

**REPORT TO: CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 25 October 2006**  
**BY: ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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

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**Summary**

1. The report summarises in Table 1 outcomes of the most recent Cabinet Scrutiny Committee (CSC) meeting held on 27 September 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 16 October.
2. Additionally, in Table 2 the report provides a report on the current programme for Select Committee Topic Reviews as agreed at Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee on 10 August.

**Recommendations**

3. Members are asked to note:
    - (i) progress on actions and outcomes from the meeting of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee held on 27 September 2006 as set out in Table 1;
    - (ii) the current position on Select Committee Topic Reviews.
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**ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 27 September 2006**

	Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
	<b>A2 Minutes CSC Meeting 12 September 2006</b>	<i>These were agreed.</i>
	<b>A3 IMG on Budgetary Issues 21 September 2006</b>	<b>Noted.</b>
	<b>A4 Cabinet Scrutiny Committee: Actions and Outcomes</b>	<p>(i) These were noted.            (ii) Dr Eddy asked for the legal basis of the Monitoring Officer's confirmation that the CFE Directorate's "Record of Officer Decision with Member Support" form complied with legal requirements and the Council's Constitution.  <b>ACTION: Stuart Ballard/Geoff Wild</b></p>
	<b>B1 Roll-Forward of Remaining 2005/06 Underspend</b>	<p>(a) <b><i>Cabinet Decision on use of remaining roll-forward, as detailed in report to Cabinet, be accepted.</i></b>            (b) <b><i>Allocation of balance of roll-forward funding (£108.3k) to highway maintenance be welcomed.</i></b>            (c) <b><i>Committee asked for information on actual spend on original Turner Contemporary Project and how much of this had been abortive, and whether there was any ongoing legal action as a result of the termination of the project.</i></b>  <b>ACTION: Lynda McMullan/ Peter Mulholland/ Amanda Honey/ Stuart Ballard</b></p>
	<b>D1 Reduction of Surplus Capacity in Primary Schools</b>	<p><b><i>Mr J Simmonds, Dr I Craig and Mr D Adams attended and answered a very extensive range of questions from Members and also from Governors of the respective schools, Rev Hammond and Mr Neal. Each of whom had given presentations on the situation at their respective schools. After discussion, the Committee thanked the Cabinet Member, officers, and school governors for attending, and resolved as follows:</i></b>  <b><i>(a) Slides of the Audit Commission presentation about appropriate percentage of surplus school places to be circulated to the</i></b></p>

**ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 27 September 2006**

	Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
		<p><b>Committee.</b> Action: Dr Craig/S Ballard  <b>(b) (i) Decision 06/00829 on the closure of Hothfield (Community) School be referred back to the Cabinet Member for Education and School Improvement for reconsideration in the light of a report setting out the Committee's views;</b>            Action: S Ballard/Mr Simmonds/ Dr Craig/D Adams.  <b>(b) (ii) Decision 06/00831 on the amalgamation of Ashford South (Community) School and Oak Tree (Community) School can be implemented;</b> Action: D Adams/Mr Simmonds/Dr Craig; J Elphick/T Grayell  <b>(b) (iii) In the detailed planning for the amalgamation of Ashford South and Oak Tree Schools the Cabinet Member for Education and School Improvement be asked to give careful consideration to the need to ensure that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>the amalgamated school has the facilities to fully meet the Special Education Needs of the children currently attending both schools</b></li> <li>• <b>the ethos of Ashford South is not lost in the amalgamation;</b></li> <li>• <b>the amalgamated school has adequate accommodation to allow the community facilities currently provided in both schools to continue;</b></li> <li>• <b>access problems to the Oak Tree School site are resolved</b></li> </ul> <p>Actions: D Adams/Mr Simmonds/Dr Craig</p>

Table 2

**Select Committee Topic Reviews  
Agreed Programme following Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee 10  
August 2006**

<b>Policy Overview Committee/ Topic Review/Chair</b>	<b>Current Topic Review status and other topics (in no particular order*) agreed for the period September 2006 to July 2008</b>
<p><i>Children Families and Education :</i></p> <p><b>PSHE-Children’s Health</b></p> <p><b>Developing the Creative Curriculum</b></p> <p><b>Primary School Attainment</b></p> <p><b>Young People’s Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development</b></p>	<p>Inaugural meeting of the Select Committee is being held on 5 October and hearing sessions are planned for November 2006. It is anticipated that the Select Committee report will be submitted to Cabinet in April 2007. (Research Officer: Gaetano Romagnuolo)</p> <p>Dates to be agreed*</p> <p>Dates to be agreed.*</p> <p>Dates to be agreed.*</p>
<p><i>Communities</i></p> <p><b>Accessing Democracy</b></p> <p><b>Student Voice –Consultation and Participation with Young People</b></p> <p><b>Provision of Activities for Young People</b></p>	<p>Dates to be agreed</p> <p>Dates to be agreed.*</p> <p>Dates to be agreed.*</p>

<p><b>Adult Services</b></p> <p><b>Carers in Kent</b></p> <p><b>Transition from Childhood to Adulthood</b></p>	<p>Dates to be agreed*.</p> <p>Inaugural meeting of the Select Committee is being held on 9 October and hearing sessions are planned for November/December 2006. It is anticipated that the Select Committee report will be submitted to Cabinet in May 2007. (Research Officer: Susan Frampton).</p>
<p><b>Environment and Regeneration</b></p> <p>Climate Change <b>MR C WELLS</b></p> <p><b>Impact of Supermarkets, Out of Town Shopping Malls and Retail Parks on Businesses in Kent</b></p>	<p>Started March 2006. Hearings and parallel presentations to Local Boards at Dartford and Canterbury, in March, Thanet LB in April, and Shepway LB in May. (All completed) Due to report to Cabinet on 16 October 2006 and County Council 14 December 2006.</p> <p>Dates to be agreed.*</p>
<p><b>NHS Overview and Scrutiny OSC</b></p> <p><b>Preventing Disease through Physical Activity (Tackling Obesity) (Joint with Canterbury City, Gravesham and Tonbridge and Malling)</b> <b>MR M R FITTOCK</b></p>	<p>Commenced August 2005; Joint Select Committee's report to be published and launched in November 2006 to coincide with the establishment of the new Primary Care Trust. (Research Officer: David Turner) Final report due to be submitted to Cabinet on 4 December 2006 and County Council on 14 December 2006</p>

*jhw/sc 3 October 2006*

*\* Order to be agreed in consultation with POCC Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Liberal Democrat Spokesperson.*