

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Mike Hill

Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services

DECISION NO:

20/00051

For publication

Key decision*

Yes –

Subject: Kent Community Warden Service – Enhance and Expand – Implementation

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services, I agree to enhance and expand the Kent Community Warden Service

Reason(s) for decision:

The Kent Community Warden Service (KCWS) has, since 2002, become a recognised and highly valued service to Kent's communities, helping to create stronger and safer communities – its overarching purpose. The service forms a key part of the County Council's response to its statutory responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) delivering a frontline response to local issues in partnership with the other statutory responsible authorities.

Whilst retaining its broad remit, the KCWS has adapted and evolved over the years to effectively build upon the original aims as it responds to local issues including preventing crime and scams, supporting vulnerable residents, tackling social isolation and leading community development activities. The result has been that requests for assistance from various KCC departments, partnership agencies, external organisations and charities as well as public demand has been on the rise. Given the current climate and of course the current COVID-19 pandemic, the demands and need for the service have never been greater.

Enhancement is required to ensure the service is fit for purpose and supported through improvements to efficiency and effectiveness. Expansion is required to meet the existing high demand, which is expected to continue increasing, not just in terms of the progressively complex criminal and societal problems but also as the 65+ population increases by an estimated 24.9% over the next 10 years.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

There has been no public consultation on the specific details of the activities to expand and enhance the service, but the principles for an expanded service formed part of the new 5-Year Strategy which was subject to a public consultation which closed 17th February 2020. The [consultation feedback](#) was supportive of the planned investment in the warden service (pages 23/24), and the [5 year plan](#) (though no longer to be published) was planning to confirm the commitment to invest in the KCWS to enable enhancement and expansion (page 8 and 44).

Cabinet Committee Members were engaged informally via email in advance of the proposed decision being published and all comments received were duly considered by the Cabinet Member as part of their decision-making.

Any alternatives considered:

1. Maintain status quo and current service as is. (Not recommended - as does not address the

increasing demand on the service, the recruitment and retention issues or fit with SDP 2020-23.)

2. Increase frontline warden numbers only. (Not recommended - as expansion would fail to address issues of recruitment and retention, warden job roles and appropriate supervision).

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

None

Mike Hill
Signed

09/06/2020
Dated