

Decision Number: 14 (2016/17)

Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

The Local Authority (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

Subject: *Funding to recommission the District Council's partner rural housing enabler for 2017/18.*

Details of Decision:

To approve a sum of £3,500 from Section 106 Affordable Housing Planning contributions to commission the services of Action with Communities in Rural Kent for the next financial year (2017/18).

Reason for Decision:

In order to continue to take forward the District Council's affordable housing rural work programme and, in the process, deliver housing and wider related community strategy, robust evidence is required via rural housing needs surveys. This is essential to support any related planning applications for rural exceptions sites. Being specific methodology and one which is subject to a great deal of scrutiny, the District Council has, for several years, used the services of ACRK. The organisation is specialist in this field, has consistently provided a high-quality service, and has a very good track record in providing robust data across Kent.

All Documents considered:

Housing Strategy Action Plan; Community Plan.

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Member when making the Decision:

None

Financial implications

None to consider other than the requirement from S106 funding pot.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

Required as part of the planning process and the programme would be undeliverable without such evidence.



Equality Impacts (Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty)

The rural housing work programme ensures that the needs and special considerations of rural communities are routinely and objectively considered as part of the strategy development process. The programme aims to improve housing options for those unable to afford to purchase and/or rent on the open market and includes provisions such as the promotion of accessibility for all, which will contribute to tackling poverty, social exclusion and the regeneration of

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<i>disadvantaged neighbourhoods.</i>	
Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and/or Directors/Heads of Service Consulted Cllr Michelle Lowe, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health Cllr Robert Piper, Portfolio Holder for Planning	
Details of any conflicts of interest a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker None b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict N/A	
Decision taken by:	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health; and Portfolio Holder for Planning
Signed by Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health  Portfolio Holder for Planning 
Date of Decision	21 / 9 / 16
Record made by:	
Date of record:	

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