

# Covering Report

## Business Case - Single East Kent Council

Cabinet	9 March 2017
Report Author:	Madeline Homer, Chief Executive
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Chris Wells Leader of the Council
Status:	For Recommendation
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Wards:	All

### Executive Summary:

This is a covering report regarding the independent business case for establishing a new single district council in East Kent which was considered by Cabinet on 16 February 2017 and Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the 2 March 2017.

### Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is recommended to make its final recommendations to council having taken into account the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

### CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

<b>Financial and Value for Money</b>	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report other than those highlighted in the Cabinet report attached.
<b>Legal</b>	There are no legal implications arising directly from this report other than those highlighted in the Cabinet report attached.
<b>Corporate</b>	There are no corporate implications arising directly from this report other than those highlighted in the Cabinet report attached.
<b>Equalities Act 2010 &amp; Public Sector Equality Duty</b>	There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report other than those highlighted in the Cabinet report attached.

### Original Cabinet Recommendations of the 16 February 2017

Recommended that Council resolve:

1. That having considered the business case it becomes the policy of this Council to explore further the abolition of the local government district areas of Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet and the constitution of a new local government district area of East Kent comprising the areas of those districts.

2. That the unspent balance of the £20,000 previously agreed by the Council to fund the preparation of the business case be made available to fund a consultation and public engagement exercise
3. That the Cabinet be requested to ensure an appropriate consultation and public engagement exercise is undertaken to ascertain views on the proposal set out in 1 above.
4. That a further report be submitted to the Council prior to the making of any submission to the Secretary of state.

For completeness the Cabinet decisions are set out below:

1. Request that Canterbury City Council undertake a public and stakeholder consultation and engagement exercise to ascertain views on the proposal set out in 1 above that can be taken into account by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in deciding to make regulations under the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016.
2. Agree that the Council will contribute to Canterbury City Council one quarter of the cost of undertaking the consultation referred to in 2 above.
3. That the Leader be requested, to establish the proposed governance structure for the project, as set out in Section 5 (Management Case) in the business case.

#### **Recommendations from the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

*This will be available at the Cabinet meeting.*

#### **Decision Making Process**

This is a covering report to present the independent business case for establishing a new single district council in East Kent which was considered by Cabinet on 16 February 2017 and the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the 2 March 2017.

Contact Officer:	Madeline Homer, Chief Executive
------------------	---------------------------------

#### **Annex List**

Annex 1	Cabinet Report of 16 February 2017
Annex 2	Full Four Way Business Case <a href="https://www.thanet.gov.uk/media/3689570/A-business-case-for-the-potential-creation-of-a-single-new-council-from-.pdf">https://www.thanet.gov.uk/media/3689570/A-business-case-for-the-potential-creation-of-a-single-new-council-from-.pdf</a>
Annex 3	Four Way Equalities Impact Assessment