

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY: Mr G Gibbens

DECISION NO. 08/01251

If decision is likely to disclose exempt information please specify the relevant paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 – N/A

Subject:

Outcome of formal consultation on variation of service use of Branches Out and Yeoman's Grounds Maintenance, Dartford

Decision:

To approve a two-phased approach to securing an appropriate organisation, to develop both Branches Out and Yeoman's Grounds Maintenance in to a viable, self sustaining, social enterprise. The first phase to utilise the inclusive Tender Process to identify an experienced organisation. The second phase to approve the choice of organisation as recommended by the Project Board.

Any Interest Declared when the Decision was Taken:

None

Reason(s) for decision, including alternatives considered and any additional information

A brief recent history of the two projects was highlighted within the Managing Director's Report. Each project offers 12 commissioned places for people with learning disabilities across Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley. During 2007 a feasibility study was carried out which identified that the services should be combined although not joined together (Yeoman's currently operating out of a temporary building at North West Kent College and Branches Out on KCC land in Dartford) and supported to become a Social Enterprise. It is expected that the proposals will be carried out within the existing revenue budget. Details of the five point vision on how this would improve the quality of services are noted within the Report.

Details of the formal consultation process (May – July 2008) are as set out in the Report, along with the outcome of the consultation, which also highlights the issues of concern raised in the consultation and the responses thereto and the conclusions drawn from the exercise.

The Inclusive Tender Process was set out (running through from Tender Specification to Recommendation & Decision) noting the Dartford District Partnership Group would be taking the lead, supported by sub groups of the Branches Out and Yeoman's Project Board and a Social Enterprise expert. This inclusion will ensure all stakeholders are fully on board with the decision making process. Following the decision as to which will be the successful organisation it is expected there will be a one month transition period during which time Kent Adult Social Services will support the move towards a Social Enterprise before withdrawing.

Background Information:

Report by the Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services: Outcome of formal consultation on variation of service use of Branches Out and Yeoman's Ground Maintenance, Dartford.

Graham Gibbens

signed

5 January 2009

date

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Decision Referred to Cabinet Scrutiny			
YES		NO	

Cabinet Scrutiny Decision to Refer Back for Reconsideration			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration Record Sheet Issued			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration of Decision Published	