


Forward Plan of Key/Cabinet Member Decisions

Submissions from Growth, Environment & Transport

Full Cabinet

Key Decision Entry	Signed Approval	Comments
To sign off Ashford District Deal	Sign:  Print: BARBARA COOPER Date: 24/9/15.	

FORTHCOMING EXECUTIVE DECISIONS LIST SUBMISSION

Reference: Democratic Services to fill	Key? Reason?
Title	
<p>Proposed decision:</p> <p>To sign the proposed District Deal with Ashford Borough Council</p>	
Decision details	
<p>Decision taker: Full Cabinet Expected date: October 2015</p>	
Further information	
<p>Include details of the proposed decision including but not necessarily exclusively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. As presented to the Growth Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee (GEDCCC) in September 2014, District Deals are a concept proposed to promote further improved working between the County and districts within Kent. The proposed Deals will be agreements between Kent County Council and each of the twelve Kent Districts, with the aim of improving service delivery and reducing costs through a clearer approach to joint working. 1.2. District Deals will provide the opportunity for the Districts and the County to achieve potentially exciting results by using the two-tier system as an advantage. The scope for Deals could be quite broad, taking in anything from shared regeneration objectives, to new approaches to collaborative working in social care and public health services. 1.3. Each deal will be tailored to the priorities of the local district. In some cases, as in the Ashford pilot District Deal (see below), there is likely to be a strong interest in the economic development agenda, and an opportunity with District Deals to identify clear, shared regeneration objectives and a shared approach to more effectively and efficiently achieving these objectives. 1.4. Where there is an appetite for improved working in agendas beyond regeneration, the Deals would provide an opportunity for further joined up engagement with our communities (e.g. the troubled families programme), using existing local networks (public and third sector) to better coordinate services and support to customers within the districts, including the most hard to reach. Through this improved local engagement, the Deals offer a platform for a strengthened prevention agenda, thereby contributing to overall reduction in demand and thus savings to the public purse. 1.5. In this way, the Deal offers an opportunity for potential efficiencies and savings against a backdrop of increasingly challenging budget conditions for both tiers of Government. Achieving these savings whilst maintaining and potentially improving the quality of service for our shared customers – i.e. the residents and businesses of Kent – will require fundamentally new ways of working. Whilst the savings ultimately may be modest compared with the financial challenges faced by KCC's large volume services, the District Deals offer an opportunity to start to explore more fundamental changes. 1.6. Critically, the District Deal approach reflects the Government's continued pursuit of joint working and devolution across the public sector. In this way, District Deals have the potential to provide a strong model for joint working across the local government "family" in Kent, at a time when 	

Have views been sought from local members? If not please confirm that they will be sought and included in any report to Cabinet Committee / Cabinet Member.

Following consultation with Cabinet Committees, it has been agreed that Local Members will be included in the Deal governance, details to be confirmed following signing of the Deal.

Exemptions

Is it expected that the Press and Public will be excluded for all or part of the discussion of the decision or that all or part of the decision documents will be exempt from publication? What is likely to be the reason for this exemption? No

Supporting documents

Please list, and link or attach, any documents that the decision taker is likely to rely on in taking the decision

For further information or to make representations

Lead officer: Katie Stewart

Name and Job title

Director, EPE

Phone number 03000 418827

E-mail katie.stewart@kent.gov.uk

Lead Director: Barbara Cooper

Name and Job title

Corporate Director, GET

Phone number

E-mail barbara.cooper@kent.gov.uk