

Sandwich Open Golf: Capital Infrastructure Works – Sandwich Railway Station

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory and Services, I agree to:

£243, 220 of KCC capital budget being provided to meet the final 28% of contingency, if called upon, to successfully deliver the Sandwich Open Golf: Capital Infrastructure Works – Sandwich Railway Station

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 Head of Countryside, Leisure and Sport 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 Open is a prestigious sporting event that independent research demonstrates brings significant economic benefits to the area in which the event is held, due to the global profile it provides for the area and the resulting interest from international business and spectators.

The last time Kent hosted The Open in 2011, it generated a £77m benefit to the Kent economy, of which £24.14m was direct additional spend. The event is forecast to grow from 180,000 spectators in 2011 to at least 200,000 spectators in 2020, and will be able to accommodate an even higher number of visitors in future years beyond 2020 owing to the layout of the course. That economic impact is therefore forecast to grow. In 2020, the economic impact is forecast to be in excess of £85m, of which at least £26.8m is forecast to be direct additional spend.

DDC is the lead local authority for The Open. KCC is operating in support of DDC on this project, other than in regards to establishing and overseeing the transport plan for the event, including the required infrastructure for Sandwich Railway Station, for which KCC is the lead authority.

The business case for the investment into the Railway Station has been tested by the SE LEP's

Independent Technical Evaluators, and was agreed by the SE LEP Accountability Board on 17/11/17. The recommendation from the I.T.E. was that the Project achieves high value for money, and that the economic appraisal indicates a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of 3.92:1, (anything above 2:1 is considered a justifiable investment).

The Open primarily meets two of the strategic outcomes described in Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes; 'All Kent's communities benefit from economic growth and lower levels of deprivation'; and 'Kent residents enjoy a good quality of life, and more people benefit from greater social, cultural and sporting opportunities'.

Permanent infrastructure at Sandwich Railway Station has been identified as providing best value for money. Other funding partners for the selected infrastructure are the South East Local Economic Partnership, The R&A (the national governing body which owns the rights to the British Open Championship), Network Rail, the Department for Transport, and five East Kent districts.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Growth, Economic Development and Communities will receive this item on 3rd July 2018

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Five options for the station were shortlisted for value engineering. The selected option is affordable, secured maximum external investment, provides the highest level of customer experience of the five options, and was the only option to future proof the Station to handle an Open with growing spectator numbers Championship on Championship.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None

Signed

Dated: