

Ref:

Called in

Yes/No

THE THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION OF CABINET

Name of Cabinet Member:

Relevant Portfolio:

Date of Decision:

Subject:

Key Decision In Forward Plan

Brief summary of matter:

Formal consideration of the independent business case for establishing a new single district council in East Kent.

Decision made:

Cabinet 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.*

Items 1 to 4 above are for contextual information only.

Thereafter Cabinet agreed the following:

1. To 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. 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.

Reasons for decision:

Creating a single new council is a logical next step that is in line with the direction of central government and would provide a stable and sustainable long-term solution for the locality. Offering economies of scale, greater resilience and the capacity and capability to further enhance and improve the value for money and quality of the services delivered.

Alternatives considered and why rejected:

Continue with the current status quo.

Alongside the rest of local government, the East Kent districts are under considerable financial pressure. In response, all have reduced staff numbers which has inevitably led to loss of both capacity and capability, with some areas affected more than others (in order to preserve front-line services as far as possible). For this reason to maintain the status quo is not a preferred option.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by any executive Member who has been consulted and of any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee:

None

Author of Officer report:

Madeline Homer, Chief Executive

Background papers

Business Case, Single East Kent Council
Annex 1 Four Way Business Case - Final
Annex 2 Four Way Equality Impact Assessment EK Single District
ORS Engagement Proposal Summary additional information

Statement if decision is an urgent one and therefore not subject to call-in:

None

Last date for call in: 24 February 2017