

By: Anna Taylor – Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Scrutiny Committee – 7 July 2021

Subject: Call-in of Decision 21/00044 – Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme

Background

1. In March 2021 Cabinet approved the creation of the Reconnect Programme (Decision 21/00035). In accordance with the decision of Cabinet in March 2021 a further key decision was needed to confirm the scope, objectives, outcomes and funding of the Reconnect Programme, together with confirmation of the governance and delegation arrangements. This key decision - 21/00044 – Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme was taken by Cabinet on 24 June 2021 (decision paperwork attached at Appendix).
2. Following the decision being taken, the call-in request was submitted by Dr Sullivan, supported by Mr Hook and Mr Stepto, thus meeting the requirements for any call-in to be supported by a minimum of two Members (including the Member submitting the call-in) from different political Groups.
3. The reasons of the call-in were duly considered by the Scrutiny Officer and determined to be valid under the call-in arrangements set out in the Constitution.

KCC Constitution – section 17.72

Members can call-in a decision for one or more of the following reasons:

- (a) The decision is not in line with the Council's Policy Framework,
- (b) The decision is not in accordance with the Council's Budget,
- (c) The decision was not taken in accordance with the principles of decision making set out in 8.5, and/or
- (d) The decision was not taken in accordance with the arrangements set out in Section 12.

4. The detailed reasons given by Dr Sullivan under the call-in criteria (listed above) are set out below.

4.1 In particular to section 17.72 (C) which refers to the principles of decision making. Of this section 8.5 a, d, e and f.

4.2 (8.5) All decisions of full Council or made on behalf of full Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:

(a) Action proportionate to the desired outcome. This is £10 million additional monies, it is not clear how the intended outcomes will be measurable, how the outcomes will be delivered.

(d) A presumption in favour of openness. This is £10 million additional monies, due to the lack of clarity and outcomes being expressly clear how they will be delivered with lack of meaningful milestones to measure the intended success of this scheme.

(e) Clarity of aims and desired outcomes. There is lack of clarity of the objectives as to how these aims will be achieved by who, by when, and where to deliver the aims.

(f) Explanation of the options considered and giving reasons for decisions. Lack of other options presented.

4.3 In addition to this, given the Reconnect programme is out with the agreed budget agreed at Full Council in February this year, the change and spend need to be fully explored and is met under the section 17.72 (b) of the Constitution.

Process

5. The Cabinet Members and relevant Officers will be attending the Scrutiny Committee meeting to present their response to the call-in, no additional written report has been requested due to the short length of time between the approval of the call-in and the Scrutiny Committee meeting date.
6. The Scrutiny Committee should consider the reasons set out by the Members calling-in the decision and the response from the Executive, giving due attention to the information made available during questioning and discussion on this item.

Options for the Scrutiny Committee

7. The Scrutiny Committee may:
 - a) make no comments
 - b) express comments but not require reconsideration of the decision
 - c) require implementation of the decision to be postponed pending reconsideration of the matter by the decision-maker in light of the Committee's comments; or
 - d) require implementation of the decision to be postponed pending review or scrutiny of the matter by the full Council.

Appendix

**Decision 21/00044 – Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme
Record of Decision**

Background Documents

Decision 21/00035 - Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme

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