

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Peter Oakford, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services

DECISION NO:

24/00100

For publication

Key decision: YES

Key decision criteria. The decision will:

- a) *result in savings or expenditure which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function (currently defined by the Council as in excess of £1,000,000).*

Subject Matter: Property Accommodation Strategy – Strategic Headquarters (SHQ)

Decision:

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services to:

- 1) **AGREE** to continue to the disposal of Sessions House in its entirety (Blocks A-E);
- 2) **ALLOCATE** £20m as identified in the Council's 2023-33 Capital Programme Budget, approved by County Council on 9 February 2023 to deliver the proposed works, inclusive of costs incurred to date (£1.65m) as part of the SHQ Programme for Invicta House to accommodate the new Strategic Headquarters (SHQ) arrangement, followed by the award of a construction works contract as necessary to deliver the scheme and any required decant within the agreed budget limits;
- 3) **NOTE** that the provision of a dedicated Council Chamber in Invicta House is additional to the scope of the previous decision and will require additional capital funding to be allocated through the Budget setting process;
- 4) **AGREE** to progress with the inclusion of a new Council Chamber located in Invicta House within the approved SHQ plan, subject to completion of detailed design development at RIBA Stage 4 and appropriate capital funding allocation through the Budget setting process.
- 5) **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Infrastructure, subject to the above progression requirements being met and in consultation with the Leader, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services, s151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer, to approve required works and to negotiate, finalise and award relevant contracts in relation to the dedicated Council Chamber; and
- 6) **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services, Corporate Director of Finance, and General Counsel, to authorise the execution of necessary contractual and land agreements and enter into other contracts or legal agreements as required to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council's (KCC's) Strategic Headquarters requires significant investment to address building condition issues and deliver accommodation which is fit for purpose. This decision supports the Council's considerations in making best use of its resources and estate whilst remaining options are assessed and enables the urgent maintenance works required in Invicta House to progress.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Reports were taken to the following Committees:
Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, 11 September 2020
Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, 6 November 2020
Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, 13 July 2021
Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, 24 March 2022
Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, 23 November 2022
Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, 26 July 2023
Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, 27 November 2024

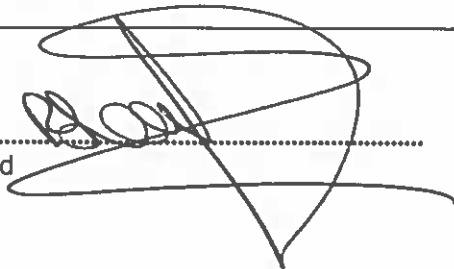
The proposed decision was considered by the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee on 27 November, 2024, where the proposed decision was endorsed.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

A number of alternatives were considered which are set out in the Policy Resources committee reports from July 2023 and November 2024.

Doing nothing does not deliver against KCC's MTFP objectives or enable a more efficient use of resources in line with the way that staff are currently working. The preferred option continues to deliver within KCC objectives and financial assumptions.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None.

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signed

20-12-24
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date