



May 2010

LINK Decision Making Process

Proposal for change

Introduction

The LINK's Priorities Panel is a group of LINK participants with a range of skills, knowledge and experience which, when combined, assists the LINK in making decisions and prioritising actions. Members of the Panel use the LINK's agreed decision making and priority setting process. Having consulted on what criteria they should apply, the Panel have used the attached decision making tool since July 2009.

Having now considered a number of issues raised with the LINK (35 as at 31 March 2010) the Panel is proposing changes to the decision making tool as below.

Proposed changes

The following changes are proposed by the Priorities Panel to the decision making tool which they use at present (attached):

1. An issue can be rejected by the Panel if it is considered that the LINK is unlikely to be able to make an impact on the issue. This should be the first question the Panel should address before considering panel members' individual scores. If the answer is no, then the matter does not proceed to consider the scores of panel members.
2. The following elements of the decision making table be deleted:
 - a. "Ability to impact within timescales"
 - b. "Can LINK make a difference?" (as per item 1 above, this should now be the first consideration)
3. The element that relates to the impact on the community be split into two, as follows:
 - a. "To what extent will those involved in the issue be affected?"
 - b. "To what extent will the community of Kent be affected?"

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4. The “equality impact assessment” element be amended to read “Does this issue contribute to improving equality in service provision to all sectors of the community?”

In addition to the Priorities Panel proposals, a further proposal is made by the LINK’s Governors’ Group:

5. An additional criteria should be included in the tool:
 - a. “To what extent does the issue fit in with the current LINK strategy?”

****** End of proposed changes to LINK decision making process ******

Recommendation: That the above changes to the LINK Decision Making Process are agreed.