

**CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 31 MAY 2006**

Report Title: **Proposed Changes to Management of Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme**

Documents Attached: Background note from Communities Directorate.

Purpose of Consideration: To question the Head of Youth and Community Services about the proposed changes and the impact which they will have on the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme in Kent.

Possible Decisions: The Constitution (*Appendix 4 Part 8*) provides that the Committee may take one of the following decisions:-

- (a) comment to the Chief Executive and Managing Director of Communities;
- (b) report to the Council;
- (c) refer any issues arising from its debate for consideration by the Communities Policy Overview Committee or the Cabinet.

Previous Consideration: None.

Background Documents: None.

## **Proposed Changes to Management of Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme**

### **Background Note**

The current proposal, to replace the 14 part time posts with 3 full time posts, is seen as a way to address the need to have a more robust management structure to provide support to the Unit Leaders and thus to impact on completion rates. At the start of the formal consultation process, on 25 April 2006, the Head of Youth Service, Mick Price, met with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Field Officers, who are potentially at risk of redundancy if these proposals were to be enacted. At this meeting the Head of Youth Service stated that purpose of the consultation was to look critically and constructively at the existing structure of, and management arrangements for, the Award within KCC. He stated that the proposed new structure was not 'set in stone' and that if other proposals came forward that addressed the issue of 'completion rates' then these would be given full consideration. An implementation date for any new structure has been set for 1 September 2006. Whilst that is a target date the Head of Youth Service did assure the Field Officers present at the meeting on 25 April that this date could be put back and the consultation period extended if constructive proposals came forward during this current consultation process and further time was needed to consider and consult on these.