

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

## DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

## DECISION NO:

22/00062

For publication

Key decision: YES

Title of Decision: People's Voice Activity (including Healthwatch Kent)

**Decision:** As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I propose to:

- a) **AWARD** the contract, to the successful bidder identified as part of the procurement process and as detailed in exempt Appendix 1, for the provision of People's Voice Activity (Including Healthwatch Kent) for a maximum of five years (initial three-year contract with options for two one-year extensions);
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and the Corporate Director for Finance, to agree the relevant contract extensions as required; and
- c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health to take other relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of and entering into required contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

**Reason(s) for decision:** Kent County Council has a statutory duty to commission a local Healthwatch organisation to carry out the eight statutory activities laid out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The current contract expires automatically on 30 September 2022. Following a successful procurement process a preferred provider has been identified. The new People's Voice Activity (Including Healthwatch Kent) Contract will be for a maximum of five years (initial three-year contract with options for two one-year extensions) and will commence on 1 October 2022.

The People's Voice Activity (Including Healthwatch Kent) Contract is a collaboration with Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group to support a joined-up approach for seeking views from people across the county.

**Financial Implications:** The total budget of the People's Voice Activity (including Healthwatch Kent) Contract is made up from various sources:

Government grant (covers the Healthwatch element): £363,000

Adult Social Care: £311,130

Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group: £78,129

Total contract value: £752,259 per annum

The lifetime value of the contract (including provision for the two one-year extensions) is £3,761,295

A budget saving to the Adult Social Care contribution has been applied, equivalent to 10% of the previous year's contributions.

**Legal Implications** The Strategic Commissioning Division used the standard Care Services Terms and Conditions of contract. There will need to be resource allocated at the end point of the contract award for contracts to be signed and sealed. The new contracts will be taken forward in a way which ensures the Council's statutory responsibilities are discharged accordingly.

The provision of Healthwatch Kent is a statutory responsibility of the Council.

**Equalities implications:** An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the tender process and has been updated when changes have occurred and have been fully considered. All the significant changes will be approached in a manner that respect and adhere to the Council's equalities responsibilities.

**Data Protection implications:** Data Protection Impact Assessment is not required.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:** Market and stakeholder engagement was undertaken in 2021 to gather views to shape the new service specification and contract before a formal procurement process commenced in March 2022.

The proposed decision will be discussed at the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee on 13 July 2022 and the outcome included in the paperwork which the Cabinet Member will be asked to sign.

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

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

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signed

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date