

**REPORT TO: CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 28 June 2006**  
**BY: JOHN WALE ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**CABINET SCRUTINY AND POLICY OVERVIEW**  
**Standing Report to June 2006**

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**Summary**

1. The report provides a summary (in Table 1) of outcomes and progress on matters arising from the most recent meeting of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee (CSC) held on 31 May 2006. Cabinet Members and Chief Officers were provided with a copy of the action sheet and asked to respond as appropriate. The report includes any subsequent responses and actions by Cabinet Members and Senior Officers up to and including the meeting of Cabinet held on 19 June 2006.
2. Additionally, in Table 2 the report provides a progress statement on the current programme for Select Committee Topic Reviews.

**Recommendations**

3. To note
    - (i) progress on actions and outcomes following the meeting of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee held on 31 May 2006 as set out in Table 1;
    - (ii) the present position on Select Committee Topic Reviews
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**ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 31 May 2006**

	Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
	<b>A2 Minutes CSC Meeting 3 May 2006</b>	The minutes of the meeting were agreed.  <b>NO FURTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED</b>
	<b>A3 Informal Member Group on Budgetary Issues 3 May 2006 (Special Meeting)</b>	Minutes of the Special IMG on 3 May 2006 were noted.  <b>NO FURTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED</b>
	<b>A4 Cabinet Scrutiny Committee 3 May 2006: Actions and Outcomes</b>	The report was noted. The Select Committee Report on Home-School Transport will be presented to Cabinet in June.  <b>NO FURTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED</b>
	<b>C1 Local Schemes Grant (LSG)</b>	Mr N Chard and Ms L McMullan attended for this item and answered questions relating to amounts of the grant for each district and processes leading to a formal decision on awards. Members thanked both for attending and resolved as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Mr Chard's agreement to amend the procedure for LSG and SCCG as follows be welcomed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bids for both LSG and SCCG normally to be considered at public meetings of Local Boards;</li> <li>• Recommendations from Local Board Chairs to Cabinet Members for allocation of LSG and SCCG to include a note of majority view of Local Board Members;</li> </ul> </li> <li>(ii) Local Board Chairs be requested to allow sufficient time for application forms for LSG and SCCG to be completed and returned before arranging for the Local Board to consider allocations;</li> <li>(iii) Cabinet be recommended to encourage District/Borough Councils to pass on the appropriate share of their Second Homes Council Tax to the Town and Parish Councils in their districts.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: Mr Chard/Ms McMullan and Mr J Wale. At Cabinet 19 June, Mr Chard said that he fully supported points (i) and (ii) but could not recommend</b></p>

**ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 31 May 2006**

	Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
		<p><i>acceptance of point (iii). Town and Parish Councils already set a precept, and any amounts returned would be so small that they would probably be offset by costs of administration; it was therefore a matter for the district and town councils concerned.</i></p> <p><i>On point (i) the points are contained in guidance prepared by Mr Wale; this guidance paper is being issued to Local Board Members during the current round of meetings, commencing at Sevenoaks on 7 June 2006.</i></p>
	<p><b>D1 Proposed Closure of Leyton House, Wilmington</b></p>	<p>Mr K Lynes, Mr O Mills and Mr K Maslyn were thanked for attending and answering questions from Members.</p> <p><b>After discussion, the Committee concluded that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Cabinet Member's plans to improve the protocol for closures, etc of facilities, and particularly to improve consultation with Members, be welcomed.</li> <li>(ii) Mr Lynes be requested to explore new ways of informing Members about forthcoming service changes, such as quarterly Member Briefings; publication in the Forward Plan; and reports to Local Boards.</li> <li>(iii) Cabinet be recommended to request Local Board Chairs to include a standing item on the agenda for all Local Board meetings for Members to be informed by directorates of future service developments in each Local Board area.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS: (i) and (ii) Mr Lynes and Mr Mills; (iii) Mr A J King and Mr J Wale</b></p> <p><i>At Cabinet on 19 June, Mr Lynes said that while welcoming the recommendation of CSC Members, he was concerned that operational decisions should not be held up by the need to consult or inform Local Board Members. Mr A King added that such briefings were intended for Members' information and should not impede progress of operations.</i></p>
	<p><b>E1 Proposed Changes to Management of Duke of</b></p>	<p>Mrs S Price (DoE Award Scheme SE Region Co-ordinator) and Mr E Mr Prentice (Chairman, Tonbridge DoE Award Panel) attended and submitted a briefing paper which formed the basis of questions from the</p>

**ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 31 May 2006**

	Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
	Edinburgh's Award Scheme	<p>Committee; Mr M Hill and Mr M Price attended on behalf of the Communities Directorate and also answered questions. All were thanked for their information and input.</p> <p><b>Members resolved as follows:</b></p> <p>(i) The Head of Youth and Community Services' agreement to extend the consultation period for changes to the management arrangements for the DoE Award Scheme to 31 July 2006; include all Members in the consultation process; report the outcome of the consultation process, including relevant detailed statistics, to the Communities Policy Overview Committee; and delay the implementation date for any changes to 1 January or 1 April 2007, be welcomed.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Mr M Price</b></p> <p>(ii) The Head of Youth and Community Services be requested to include in his report to the Communities Policy Overview Committee a range of options for the future management of the DoE Award Scheme in Kent, with costings; and proposals for improving the enrolment of hard-to-reach young people in the scheme.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Mr M Price</b></p> <p>(iii) The Cabinet Member for Community Services and the Head of Youth and Community Services be requested to ensure that any new management arrangements adopted for the DoE Award Scheme provide coverage of the whole of Kent.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Mr M Hill and Mr M Price</b></p> <p><i>At Cabinet 19 June Mr Hill said he was happy to agree all points (i) to (iii) above.</i></p>

**Table 2**

**Select Committee Topic Reviews – Agreed Programme and Status Report to June 2006**

<b>Policy Overview Committee/ Topic Review/Chair</b>	<b>Topic status</b>
<p><i>Education and Libraries:</i> <b>Primary School Attainment</b></p> <p><b>Home-School Transport</b> Mr J LAW</p>	<p>Programme under review.</p> <p>Commenced December 2005 (Research Officer: Gaetano Romagnuolo, ADP); accepted with full support of Cabinet 24 April 2006; progressing to County Council.</p>
<p><i>Social Care and Community Health:</i> <b>Gypsy and Traveller Sites</b> MR J FULLARTON</p> <p><b>Learning Disabilities (Informal Member Group)</b> MRS A ALLEN</p>	<p>Commenced August 2005; report accepted by Cabinet and County Council May 2006 (Research Officer: Sara Turnbull)</p> <p>Commenced August 2005; reported accepted by Adult Services POC 25 April 2006 (Research Officer: Pippa Cracknell)</p>
<p><i>Strategic Planning:</i> <b>Climate Change</b> MR C WELLS</p>	<p>Started March 2006.</p> <p>Hearings and parallel presentations to Local Boards at Dartford and Canterbury, in March, Thanet LB in April, and Shepway LB in May. (All completed)</p> <p>Due to report by September 2006. (Research Officers: Sara Turnbull and Chris Cooper)</p>
<p><i>NHS Overview and Scrutiny OSC</i> <b>Preventing Disease through Physical Activity</b> MR M R FITTOCK</p>	<p>Commenced August 2005; report due by end of July 2006 (Research Officer: David Turner)</p>

jhw/sc 19 June 2006