

## Item 7 - Swanley Local Office

The attached report was considered by the Policy & Performance Advisory Committee, relevant Minute extract below:

### Policy & Performance Advisory Committee - 1 March 2016 (Minute 37)

The Corporate Customer Services & Delivery Manager presented a report which sought Members approval for the District Council to seek to continue the partnership agreement which had existed for fourteen years between Sevenoaks District Council and Swanley Town Council for the operation of services through a local office in Swanley - 'Swanley Link.' The current agreement was due to expire on 31 March 2016, and approval was sought to renew the agreement to end on 31 March 2018.

In response to questions the Corporate Customer Services & Delivery Manager advised that the Council's branding was not currently visible and that clear and permanent branding would form part of the contract discussions. The previous two contracts had been 3 and 5 years long, it was felt a 2 year contract helped focus delivery and gave more negotiating ability and opportunity to revise standards. The benefits of the Allpay system were discussed.

### Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty. It was further noted that if the facility were removed there could be a detrimental impact to customers.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet to approve the renewal of the provision of a Local Office service for a further 2 years with Swanley Town Council based on the current terms and value.