

By: Peter Sass: Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 21 October 2009

Subject: Kent Highways Service and the process for Member input

1. Background

- (1) The Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee raised concerns about the process for Member input into Kent Highways Service since the Highways Advisory Board was subsumed into the Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview Committee and the cancellation of recent meetings of the Kent Transport Board.
- (2) Members will be aware that the Joint Transportation Boards, established between the County Council and each of the District/Borough Councils, had a remit to report to the Highways Advisory Board and Members wish to discuss the future process for Member input.
- (3) An agreement containing the Terms of Reference of the Joint Transportation Board is attached to this document.
- (4) The following question has also been put to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste at the County Council meeting on 15 October:

“Following the removal of the Highways Advisory Board, the recent cancellation of the meeting of the Kent Transport Board and the continuing rumours that Joint Transport Boards are also to be discontinued, how is the portfolio holder proposing to ensure the input into the strategic highways and transportation planning decision making process of the views of Local Members, Borough Council Members and members of the public?”

- (5) The Cabinet Member’s formal response to this County Council question will be circulated to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee as soon as it is available.

2. Recommendation

(1) The Cabinet Scrutiny Committee may:

- a. Comment to the Chief Executive and the relevant Managing Director
- b. Report to the Council
- c. Refer any issues arising from its debate for consideration by a Policy Overview Committee or Cabinet.

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