

Decision Number: 18(2013/14)

Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

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

The Decision:

To approve Sevenoaks District Council's response to Kent County Council's consultation on the future of Children's Centres' in the Sevenoaks District as appended.

Date the decision was made: 30 September 2013

Reason for Decision *(please set out in full)*

All Members were consulted and given full details of the proposals as they affect the Sevenoaks District. Details of the proposals were also taken to the Sevenoaks District Strategic Board on 11th September 2013, and to Members of the Health Liaison Board on 11th September 2013. Some individual responses were received from Members.

Partners were also consulted. This included the Local Strategic Partnership, the Sevenoaks District Local Children's Trust Board and the Sevenoaks District Health Action Team.

There are currently 7 Children's Centres in the District. The proposals within the consultation that will impact particularly on Children's Centres in the Sevenoaks District include closing Dunton Green Children's Centre and Merry-Go-Round (Westerham) and reducing the number of hours in West Kingsdown from 40 to 18 hours. There will also be additional pressure on Swanley, Sevenoaks and New Ash Green Centres due to an increase in the catchment areas.

The response from Sevenoaks District Council, incorporating the views of the Sevenoaks District Health Action Team is attached as Appendix 1 and will be submitted to Kent County Council by the closing date of 5th October 2013. It should be noted that concerns were noted about the closure of the Merry-Go-Round in Westerham by a representative for Westerham Town Council.

Westerham Town Council have expressed concerns to the District Council about the loss of services in Westerham. The full response from Westerham Town Council is included as Appendix 2 for your information.

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

None

Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and/or Directors/Heads of Service Consulted

All Members of Sevenoaks District Council
Dr Pav Ramewal – Chief Executive

Details of any conflicts of interest

a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker

b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict

Decision taken by:	Portfolio Holder for Economic and Community Development
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Signed by Portfolio Holder	
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Record made by:	Charlotte Shackleton
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Date of record:	3 October 2013
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