

CABINET

26 SEPTEMBER 2017

EXPANSION OF THE SOUTH THAMES GATEWAY BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP – ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio holder: Councillor Jane Chitty, Planning, Economic Growth and Regeneration

Report from: Richard Hicks, Director of Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation

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Summary

This addendum report sets out the comments of the South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee in relation to the proposal to extend the South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership by the inclusion of Canterbury City Council's building control service.

1. Background

- 1.1 The South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee considered a report on the proposal to extend the South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership by the inclusion of Canterbury City Council's building control service, at its meeting on 21 September 2017.
- 1.2 In response to questions from Members, the Director of the Partnership confirmed that discussions with Canterbury City Council regarding the latter joining the partnership had satisfactorily resolved all HR, TUPE and operational issues. The partnership's digitalisation programme and the use of agile and mobile working meant City Council staff could now largely work from Canterbury and would only need to visit the offices in Rochester infrequently.
- 1.3 Underpinning the discussions was the principle that there would be no cost to the existing partners and Canterbury City Council would be responsible for any costs associated with joining.

- 1.4 Members welcomed the proposed expansion. Assuming all three partners approved the expansion an action plan would be implemented to ensure the expanded partnership was in place from 1 April 2018.
- 1.5 A Member expressed the view that possible national changes in building control could lead to more work for the partnership with developers using an independent service such as the partnership.
- 1.6 The Joint Committee agreed to approve the expansion of the partnership through the inclusion of Canterbury City Council's building control service.

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