

OSP CALL-IN OF KEY OFFICER DECISION – CLOSURE OF RAMSGATE DISTRICT OFFICE

Extraordinary
Overview & Scrutiny Panel **26 July 2017**

Report Author **Senior Democratic Services Officer**

Portfolio Holder **Councillor Townend, Cabinet Member for Financial Services & Estates**

Status **For Recommendation**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Key Decision **Yes**

Reasons for Key **Significant effect on communities**

Ward: **All of Ramsgate Wards**

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this covering report is to introduce a call-in regarding the key officer decision made relating to the 'Closure of Ramsgate District Office. This decision, which is attached as Annex 1 to the report, falls within the delegated authority of the Director of East Kent Services (Shared Services) and because it is a key decision, the Overview & Scrutiny Panel members can call it in.

Recommendation(s):

Members guidance is sought on following:

1. Whether the Panel wishes to forward some recommendations to the appropriate officer (Director of East Kent Services) or;
2. The Panel wishes to take no further action.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	There are no implications arising directly from this report. However there are financial implications as a result of the officer decision referred to in this report. There will be budget savings as a result of the closure which form part of a challenging savings target for EKS. Additionally, there has been investment in digital services that enable the reduction in face-to-face contact, helping to mitigate the impact on customers.
Legal	In exercising the right to call-in an executive decision the Panel ought to satisfy itself that some or all of the principles of decision making as reflected in Article 13 of the Council Constitution have not been adhered to. These include the following:

	<p>(a) the presumption in favour of openness and transparency;</p> <p>(b) the need for due consultation;</p> <p>(c) the need to take account of relevant professional advice from appropriate staff;</p> <p>(d) the need for clarity of aims and desired outcomes;</p> <p>(e) the need to identify the range of options considered;</p> <p>(f) the need to give reasons and explanation for a decision;</p> <p>(g) the need to ensure that all necessary requirements of legality and confidence are observed.</p>								
Corporate	There are no direct corporate risks associated with this report.								
Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	<p>Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</p> <p>Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There no equity and equalities issues arising directly from this report. However there may be equity and equalities implications arising directly from the decision attached as Annex 1 to the report.</p> <p>The Council needs to retain a strong focus and understanding on issues of diversity amongst the local community and ensure service delivery matches these.</p>	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.		Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,		Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it		Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	
Supporting neighbourhoods	

CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant)✓	
Delivering value for money	
Supporting the Workforce	
Promoting open communications	✓

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Director of East Kent Services made a decision on the Closure of Ramsgate District Office and it was published on Friday, 14 July 2017, giving Overview and Scrutiny Panel members five working days to call-in the decision if they deemed it necessary.

1.2 On 17 July, The Overview and Scrutiny Chairman requested that the officer decision be called-in and advised Democratic Services that six Panel members from across the political parties had made the request for a call-in.

2.0 Reasons for Call-in

2.1 The Panel Chairman cited the following reasons for call-in:

- (a): the presumption in favour of openness and transparency
- (b): the need for due consultation
- (e): the need to identify the range of options considered
- (f): the need to give reasons and explanation for a decision

3.0 Options

3.1 Members could choose one of the following options either:

1. Whether the Panel wishes to forward some recommendations to the appropriate officer (Director of East Kent Services) or;
2. The Panel wishes to take no further action.

4.0 Next Steps

4.1 If Members agree to take no further action, then the decision becomes implementable from the day of the Panel meeting.

4.2 If the Panel refers some recommendations to the Director of East Kent Services for consideration, then such recommendations will have to be taken into account when the officer makes a final decision on the matter.

Contact Officer:	Charles Hungwe, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Ext: 57186
Reporting to:	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager, Ext: 57208

Annex List

Annex 1	Closure of Ramsgate District Office Decision Notice
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Tim Willis, Director of Corporate Resources
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance