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**Subject:** KENT AND MEDWAY LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP AND KENT AND MEDWAY GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE FRAMEWORK

**Meeting and Date:** Council – 22 July 2015

**Report of:** Tim Ingleton, Head of Inward Investment

**Portfolio Holder:** Leader of the Council

**Decision Type:** For information

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Purpose of the report:** To inform Members of the proposed changes to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) leading to the possible establishment of a Kent and Medway Local Enterprise Partnership. Secondly, to advise Members of the work being undertaken to produce a Growth and Infrastructure Framework for Kent.

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**Recommendation:** To note the report and the likely future engagement.

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## 1. Summary

1.1 Extensive dialogue has been taking place regarding the future direction of SELEP. This is summarised in the report to KCC on 16 July, enclosed at Appendix 1. In addition to this, a parallel work stream has been undertaken to assess the infrastructure needs across Kent and Medway required for the delivery of a programme of future growth. Progress on this is also summarised in the report to KCC, enclosed at Appendix 2.

## 2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Leader has been representing the Council, along with Thanet District Council at both SELEP and the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP), ensuring that the interests of the area are advocated in the most appropriate manner. Among other matters, this has seen a number of designations and allocations of funding achieved since the establishment of SELEP.

2.2 It is evident that there are a growing number number of concerns around SELEP and strong desires for greater accountability at a more local level. The report at Appendix 1 highlights the issues while also setting out the case for change and the role of the districts as part of a revised Kent and Medway Local Enterprise Partnership.

2.3 In tandem with this, work has been undertaken around the infrastructure needs across Kent and Medway that are required to support a future programme of growth. Your Officers have been engaging in this process, along with the other districts. The report at Appendix 2 summarises the work in question and the scale of the funding gap.

2.4 KMEP considered the report at Appendix 1 at their meeting on 6 July, recommending that the report be submitted to Government alongside the submission from Essex on

15 July. In addition, KMEP also considered a detailed presentation on the Growth and Infrastructure Framework at an earlier meeting.

### **3. Identification of Options**

- 3.1 Option 1 – to note the reports and continue to engage at SELEP and KMEP and any successor arrangements confirmed in due course.
- 3.2 Option 2 – to not take account of the report and the likely future engagement.

### **4. Evaluation of Options**

- 4.1 Option 1 is the recommended course of action. It is essential that, with major designations such as the Enterprise Zone and with the expansion of the Port, the District views continue to be advocated in any emerging arrangements.
- 4.2 Option 2 is not recommended as this would place the Council at serious disadvantage in any revised economic landscape.

### **5. Resource Implications**

- 5.1 No additional resource implications.

### **6. Corporate Implications**

- 6.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: The Director of Finance, Housing and Community has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no additional comments to make (MD).
- 6.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make (HR).
- 6.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report does not specifically highlight any equalities implications however, in discharging their responsibilities members are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15> (KE).
- 6.4 Other Officers (as appropriate): N/A

### **7. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Report to KCC 16 July 2015 – Kent and Medway Local Enterprise Partnership

Appendix 2 – Report to KCC 16 July 2015 – Kent and Medway Growth and Infrastructure Framework

### **8. Background Papers**

Reports to Kent and Medway Economic Partnership 6 July 2015 and KCC – 16 July 2015