

<b>Cabinet Meeting</b>	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	06/12/2017
<b>Report Title</b>	Mid Kent Services (MKS) Board Appointment- options
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader.
<b>SMT Lead</b>	Stephen McGinnes
<b>Head of Service</b>	Stephen McGinnes
<b>Lead Officer</b>	William Tait
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Classification</b>	Open
<b>Forward Plan</b>	Reference number:
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The recommendation of the MKS Board to expand the board by one additional member drawn from each of the partnership authorities is agreed.</li> <li>2. The additional member on the MKS Board will be selected by the Leader of the Council.</li> <li>3. In the event that either the Leader or the additional member are unable to attend a meeting of the MKS Board, the Leader of the Council may nominate a substitute member to cover either the Leader's own position or that of the additional member.</li> </ol>

## 1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

1.1 This report is concerned with the recommendation from the Mid Kent Services (MKS) board to expand the board by one additional member from each of the partnership authorities. It further considers which mechanism Swale Borough Council will use to select the additional member for this board.

## 2 Background

2.1 At the MKS Board meeting on 22 September 2017 the Board made the recommendation to expand the MKS Board by one member per partnership authority.

2.2 The driving force behind this decision was concern over the continuity of political leadership and broadening the talent pool of the board within the partnership. The MKS board were particularly concerned with mitigating the effects of a changes in the leadership of a partner authority. The potential of increased member engagement

with MKS through the additional member was also considered as an advantage to increasing the membership.

2.3 The MKS Board identified that a positive, open and trust based relationship was key to the effective political leadership of MKS. As such it made sense to widen the inclusion of political leadership on the MKS Board from purely the Council Leaders to include an additional member from each authority.

2.4 It was felt by doubling the number of elected members from 3 to 6 not only would it reduce the vulnerability regarding continuity of leadership but it would bring into the MKS Board a greater pool of talent from which to draw ideas about the future of MKS. Another point made during this discussion was the growth in the number of shared services under the MKS since the original terms of governance set out the size of the Board and that this also contributed to justifying the increase in the size of the Board.

2.5 No specific mechanism of selecting the additional member was stipulated in the recommendation from the MKS Board (see Appendix 2).

2.6 Maidstone Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council have proposed to select their additional member using the Leader's choice as the mechanism.

### **3 Proposals**

3.1 After the decision, conditional on decisions at other authorities, if the recommendations are accepted the terms of reference for the MKS Board will be amended to include the following: 'and one additional elected member drawn from each of the partnership authorities selected by the respective Leaders.'

3.2 A named member would be selected by the leader before the next MKS Board meeting in March 2018 and this choice would be communicated to members through the members' newsletter.

### **4 Alternative Options**

4.1 'Do nothing'. The do nothing option would reject the recommendation of the MKS Board to increase the membership of the Board. The clearest disadvantage of this option and the reason it is not preferred is it does nothing to address the risk presented by a potential lack of continuity in the political leadership.

4.2 'Deputy Leader'. This option would fill the additional position on the MKS Board with whoever holds the position of Deputy Leader at any given time. The advantage of this is it would include another senior member of the Council directly within MKS.

4.3 'Cabinet Decision'. This option would be to select the additional member by majority decision of the Cabinet. This reflects the role of the Cabinet in overseeing shared services and gives greater flexibility than the option of having the Deputy leader as the nominee.

## 5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 After consultation with the Leader of Maidstone Borough Council the report which went before Maidstone Borough Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> November recommended that Leader's choice was the mechanism used to select the new appointment to the MKS Board. This was amended to the additional member being the Deputy Leader with the nominated substitute as vice-chair of the Policy and Resources Committee.

5.2 After consultation with the Leader of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council the report going before the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Cabinet in January will recommend that Leader's choice is the mechanism used to select the new appointment to the MKS Board.

## 6 Implications

6.1 After the decision, conditional on decisions at other authorities, if the recommendations are accepted the terms of reference for the MKS Board will be amended to include the following: 'and one additional elected member drawn from each of the partnership authorities selected by the respective leaders.'

6.2 A named member would be selected by the leader before the next MKS Board meeting in March 2018 and this choice would be communicated to members through the members' newsletter.

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The recommendations will not by themselves materially affect achievement of corporate priorities. However, they will support the Council's overall achievement of its aims as set out in section 3.
Financial, Resource and Property	No financial implications directly stem from this report.
Legal and Statutory	The Local Government Act 1972, S111 provides that a local authority shall have power to do anything (whether or not involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions. The recommendations proposed are in accordance

	with the power.
Crime and Disorder	No implications.
Sustainability	No implications
Health and Wellbeing	No implications
Risk Management and Health and Safety	No specific implications.
Equality and Diversity	The recommendations do not propose a change in service therefore will not require an equalities impact assessment.

## 7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Terms of Reference of the Mid Kent Services (MKS) Board
- Appendix II: Relevant Minutes from MKS Board meeting 22/09/2017

## 8 Background Papers

8.1 No background papers have been provided.