



DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
SESSIONS HOUSE
MAIDSTONE

Tuesday, 21 April 2009

To: All Members of the County Council

Please attend the meeting of the County Council in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 30 April 2009 at **10.00 am** to deal with the following business. **The meeting is scheduled to end by 4.30 pm.**

A G E N D A

1. Declarations of Interest
2. Chairman's Announcements
3. Motion of No Confidence in the Leader of the Council - Dr M Eddy will move, Mr L Christie will second:

“that this Council agrees the Leader of this Council has not, in the matter of this Council's deposits in Icelandic banks and the subsequent Audit Commission report Risk and Return in which this Council has been termed 'negligent', acted in accordance with Article 2 of the Constitution, nor the Code of Member Conduct and General Principles governing the Conduct of Members (The Relevant Authorities [General Principles] Order 2001), as set out in this Council's Constitution, Appendix 6, Part 1.

that specifically this Council agrees:

- He has not sufficiently consulted with and been accountable to non-executive Members (Article 2, section 2.3, para.2 refers)
- He has not sufficiently supported and contributed to the probity of Council financial and other transactions (reference as above)
- He has not done whatever he is able to do to ensure that this authority uses its resources prudently (as in General Principles, No.10)
- He has not promoted the General Principles governing the Conduct of Members, particularly the tenth Principle, by leadership and by example, and nor has he acted in a way that secures and preserves public confidence (as in General Principles, No.11)

and that for the reasons stated above, this Council has no confidence in his Leadership and agrees that he is dismissed with immediate effect from the position of Leader of this Council.”

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2009, if in order, to be approved as a correct record. **(Pages 1 - 10)**
5. Questions
6. Report by Leader of the Council (Oral)
7. Appointment of Honorary Aldermen **(Pages 11 - 12)**
8. Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters **(Pages 13 - 16)**
Terms of Reference Communities Policy Overview Committee
9. Monitoring and Outcomes from Select Committee Topic Review Programmes **(Pages 17 - 94)**
10. Select Committee: The Future of Rail Services in Kent **(Pages 95 - 110)**
11. Select Committee: Autism Spectrum Disorder **(Pages 111 - 120)**
12. Select Committee: Provision of Activities of Young Persons **(Pages 121 - 134)**
13. Minutes for Approval - Governance and Audit Committee **(Pages 135 - 142)**
2 December 2008 and 4 March 2009
14. Minutes for Information **(Pages 143 - 168)**
 - (a) Planning Applications Committee – 9 December 2008, 22 January, 17 February and 17 March 2009; and
 - (b) Regulation Committee – 27 January 2009.



Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership
01622 694002

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Kent County Council held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 19 February 2009.

PRESENT:

Mr P W A Lake (Chairman)
Mr J A Davies (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs A D Allen, Mrs C Angell, Mr M J Angell, Mr A R Bassam, Mr T J Birkett, Mr R H C Bliss, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mr J R Bullock, MBE, Mr R B Burgess, Mr C J Capon, Ms S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A R Chell, Mr I S Chittenden, Mr L Christie, Mr B R Cope, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mr D S Daley, Mr M C Dance, Mrs T Dean, Dr M R Eddy, Mr K A Ferrin, MBE, Mr C G Findlay, Mr M J Fittock, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr T Gates, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mrs E Green, Ms A Harrison, Mr M J Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne MBE, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr I T N Jones, DL, Mr R E King, Mr A J King, MBE, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, TD, Mr K G Lynes, Mr T A Maddison, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J I Muckle, Mrs M Newell, Mr W V Newman, DL, Mr M J Northey, Mr R J E Parker, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr A R Poole, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R Robinson, Mr G Rowe, Mr J E Scholes, Mr J D Simmonds, Ms B J Simpson, Mr D Smyth, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P A V Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E M Tweed, Mr M J Vye, Mr C T Wells and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Gilroy (Chief Executive) and Mr G Wild (Director of Law and Governance).

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Declarations of Interest

The following Members declared an interest on the items contained in the agenda:-

Mrs A D Allen, as a Trustee of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Dartford; Mrs C Angell, as a Trustee of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Dartford; Mr M Angell as non-executive Director of the Kent and Medway Partnership Trust; Mr I Chittenden, as member of the Board of Kent TV; Mr L Christie, wife is member of the Management Committee of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Gravesham; Dr M R Eddy, as a Trustee of Dover, Deal and District Citizens Advice Bureau; Mr M J Fittock, as a Trustee of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Swanley; Mr G Gibbens, wife is a founder member of the Canterbury District Credit Union and is their Local Officer; Mr R King, on Board of Governors of Kent TV and as a Trustee of the Active Communities in Rural Kent; Mr S J G Koowaree, as one of his relatives is working in Children, Families and Education; Mr P Lake, as an Associate Director of the Kent and Medway Partnership Trust; Mr R Long, non-executive Director of Visit Kent and Produced in Kent; Mrs M Newell, as a Trustee of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Gravesham; Mr R J Parker, as a Director of Kent TV; Mr M V Snelling, as a non-executive Director of various limited companies which belong to Commercial Services.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2008 and if in order, to be approved as a correct record.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2008 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's Announcements

Death of Mr John Purchase

- (1) The Chairman announced the death of Mr John Purchase, former County Councillor for Canterbury Central electoral division.
- (2) Numerous Councillors paid tribute to both Mr J Purchase.
- (3) The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect.
- (4) RESOLVED that this Council desires to record the sense of loss it feels on the death of Mr Purchase and extends to his relatives its deepest sympathy on their sad bereavement.

New Years Honours

- (1) The Chairman referred to the appointment of CBE to Mr C Hendry Chief Fire Officer.
- (2) RESOLVED that the Council do record its sincere congratulations to Mr Hendry on his appointment.

Petition

The Chairman formally handed a petition received from Mrs C Angell regarding flooding in London Road, Stone to Mr K A Ferrin, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste.

Dr Ian Craig

This being the last meeting prior to Dr Craig leaving Kent County Council, various Members paid tribute in respect of his services.

- (2) RESOLVED that the County Council places on record its appreciation and thanks for the loyal and efficient service rendered to it by Dr Craig.

4. Questions

Under Procedure Rule 1.18, 10 questions were asked and replies given.

5. Director of Children's Services

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive, with effect from 1 April 2009, be designated Interim Director of Children's Services.

6. Medium Term Budget 2009-12 (Incorporating the Budget and Council Tax Setting for 2009-10)

(1) Mr P W A Lake, Chairman of the Council, seconded by Mr J A Davies, Vice-Chairman, proposed that:-

- (a) Procedure Rule 1.12(2) be suspended in order that the meeting be extended to 5pm;
- (b) Procedure Rule 1.30 be suspended in order that the Leader be allowed to speak for a maximum of 15 minutes, the Leader of the Labour Group and the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group for 10 minutes with the Leader being given a 5 minute right of reply;
- (c) Procedure Rule 1.30 be suspended after presentations by Cabinet Members on their portfolios in the period of general debate that follows in order that speeches can be limited to three minutes, and
- (d) Procedure Rule 1.36 be suspended in order for the mover and seconder of the original motion to be permitted to speak on more than one occasion.

Carried without a vote

(2) Mr P Carter moved, Mr N Chard seconded, the recommendations contained in the report together with the following changes:-

- (a) a change to the budget was proposed to reflect an additional one-off spend of £500k from the projected underspend in the current year, 2008-2009. Of this, £250k was to be earmarked for the planned establishment of a Kent Credit Union, and, following discussions between the Chief Executive, the Citizens Advice Bureaux and District Council colleagues, the remaining £250K to be earmarked for use by Citizen Advice Bureaux; and
- (b) this change did not affect the recommendations before the Council in relation to the levying of a precept and setting of Council Tax. The detail affecting the Budget Book is set out below.
 - (i) Deduct £0.500m from "Contribution to/from Reserves" (Finance Portfolio, p46, line 2) (*increased use of 2008/09 underspend to support the 2009/10 budget*)
 - (ii) Add £0.250m expenditure to "Economic Development including regeneration projects" (Regeneration Portfolio p32, first line)
 - (iii) Add £0.250m to "All Adults – Assessment & Related" (Adult Social Services Portfolio, p22, last line)

The report changes as follows:
Paragraph 17, table 2

| TABLE 2 – REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2009-10 | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------------|
| Portfolio totals excluding charges for capital assets | Per Report | Revised |
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Operations, Resources and Skills (CFE) | 73,466 | 73,466 |
| Children, Families and Educational Achievement | 136,651 | 136,651 |
| Adult Social Services | 340,668 | 340,918 |
| Environment Highways and Waste | 150,002 | 150,002 |
| Regeneration | 8,096 | 8,346 |
| Communities | 56,347 | 56,347 |
| Public Health | 680 | 680 |
| Corporate Support and External Affairs | 16,665 | 16,665 |
| Policy and Performance | 1,482 | 1,482 |
| Finance | <u>102,413</u> | <u>101,913</u> |
| Budget requirement 2009-10 | 886,470 | 886,470 |

The above changes to the Budget Book were carried without a vote.

(3) Dr M Eddy moved, Mr D Smyth seconded as an amendment that the recommendations set out in para 28 (e) be amended as follows:-

- (a) Increase provision for staff pay by £0.350m to allow for abolition of Kent Scheme Grade 1 pay points 1 – 3, and uplift of all staff previously on pay points 1 – 3 to the bottom pay point of Kent Scheme Grade 2 (pay point 4).
- (b) Deduct £0.350m from the pay budget. This will be achieved by targeting a 5% reduction from market premia and the aggregate level of senior executives' pay. This target will be informed by undertaking a review (incorporating a benchmarking exercise) of the level of market premia currently being paid, and examining those senior executive positions currently attracting salaries above Kent Scheme Pay Point 67 (£70,547) to determine whether these posts and their full reward packages (including salaries, bonuses and other benefits) offer value for money to the council taxpayer in the current economic climate. The results of this review should be reported to the County Council's Personnel Committee.

The proposed amendments at (a) and (b) above will affect most lines in the budget book, however these amendments will not be material to those individual lines.

There would be no net effect of this amendment on the overall budget proposed and consequently no amendments to the existing other recommendations before Council in relation to the levying of a precept and setting of Council Tax.

(4) The Chairman put to the vote the amendment set out in (3) above when the voting was as follows:-

For - 23

Mrs C Angell, Mr T Birkett, Mr I Chittenden, Mr L Christie, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr D S Daley, Mrs T Dean, Dr M R Eddy, Mr M J Fittock, Mrs E Green, Ms A Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr I T N Jones, Mr T Maddison, Mr J I Muckle, Mrs M Newell, Mr W V Newman, Mr R J E Parker, Mr A R Poole, Mr G Rowe, Mr D Smyth, Mr M J Vye.

Abstain – 1

Mr J Curwood.

Against – 47

Mrs A D Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr A R Bassam, Mr R Bliss, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mr J R Bullock, Mr R B Burgess, Miss S J Carey, Mr C Capon, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A R Chell, Mr B R Cope, Mr M C Dance, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr T Gates, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R Gough, Mr M J Harrison, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P Hill, Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr A J King, Mrs J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K G Lynes, Mr R Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr M Northey, Mr R J Parry, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R Robinson, Mr J E Scholes, Mr J D Simmonds, Ms B Simpson, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E Tweed, Mr C Wells, Mr F Wood-Brignall.

Lost

(5) Mr G Rowe moved, Mr D Daley seconded as an amendment, that the recommendations set out in para 28 (e) be amended as follows:-

An alternative distribution of the £3.721m provision for pay increase be achieved by a flat rate payment of £173 per annum (equivalent to £3.33 per week, pro-rated to contracted hours), is proposed for staff on the Kent Scheme Grades.

- The provision for pay increase affects most lines in the budget book. However, this amendment will not materially affect those budget lines, although there would be marginal changes required.
- There would be no net effect of this amendment on the overall budget proposed and consequently no amendments to the existing other recommendations before Council in relation to the levying of a precept and setting of Council Tax.

(6) The Chairman put to the vote the amendment set out in (5) above when the voting was as follows:-

For – 13

Mr I Chittenden, Mr L Christie, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr D S Daley, Mrs T Dean, Mr C Hart, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr I T N Jones, Mrs M Newell, Mr W V Newman, Mr A R Poole, Mr G Rowe, Mr M J Vye.

Abstain – 9

Mrs C Angell, Mr T Birkett, Dr M R Eddy, Mr M J Fittock, Mrs E Green, Ms A Harrison, Mr T Maddison, Mr R J E Parker, Mr D Smyth.

Against – 49

Mrs A D Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr A R Bassam, Mr R Bliss, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mr J R Bullock, Mr R B Burgess, Miss S J Carey, Mr C J Capon, Mr P B Carter,

Mr N J D Chard, Mr A R Chell, Mr B R Cope, Mr J Curwood, Mr M C Dance, Mr K A Ferrin, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr T Gates, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R Gough, Mr M J Harrison, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P Hill, Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr A J King, Mrs J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K G Lyles, Mr R Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr M Northey, Mr R J Parry, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R Robinson, Mr J E Scholes, Mr J D Simmonds, Ms B Simpson, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E Tweed, Mr C Wells, Mr F Wood-Brignall.

Lost

(7) Dr M R Eddy moved, Mr D Smyth seconded as an amendment, that the recommendations set out in para 28 (e) be amended as follows:-

- (a) Deduct £0.300m “Kent Department of Public Health” (Public Health Portfolio, p39, line 1) (*Cease Health Watch*)
- (b) Deduct £0.400m from the “Strategic Development Unit” (Corporate Support & External Affairs Portfolio, p40, line 13) (*Cease Kent TV*)
- (c) Deduct £0.500m from “Workforce Reduction” (Finance Portfolio, p45, line 10) (*reduction in provision*)
- (d) Deduct £0.484m from “Corporate Communications” (Corporate Support & External Affairs Portfolio, p40, line 12) (*a cross-directorate review of all staff, spend and activity involved in communications activity is proposed, with the saving initially held against this budget line, but to be re-distributed upon completion of the review*)
- (e) Deduct £0.016m from “Economic Development including regeneration projects” (Regeneration Portfolio, p32, line 1) (*removal of budget for Kent Ambassadors*)
- (f) Deduct £0.300m from “Local Children’s Service Partnerships” (Operations, Resources & Skills Portfolio, p8, line 1) (*Reduce the number of partnerships from 23 to 12*)
- (g) Increase “Kent Community Safety Partnership” by £0.300m (Communities Portfolio, p35, line 2) (*Increase number of Community Wardens by 9*)
- (h) Increase “Youth Services” by £0.500m (Communities Portfolio, p34 line 4) (*Restore spending plans to the current level*)
- (i) Increase “Supporting Independence” by £0.200m (Communities Portfolio, p35, line 1) (*Extend the Kent Apprenticeship Scheme to offer more apprenticeships throughout the County*)
- (j) Increase “Libraries, Archives & Museums” by £0.300m (Communities Portfolio, p34, line 7) (*Partly re-invest the Library IT saving back into the Library Service*)
- (k) Increase “Adult Education Service (Incl. Key Training)” by £0.400m (Communities Portfolio, p34, line 5) (*Support for courses and potential students who are not accessing adult education*)
- (l) Create £0.300m on “Health Education Promotion” (Public Health Portfolio, p39, new line 2) (*Support campaigns to promote responsible attitudes to obesity, teenage pregnancy, smoking, alcoholic drinks etc*)

There would be no net effect of these amendments on the overall budget proposed and consequently no amendments to the existing other recommendations before Council in relation to the levying of a precept and setting of Council Tax.

(8) The Chairman put to the vote the amendment set out in (7) above when the voting was as follows:-

For – 22

Mrs C Angell, Mr T Birkett, Mr I Chittenden, Mr L Christie, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr D S Daley, Mrs T Dean, Dr M R Eddy, Mr M J Fittock, Mrs E Green, Ms A Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr I T N Jones, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr T Maddison, Mrs M Newell, Mr W V Newman, Mr R J E Parker, Mr A R Poole, Mr G Rowe, Mr D Smyth, Mr M J Vye.

Abstain - 0

Against - 48

Mr M J Angell, Mr A R Bassam, Mr R Bliss, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mr J R Bullock, Mr R B Burgess, Miss S J Carey, Mr C J Capon, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A R Chell, Mr B R Cope, Mr J Curwood, Mr M C Dance, Mr K A Ferrin, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr T Gates, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R Gough, Mr M J Harrison, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P Hill, Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr A J King, Mrs J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K G Lynes, Mr R Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr M Northey, Mr R J Parry, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R Robinson, Mr J E Scholes, Mr J D Simmonds, Ms B Simpson, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E Tweed, Mr C Wells, Mr F Wood-Brignall.

Lost

(9) Mr I Chittenden moved, Mr M J Vye seconded as an amendment, that the recommendations set out in para 28 (e) be amended as follows:-

- (a) Deduct £0.400m from the "Strategic Development Unit" (Corporate Support & External Affairs Portfolio, p40, line 13) (Remove funding for 3rd year of Kent TV)
- (b) Increase "Kent Highway Services Group" by £0.250m (Environment, Highways & Waste Portfolio, p28, line 1) (to support additional road safety initiatives to further reduce road casualties in the county of Kent)
- (c) Increase "Debt Charges" by £0.150m (Finance Portfolio, p45, line 20) (to pay for additional prudential borrowing in order to increase the capital spend on "Annual Planned Maintenance Programme" in schools by £1.7m (Operations, Resources & Skills (CFE) Portfolio, p10, line 30)

This additional expenditure would require an amendment to the Prudential Indicators set out on page 112 of the Medium Term Plan.

- (d) to agree to set aside the County Council policy on targeting repairs on major roads with respect to the additional Capital maintenance expenditure on road maintenance at line 4 on page 30 of the Budget Book.

There would be no net effect of these amendments on the overall budget proposed and consequently no amendments to the existing other recommendations before Council in relation to the levying of a precept and setting of Council Tax.

(10) The Chairman put to the vote the amendment set out in (9) above when the voting was as follows:-

For – 6

Mr I Chittenden, Mr D S Daley, Mrs T Dean, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr G Rowe, Mr M J Vye.

Abstain - 1

Mr J R Bullock.

Against - 63

Mrs A D Allen, Mrs C Angell, Mr M J Angell, Mr T Birkett, Mr R Bliss, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mr R B Burgess, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A R Chell, Mr L Christie, Mr B R Cope, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr J Curwood, Mr M C Dance, Dr M R Eddy, Mr K A Ferrin, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr T Gates, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R Gough, Mrs E Green, Ms A Harrison, Mr M J Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P Hill, Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr I T N Jones, Mr A J King, Mrs J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K G Lynes, Mr T Maddison, Mr R Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J I Muckle, Mrs M Newell, Mr W V Newman, Mr M Northey, Mr R J E Parker, Mr R J Parry, Mr A R Poole, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R Robinson, Mr J E Scholes, Mr J D Simmonds, Ms B Simpson, Mr D Smyth, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E Tweed, Mr C Wells, Mr F Wood-Brignall.

Lost

(11) Mr M J Vye moved, Mrs T Dean seconded as an amendment, the recommendations set out in para 28 (e) be amended as follows:-

- (a) Increase "Early Years & Childcare" by £0.200m (Children, Families & Educational Achievement Portfolio, p15, line 5) (to bring forward the planned increase of 4 Advisors from 2010/11 to 2009/10)
- (b) Reduce Conference expenditure by £0.200m (Finance Portfolio, p45, line 1) (A corporate view of all conferences expenditure should take place with a view to achieving a reduction of £0.200m. This saving should be set against the Finance Portfolio pending the outcome of the review.)

There would be no net effect of these amendments on the overall budget proposed and consequently no amendments to the existing other recommendations before Council in relation to the levying of a precept and setting of Council Tax.

(12) The Chairman put to the vote the motion set out in (11) above when the voting was as follows:-

For – 11

Mr I Chittenden, Mr L Christie, Mr C J Cribbon, Mr D S Daley, Mrs T Dean, Mr G Hart, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr T Maddison, Mrs M Newell, Mr G Rowe, Mr M J Vye.

Abstain - 6

Mr T Birkett, Mrs C Angell, Ms A Harrison, Mr I T N Jones, Mr J I Muckle, Mr A R Poole.

Against - 53

Mrs A D Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr R Bliss, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mr J R Bullock, Mr R B Burgess, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A R Chell, Mr B R Cope, Mr J Curwood, Mr M C Dance, Dr M R Eddy, Mr K A Ferrin, Mr T Gates, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R Gough, Mrs E Green, Mr M J Harrison, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P Hill, Mr D Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr A J King, Mr R E King, Mrs J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K J Lynes, Mr R Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr W V Newman, Mr M Northey, Mr R J E Parker, Mr R J Parry, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R Robinson, Mr J E Scholes, Mr J D Simmonds, Ms B Simpson, Mr D Smyth, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E Tweed, Mr C Wells, Mr F Wood-Brignall.

Lost

(13) The Chairman then put to the vote the motion set out in (2) above when the voting was as follows:-

For – 49

Mrs A D Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr R Bliss, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mr J R Bullock, Mr R B Burgess, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A R Chell, Mr B R Cope, Mr J Curwood, Mr M C Dance, Mr K A Ferrin, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr T Gates, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R Gough, Mr M J Harrison, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P Hill, Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr A J King, Mr R E King, Mrs J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K G Lynes, Mr R Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr M Northey, Mr R J Parry, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R Robinson, Mr J D Scholes, Mr J D Simmonds, Ms B Simpson, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E Tweed, Mr C Wells, Mr F Wood-Brignall.

Abstain – 0

Against – 22

Mrs C Angell, Mr T Birkett, Mr I Chittenden, Mr L Christie, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr D S Daley, Mrs T Dean, Dr M R Eddy, Mrs E Green, Ms A Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr I T N Jones, Mr T Maddison, Mr J I Muckle, Mrs M Newell, Mr W V Newman, Mr R J E Parker, Mr A R Poole, Mr G Rowe, Mr D Smyth, Mr M J Vye.

Carried

(13) RESOLVED that the contents of the 2009-10 Budget and Medium Term Plan 2009-12 and the following proposals be approved:-

- (a) the Revenue and Capital Budget proposals for 2009-10;
- (b) the Revenue Budget requirement of £886,470,000;
- (c) the Capital Investment proposals of £490,901,000, together with the necessary use of borrowing, revenue, grants, capital receipts, renewals and other earmarked capital funds, external funding and PFI, subject to approval to spend arrangements;
- (d) the Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix D of the attached Medium Term Plan;

- (e) the Revenue and Capital Budget proposals as presented for:
- Operations, Resources and Skills (CFE);
 - Children, Families and Educational Achievement;
 - Adult Social Services;
 - Environment, Highways and Waste;
 - Regeneration;
 - Communities;
 - Public Health;
 - Corporate Support and External Affairs;
 - Policy and Performance; and
 - Finance;
- (f) that final recommendations in relation to the Schools Budgets and Dedicated School Grant (DSG) be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources and Skills (CFE);
- (g) a total requirement from Council Tax of £554,303,636 to be raised through precept to meet the 2009-10 budget requirement; and
- (h) a Council Tax as set out below, for the listed property bands:

| Council Tax Band | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| £ | 684.18 | 798.21 | 912.24 | 1026.27 | 1254.33 | 1482.39 | 1710.45 | 2052.54 |

Question No. 1

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

30 April 2009

**Question by Miss S J Carey to the
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste**

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste tell us whether EDF has signed the Service Level Agreement for street lighting which has been ready for signature since November 2008? If not, what is he doing to ensure they do or has he found another way to improve the level of service Kent receives from EDF?

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

30 April 2009

**Question by Mr R Parker to the
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste**

At the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee on 21 May 2008, the Northfleet Action Group presented a petition in relation to the Declaration of Land Surplus to Highways Requirements.

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste please inform this Council of the action taken to date in response to this petition?

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

30 April 2009

**Question by Mr R Truelove to the
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste**

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste outline his plans to improve traffic safety on the A249 between Stockbury and Detling Hill?

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

30 April 2009

**Question by Mr T Maddison to the
Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education (Operations, Resources
and Skills)**

Would the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education - Operations, Resources and Skills please inform this Council, and more importantly, the 16,000 residents of Dartford West Division and in particular the parents of the 900 plus young children aged four and under, why they will not be getting a Sure Start Children's Centre in this locality?

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

30 April 2009

**Question by Mr G Rowe to the
Cabinet Member for Community Services**

To enable Kent's local communities, parish councils and citizens to use the Sustainable Communities Act, will the Cabinet Member for Community Services give an assurance that Kent County Council will resolve to use the Act by submitting proposals by 31st July 2009?

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

30 April 2009

**Question By Mr M J Vye To The
Cabinet Member For Children, Families And Educational Achievement**

Will the Cabinet Member for Children, Families And Educational Achievement give the Council the reasons why Kent's schools carry out the greatest number of exclusions compared, at more than ten times for 50 Kent children, with those in other education authorities in the country; and state how CFE Directorate will help to reduce this number, and ensure provision of education for all children who are excluded?

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

30 April 2009

**Question by Mr D S Daley to the
Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Supporting Independence**

Given that the response in the Draft Performance Improvement Plan ('Building on Success') to the Inspectors' recommendation that KCC needs to promote better trust with district councils was '*We believe this is the way we currently act*' will the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Supporting Independence explain how this fits with the clear picture created in the Kent Regeneration Framework document that the KCC is leader and district councils followers in the areas of planning and housing, which are primarily district functions?

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

30 April 2009

**Question by Mr G Koowaree to the
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste**

Given the ongoing and very real threat of flooding to the residents of Kent will the Cabinet Member for Environment and regeneration proceed to appoint a Flood Risk Officer , at a senior level, to coordinate and drive forward the actions required of KCC to provide the best possible safeguarding against flood risk and impact; and give his support to the formation of a standing committee of members, as recommended by the Pitt Report to ensure effective scrutiny of KCC's performance in this vital area?

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

30 April 2009

**Question by Mr I Chittenden to the
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste**

"Casualty figures issued for Kent for 2007 showed that Maidstone had a higher number of deaths and injuries on our roads than any other area in Kent. An investigation into the Maidstone District Casualty numbers and progress against National 2010 Casualty Targets showed that the reduction of people killed or seriously injured in 2007 in the Maidstone District was 15% over a ten year period against an average in Kent of 40% against Government targets. A short term series of actions were proposed to influence groups in Maidstone identified as being at a greater risk, but these initiatives ended at the end of March.

Will the Cabinet member for Environment Highways and Waste please confirm when further initiatives will be announced specifically targeted to reduce deaths and injuries on Maidstone's roads, and when a longer term plan will be put in place to ensure deaths and injuries on Maidstone's roads are in the longer term reduced in line with other areas in Kent.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

30 April 2009

**Question by Mr M Northey to the
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste**

What steps is the County Council taking to procure environmentally friendly vehicles for use within its fleet?

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

30 April 2009

**Question by Mr M J Harrison to the
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste**

Part of the planning application for the Poly/Community Medical Centre situated at Wraik Hill, Whitstable was that there would be in place a series of Travel Plans and to the best of my knowledge these are not yet in place.

Therefore my question is: Would the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste please give an update on the present situation with regard to these Travel Plans and would it be possible to incorporate both the nearby developments of Abbey and Mariners View as neither of these very new complexes have any form of public transport?

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

30 April 2009

**Question by Mr A D Crowther to the
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste**

May I invite the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste to kindly use the influence of his Office to persuade the Highways Agency and any other relevant Authorities that it is necessary and important that the County Town's Acute Hospital with A&E facilities should be adequately sign posted from the appropriate exits on the M20 Motorway, in the same way as is the William Harvey Hospital, Ashford.

Many 'First timers' especially from a long distance, like Sheppey and Swale, and of course the Channel Ports and Tunnel, may not know which exit to take, particularly as exits 5 and 6 are separated from the rest of the Motorway (on both sides.): miss the correct exit and you have a considerable increase in journey time and distance, apart from likely getting lost.

Both the Chief Executive of Maidstone Hospital and a spokesperson for the Highways Agency (Chatham), agree its desirable and WANTED, but after several years of requesting, that's as far as I've got. You, Mr. Ferrin, I'm sure will have much greater influence. I look forward to seeing the red signs.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

30 April 2009

**Question by Mrs T Dean to the
Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Supporting Independence**

Given the potentially damaging effect on the beauty and diversity of Kent's rural landscape and its value for tourism and recreation, will the Cabinet Member for Regeneration agree to submit comments to the current Application for 1,500 acres of polytunnels currently with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, and to work with Kent Planning Officers to produce Kent wide Supplementary Planning Guidance on the use of polytunnels including proper location, screening, waste disposal, protection for wildlife, water resources and biodiversity and in particular address the issue of permanent polytunnels for table top growbag cultivation which are effectively industrial development in the countryside?

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By: Alex King, Deputy Leader
Geoff Wild - Director of Law and Governance

To: County Council – 30 April 2009

Subject: Appointment of Honorary Aldermen

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report invites the County Council to approve the procedure and criteria to appoint Honorary Aldermen.

FOR DECISION

Background

1) At a meeting of the Selection and Member Services Committee on 8 October 2008, consideration was given to a proposal to allow the County Council to bestow an Office of Dignity upon individuals. The Committee was advised that the only statutory Office of Dignity that can be awarded by an English County Council is that of Honorary Alderman. The Committee was advised that, under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 “a principal Council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, confer the title of Honorary Alderman on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past Members of that Council, but who are not then Members of the Council.”

Criteria for the Award

2) At its meeting on 23 January 2009, the Committee was advised that there is no statutory guidance on the definition of “eminent services”, although it is recommended that each Council should develop its own criteria. Accordingly, the following criteria are recommended to the County Council for approval:

- The title may be conferred on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past Members, but who are no longer serving Members;
- There shall be no specific definition of “eminent services”, it being left to the discretion of the Council at the time to assess and recognise any individual’s contribution to the activities of the Council and the wellbeing of the county of Kent;
- Nominees would normally require a minimum period of 12 years past service as a Member of the Council;
- In accordance with Section 249 of the 1972 Act, nominees would have to receive the support of not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a special Council meeting convened for the purpose;

- Nominations can be made by any Group Leader. However, before proceeding, officers and Members should, via the party groups, establish whether or not the nomination would be likely to receive sufficient support to proceed;
- Honorary Aldermen should be invited to attend relevant civic and ceremonial events, including the Annual Council meeting, the Chairman's Civic Reception, and any future appointment of Honorary Aldermen;
- The status of Honorary Alderman carries no special right to attend or address meetings of the Council or its Committees or to receive any allowances or payments to which serving Members are entitled. However, at the discretion of the Chairman, a nominee for Honorary Alderman may (if present) be invited to respond to the vote conferring that status;

3) Should the County Council agree both the principle of awarding the status of Honorary Alderman and the criteria suggested by the Selection and Member Services Committee listed above, it is suggested that a meeting of the County Council be arranged after the County Council elections in June, in consultation with the Chairman of the County Council, to determine the nominations made by any Group Leader as to the award of the status of Honorary Alderman. It is also proposed that the names of Honorary Alderman would appear on a suitable wooden board in the Council Chamber, as already exists for Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the County Council.

Recommendation

4) Members are invited to approve the criteria for appointing Honorary Aldermen of the Council, as set out in paragraph 2) above.

Alex King – Deputy Leader
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 Director of Law and Governance
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By: Mr A K King –Deputy Leader
Mr P M Hill – Cabinet Member for Community Services
Mr P Sass – Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: County Council – 30 April 2009

Subject: Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder matters

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To identify a Committee to undertake the County Councils responsibility for Crime and Disorder scrutiny

Crime and Disorder Committee

1. Section 19 of the Police and Justice 2006, which is due to come into force on 30 April 2009, requires every local authority to have a Committee (referred to as the “Crime and Disorder Committee”, which has the power to:-

Review and scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection the discharge by the authorities responsible for Crime and Disorder strategies of their Crime and Disorder functions and to make reports or recommendations to the local authority on the discharge of those functions.

2. It would appear that most Authorities are planning to add this to the remit of an existing overview and scrutiny committee rather than set up a separate Crime and Disorder Committee.

3. (1) It is suggested that the Communities Policy Overview Committee (POC), as the Overview Committee which has the remit for Community Safety, is designated as KCC’s Crime And Disorder Committee with the following wording being added to the terms of reference in the constitution:-

“.....and discharge the function of the scrutiny of authorities responsible for Crime and Disorder strategies in accordance with Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.”

(2) It will need to be clear when the POC is meeting specifically to carry out its Crime and Disorder function as there are specific procedural requirements under the regulations (paragraph 4 below refers).

(3) Currently Communities POC tends to finish its business by 1.00pm. If this continued to be the case then at least twice a year it might be possible for it to meet at 2.00pm to carry out its Crime and Disorder scrutiny responsibilities, or it could meet on a separate date if that was more convenient. The POC would also have the option to set up a Sub Committee to carry out their Crime and Disorder scrutiny function. The practicalities can be the subject of a further report to the POC when it meets in July 2009.

Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009

4. On 13 March the above draft regulations were published which are due to come into force on 30 April 2009. The regulations supplement the provisions of Section 19 by setting out the framework for the operation of Crime and Disorder Committees.

5. The regulations make the following provisions:-

Co-option of additional Members

- The Crime and Disorder Committee may (but is not required to) co-opt additional members from bodies responsible for Crime and Disorder strategies to serve on the committee where it considers it appropriate.
- Any co-optee has the same voting rights as other Committee members.
- The number of co-optees must be less than the number of permanent Committee Members.
- It is possible to co-opt just for consideration of a specific matter eg if the committee were considering a matter relating to policing then a representative of the Police Authority could be co-opted for the meeting(s) where this item is considered.
- A co-optee cannot be someone who has been directly involved in or wholly or partly responsible for the decision or action being scrutinised.

Frequency of meetings

- A Crime and Disorder Committee must meet at least twice a year.

Requesting Information

- The Crime and Disorder can request relevant information from the bodies responsible for crime and disorder strategies which must be provided no later than the date specified or as soon as reasonably possible.
- The information will be redacted to prevent the identification of an individual and will not include information that would prejudice current or future operations of the responsible authority.

Attendance at Committee meetings

- Attendees from partner organisations are to be given at least two weeks notice to attend meeting (unless they agree it can be shorter).
- Partners must send someone to the Committee unless they have a "reasonable excuse".

Reports and recommendations

- The responses to a report or recommendations which relate to a responsible body shall be in writing and submitted to the Crime and Disorder Committee within a month from the date of the report or recommendations, unless this is not reasonably possible
- The Crime and Disorder Committee will review responses and monitor any action taken.

Protocol for the operation of the Crime and Disorder Committee

6. Although the draft regulations are available, further guidance is expected on the operation of Crime and Disorder Committees.

8. In order that our partners can be clear about how we intend to work with them in the operation of the Crime and Disorder Committee, it is intended to draft a protocol which will be shared with them and will be submitted to Communities Policy Overview Committee and the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee for initial consideration. At an appropriate stage thereafter, the draft protocol will be submitted to the County Council for approval and inclusion in the Constitution.

Recommendation

9. (1) The County Council is requested to designate the Communities Policy Overview Committee as KCC's Crime and Disorder Committee.

(2) The terms of reference for the Communities POC (Appendix 2: Part 2 paragraph 1.5) are to be amended by the addition of the following:-

“.....to discharge the function of the scrutiny of authorities responsible for Crime and Disorder strategies in accordance with Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.”

(3) It be noted that a protocol for the operation of the Crime and Disorder responsibilities of the Communities Policy Overview Committee will be submitted to the Communities Policy Overview Committee and Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee for initial consideration prior to a further report to the County Council later in the year.

Mr A J King
Deputy Leader

Mr P M Hill
Cabinet Member for Community
Services

*Enquiries: Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership
Ext: 4002*

Background documents: Nil

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By: Mr Alex King, Deputy Leader
Mr P Sass – Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: County Council – 30 April 2009

Subject: Monitoring and Outcomes from the Select Committee Topic Review Programme – May 2005-June 2009

Classification: Unrestricted

Introduction

1. (1) Following the Comprehensive Performance Assessment in 2008, the Select Committee process and Topic Review Programme were commended by the review team and as one of the strengths of the County Council's Overview Scrutiny function. The review team commented that: "Task and finish Select Committees and working groups are highly valued by councillors of all parties and have made important contributions to policy."

(2) This mirrored the results of a survey conducted of all Members in 2007.

(3) Both executive and non-executive Members have recognised the benefits of the Select Committee process. From a non-executive point of view it provides the opportunity to look at a topic in depth and the majority of Members have found this process very rewarding as it has provided the opportunity to influence Kent County Council policy. From an executive Member point of view, Select Committee reports have added strength to portfolios and in some cases, have had national standing e.g. Alcohol Misuse.

(4) The quality of Select Committee reports has been recognised both across the county and nationally.

Topic Reviews 2005-2009

2. Appendix 1 to this report shows Select Committees undertaken during the life of this County Council and Appendix 2 summarises recommendations arising from each, together with key actions that have been implemented.

Highlights

3. The County Council should celebrate its achievements, made through the select Committee process. I set out below some of the highlights from reviews conducted over the past few years to demonstrate their importance and the impact they have had on the policy of the County Council and partner organisations.

Home to School Transport – 2006

- The Kent Freedom pass, funded by KCC, was introduced in June 2007 for 11-16 year olds. The cost of the pass is £50 per year, allowing young people to travel on participating buses at any time, including weekends, evenings and school holidays. The scheme has so far been rolled out in a number of districts and has proved highly successful.
- Kent Highway Services' highly successful *Kentcarshare.com* journey matching facility is being developed and expanded to include greater flexibility for journey matching. This will include new 'budi' elements for walking, cycling and taxi trips aimed at improving personal security, knowledge and confidence of local cycle routes and cost sharing opportunities. The new facility will be called *Kentjourneyshare.com* and the scheme currently has 3000 members with 3117 journeys registered. Based on current matches it is estimated that in 2009 the scheme will save:
 - 3,163,283 miles
 - £577,312
 - 1,040.7 metric tonnes of CO2

Climate Change - 2006

Recommendations related to explicit corporate acceptance of climate change and the contribution made by human activity; as well as the clarification of political and managerial leadership and accountability on climate change within KCC. Some significant results from recommendations are:-

- A Project Manager was recruited to the Chief Executive's Department jointly funded from all directorates; the Chief Executive communicated to all staff and took on the climate change champion role; Director-level leads were identified to champion action on each of the three work streams and report to the Project Manager.
- A Cabinet working group on climate change was established to oversee implementation of the actions;
- KCC Environment Policy was revised to include carbon emissions agreed by Cabinet in December 2007; and ISO 14001 has been delivered with continued improvements in baseline data; the 2008/09 Business Planning template includes issues for climate change mitigation and reduction;
- The revised Cabinet report template includes implications for climate change; and relevant Towards 2010 targets and indicators have now been agreed.

Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) – 2007

- An advisory group comprising Members who served on the Select Committee including the Chairman and other colleagues was established to take forward the actions and recommendations arising.
- The Committee recommended that all Kent secondary schools ensure young people have access to websites such as “foryoungpeople”, “RUthinking” and “Frank”. As a result firewalls were lifted in schools and in addition web based resources were promoted to headteachers at their conference.
- The recommended appointment of the new RE and Citizenship Advisor to be responsible and accountable for PSHE in Kent, was secured.
- The Committee urged that key agencies commit and sign up to the Kent Teenage Pregnancy Strategy in an effort to decrease the rate of teenage pregnancy. Partnership working between LCSP Managers, Director of Public Health, CFE and Teenage Pregnancy Board is now established; key agencies are signed up to the KCC PSHE Education Strategy and a directory of local services to support schools in PSHE Education is being developed by all partner agencies.

Flood Risk - 2007

- The Committee recommended that KCC specifically allocate funding to enable road gully cleansing work to go ahead without delay and to enable the condition and capacity of highway drainage systems to be improved - as a result the budget for gully cleansing was increased from £1.8 to £2.8 million.
- Following the Committee’s highlighting of urgent work needed between Jury’s Gap and Camber the Environment Agency brought works forward in advance of strategy approval because of the immediate need. Work is now at the pre-planning design stage.
- The Committee recommended that the Kent Resilience Forum and Severe Weather Group liaise with the Environment Agency to develop a generic flood plan for Kent and this plan is due for ratification and approval by the KRF on the 8th April 2009.

Alcohol Misuse - 2008

- It was recommended that an independent task board be established to carry out a comprehensive needs assessment of alcohol service provision in Kent. As a result, the Kent Action on Alcohol Steering Group was set up and Oxford Public Health Resource Unit was commissioned to complete the assessment.

- An overarching draft Alcohol Strategy for Kent, informed by the needs assessment is now ready for consultation across the county.
- Following the recommendation that there be a hard-hitting health campaign targeted at the young to increase awareness and reduce the damaging effects of alcohol, 'House' has been developed as a multi-agency response across the county and evidence is emerging that young people previously outside treatment services are being identified, supported and where necessary referred on to more structured programmes.
- The Committee recommended that hospitals in Kent improve Accident and Emergency data gathering on injuries resulting from alcohol-related violence. Two pilots are currently being evaluated and a review of outcomes will commence in July 2009 prior to further roll out.

Carers – 2007

- On Carers Rights Day, December 5th 2008, the Kent Carers Emergency Card Scheme was launched to provide all carers with peace of mind when away from the person that they care for. Currently over 300 carers are signed up to the scheme - each will have an emergency plan and be supported by County Duty or the Out of Hours service if they have no friend or relative to step in at short notice, or if their emergency plan fails.
- In 2008 guidance was issued to schools regarding young carers' needs and how to support them. To assist in applying this guidance an additional 20K was allocated to each of the five young carers projects across the county to enable direct work with schools and this has resulted in the identification of more young carers across the county.
- Following the recommendation that a multi agency adult carers strategy be urgently progressed, work has begun to develop the strategy linked to delivery of the National Carers' Strategy, published in June 2008. To take this forward a sub group of the Adult Services Carers Advisory Group has been established with representation from KASS, the voluntary sector, Kent PCTs and carers.

Accessing Democracy - 2008

- A Steering Group has been established to implement the recommendations of the Select Committee;
- A conference at Oakwood House on 28 November 2008 provided an opportunity to explore the empowerment of agencies, and the role of the elected Members.
- The use of Kent TV and extension of webcasting services ensures the public have greater access to the democratic process in the county.

Strengthening of the Select Committee Process

4. (1) As indicated in sub paragraph 1(2) above, when a survey was conducted of all Members who served on a Policy Overview Committee in 2007 the overwhelming response was that Select Committees were extremely useful and enjoyable for non-executive Members, providing the opportunity to look at a subject in depth, influence policy and add value to the County Council, to other organisations and most importantly, benefit the residents of Kent.

(2) During the life of this County Council, a number of initiatives have been taken which are now embedded in the Constitution to strengthen the Select Committee process. This includes:-

- establishing a two year Topic Review Programme;
- costing the recommendations of the Select Committee report before publication;
- agreeing the Terms of Reference with a cross-party group of Members who will serve on the Select Committee well in advance of the first meeting; and
- the protocol for the launching and publicising of Select Committee reports, agreed by the Council on December 2008.

(3) It has become evident from the most recent Topic Reviews of this County Council that successful outcomes of many recommendations rely on partners and stakeholders working together with the County Council to achieve them.

(4) Following the Alcohol Misuse Select Committee's lead, an important part of the process before placing the report of a Select Committee in the public domain was found to be the bringing together of stakeholders in order to gain support for recommendations so that there is shared ownership, and fewer obstacles to implementation.

RECOMMENDATION

5. The County Council is asked to note the report and celebrate the impact and added value that the outcomes of the Select Committee reports provided for Kent residents.

Mr A King
Deputy Leader of the Council

*Enquiries: Paul Wickenden
Overview Scrutiny & Localism Manager
Ext: 4486*

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Appendix 1: SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC REVIEWS – MONITORING

| Select Committee | Final report to Cabinet | SC meeting to consider progress with Recommendations (12 months on from Cabinet) | Directorate/ POC | Update at end March 2009 |
|--|-------------------------|--|------------------|--------------------------|
| Water and Waste Water, particularly in Ashford | October 2005 | 31 October 2007 | E&R | ✓ |
| Gypsy and Travellers | May 2006 | May 07 + 29 Nov 2007 | Adult Services | ✓ |
| Home to School Transport | April 2006 | 27 April 2007 | CFE | ✓ |
| Climate Change | October 2006 | Quarterly monitoring report circulated starting Feb 07 | E&R | ✓ |
| PSHE/Children's Health | April 2007 | 14 April 2008 | CFE | ✓ |
| Transition to a Positive Future | May 2007 | 23 June 2008 | Adult Services | ✓ |
| Flood Risk Management in Kent | November 2007 | 13 November 2008 | E&R | ✓ |
| Carers | December 2007 | 30 January 2009 | Adult Services | ✓ |
| Alcohol Misuse | March 2008 | 17 March 2009 | Corporate | ✓ |
| Accessing Democracy | September 2008 | Autumn 2009 | Corporate | ✓ |
| CTLR | December 2008 | December 2009 | E&R | N/A |
| Autistic Spectrum Disorder | 30 March 2009 | March 2010 | Adult Services | N/A |
| Provision of Activities for Young People | 30 March 2009 | March 2010 | Communities | N/A |

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Appendix 1: SELECT COMMITTEES 2005 – 2009 – PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS

| WATER AND WASTEWATER, PARTICULARLY IN ASHFORD – SEPTEMBER 2005 Recommendations | Progress at end March 2009 |
|--|--|
| <p>1. The Select Committee would endorse the view, expressed by officers of Kent County Council, that the solutions proposed for management of issues regarding the water system in the Ashford growth area must ensure mutual benefit and support, as far as is possible, with the economic and social dimensions of growth.</p> <p>The Committee also endorses the view that environmental considerations must be given equal weight in decision-making with social and economic considerations to achieve truly sustainable growth.</p> <p>The Committee recommends that when considering in future how to take forward actions identified through the IWMS, Kent County Council should continue to pursue strongly the objectives of the Kent Environment Strategy. The Council should consider how appropriate actions and targets from the IWMS could be linked to the Environment Strategy.</p> | <p>Alignment of policies continues to be pursued.</p> <p>The current review of the Kent Environment Strategy presents opportunity to improve this further.</p> |
| <p>2. The Select Committee would support the establishment of a permanent group for the management, protection and enhancement of the water system in the Stour Catchment, made up of key stakeholders from central government (including planners and regulatory authorities), local government (county and district levels), water companies, and technical and environmental experts. Its remit should include land management issues relating to water and wastewater in the Stour Catchment. KCC should drive the establishment of this group, ensuring that key stakeholders are involved and that its work dovetails with that of Ashford's Future and the IWMS. The Group should engage actively with local people regarding its work, fostering public ownership and participation in measures to protect and enhance the aquatic environment.</p> | <p>The new Stour River Basin Group met recently for the first time. This is part of the river basin planning process for the Water Framework Directive.</p> |

3. Many of the Committee's recommendations will be more or less relevant to the welfare of the River Stour. Given that the growth in Ashford's population will lead to an increase in the output of wastewater, and that this growth sits within a context of higher temperatures and reductions in summer rainfall in the South East it must be stated here that the Select Committee believes that the Stour's chemical and biological condition, its temperature, flow levels and its chalk river characteristics downstream, and the condition of its environment must be given a priority consideration when carrying out selection of the options for managing water resources and the water supply and wastewater system in and around Ashford.

The Select Committee also acknowledges the Environment Agency view that 'what is good quality for one habitat is not necessarily good quality for another', and therefore urges that attention should be focused in particular on the quality of the chalk river stretches of the Great Stour. To facilitate this, the Select Committee recommends that as a matter of urgency an appropriate system of monitoring should be put in place to identify critical changes in the chalk river characteristics of the Stour, and to monitor the Stour's flow levels and temperature, not just the river's chemical and biological quality. Research should be undertaken to fill gaps in the present understanding of the impact of variations in flow levels and temperature on rivers with chalk stream characteristics.

The Environment Agency's resources should be increased as appropriate to enable this research.

Although the Environment Agency's statutory 'backstop' position is to maintain river chemical and biological quality, having noted existing concerns about the state of the Stour, especially in its chalk water stretches, the Select Committee would urge that the firm aim of the Environment Agency and all key stakeholders in the Stour Catchment should be an overall improvement in the chemical, biological and physical quality and the flow levels of the Stour, and in the condition of the Stour's environment. The Select Committee recommends

Ashford Water Quality Task Group was established in 2008.

Ashford River Health Toolkit (ARHT) has been completed – this is a computer model that can simulate river flows, diffuse pollution inputs and point source effluent discharges so that infrastructure can be planned in advance of problems occurring.

The ARHT has identified future problems with phosphorous loading in the river and, as a result, Southern Water has submitted plans to OFWAT for the upgrading the WWTWs at Lenham, Charing and Sellinge.

Phase 1 of Bybrook WWTW improvements has been completed. This has resulted in river water quality improvements, especially to ammonia levels.

The Water Quality Task Group believes that improvement in river water quality is achievable and is working towards that.

Improvements to the river flow may be harder to achieve as recent research results show that reductions to local groundwater abstraction may not result in increased flows into the river from chalk springs.

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| <p>that such an aspiration should be at the heart of the Stour Catchment Group recommended by this report. Moreover, the Committee would urge that the Environment Agency should be given the statutory mandate and the resources needed to work for the <u>improvement</u> of the quality of surface waters throughout England and Wales. In parallel with this, the Committee recommends that the technical implications of the Water Framework Directive should be clarified as a matter of urgency, so that it may be given detailed consideration in forward planning for water supply and wastewater treatment and disposal.</p> | |
| <p>4. To support work seeking to achieve and maintain a balance between population growth, water resource management and infrastructure development, the Select Committee recommends that the actual growth of the population and number of households in the Ashford urban area should be closely and regularly monitored. This information should be shared between local authority planners, water industry regulators and water companies, to provide a common baseline for their forward plans.</p> | <p>Sharing of data is taking place.</p> <p>The monitoring report for the Ashford Water Strategy is regularly updated by the EA. This includes data from South East Water on the current water demand within the Ashford supply zone.</p> <p>For wastewater planning OFWAT does not allow Southern Water to include plans to accommodate growth until that growth has a high degree of certainty – ie. It is set out in an Area Action Plan.</p> |
| <p>5. Assisted by close observation of population growth and number of households in the Ashford urban area, and by further research (as recommended by the draft consultants' report for the IWMS) into levels of non-mains water abstractions, the Select Committee recommends that the area's actual level of demand for water should be closely monitored by the Environment Agency, especially in the planned growth period. This information must be shared between planners, water companies and water industry regulators, so that an agreement as to the baseline position for forward planning can be established.</p> | <p>Non-mains abstractions are known to be a very small part of total water use and have not been given a high priority, consequently funding has not been available to research this.</p> |

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| <p>6. The Select Committee recommends that, given the current uncertainty regarding the viability of Broad Oak reservoir (which must be resolved as a matter of urgency), detailed work should be carried out looking into the viability of alternatives to resource the supply-demand balance in the Ashford area, particularly effluent re-use. Work on effluent re-use should especially focus on the local environmental implications of such schemes, and on public health and acceptance issues.</p> | <p>South East Water's draft Water Resources Management Plan included the options appraisal for a wide range of alternatives for balancing future supply and demand. Effluent re-use has been considered but a larger scheme on the lower Medway is currently preferred.</p> <p>KCC believes that the draft WRMPs for the companies that supply Kent were inadequately integrated and would result in sub-optimal investments. KCC has requested the Secretary of State at DEFRA to call a Public Inquiry into three of the plans. A response is still outstanding.</p> |
| <p>7. The Select Committee recommends that investigations should continue as to the most effective means to achieve demand management through tariffed metering. The Committee also recognises that incentives are lacking for customers to opt into metering, and recommends that the Government has a role to play in developing such incentives. The Committee would also recommend further research and open discussion regarding the potential costs of metering to customers, the reasons why water companies may apply for Water Scarcity Status and the implications of compulsory metering powers under Water Scarcity Status. The Committee urges that considerations of social justice be given high importance in the development of metering tariffs and that schemes to assist vulnerable customers should be publicised more widely.</p> | <p>All the water companies in the region have included compulsory water metering in their plans. KCC is working with South East Water and Folkestone & Dover Water to evaluate alternative tariff systems.</p> |
| <p>8. The Select Committee strongly recommends to the Government that an accredited and recognised system of water efficiency labelling should be developed for fixtures, fittings and appliances using water. To address the</p> | <p>The DEFRA market Transformation Programme and the national Waterwise project are pursuing this.</p> |

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| <p>important issue of reducing demand in existing housing stock, consideration should be given as to how retrofit of high-efficiency fixtures, fittings and appliances could be incentivised effectively. Installation of such measures in new build should be made compulsory under reformed building regulations, at least in areas where the water supply-demand balance is under strain.</p> <p>The Select Committee also strongly recommends to the water industry regulators that a water efficiency commitment should be developed, setting targets for water companies to reduce water use by their customers. Active encouragement should be given by Government and by the water industry regulators to partnership working on demand management projects between water companies and developers, and water companies and local authorities.</p> | <p>DEFRA already manages The Water Technology List that includes tested products that qualify for the ECA scheme. Waterwise has also developed a technology accreditation scheme.</p> <p>Government has committed to reviewing the Water Fitting Regulations.</p> |
| <p>9. The Select Committee strongly recommends that further research be undertaken into the possibility of introducing rainwater harvesting and other appropriate technologies in the Ashford growth area. The results of this research should be reflected in the design of future developments in the Ashford growth area and elsewhere, and in the revision of national building regulations.</p> | <p>Rainwater harvesting has recently been shown to incur higher carbon emissions than supplying the same volume of mains water. This is due to the small, less-efficient pump that most rainwater harvesting systems require to lift the water into the building.</p> <p>KCC is awaiting further work on this before pursuing rainwater harvesting.</p> |
| <p>10. The Select Committee welcomes the commitment to and guidance for sustainable development offered by Kent Design, and Ashford Borough Council's commitment to seeking high standards of water efficiency in new development, including consumption of toilets, taps and showers, bath size and white goods (where installed by the developer). It urges Government to give water conservation measures priority consideration in reform of the building regulations, including provision for stricter standards to be applied by local authorities in areas where the supply-demand balance is particularly under strain. Existing training and information should be extended to support local authority officers in enforcing building regulations and other high standards for</p> | <p>It is thought that part G of the Building Regulations will be revised to include water efficiency requirements but this is not yet clear.</p> |

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| <p>design and construction, as deemed appropriate for the needs of the area (e.g. EcoHomes standards, SEEDA Sustainability Checklist, Kent Design principles). Local authority officers should be assured of the resources necessary to enforce such regulations and standards.</p> | |
| <p>11. The Select Committee supports initiatives such as the SE Water Resources Forum, and the Kent Sustainable Business Partnership, which raise environmental considerations further up the business agenda. The Committee would wish to see more businesses applying for environmental management accreditation, and would suggest that more be done to incentivise such accreditation.</p> | <p>The Kent Sustainable Business Partnership finds limited interest in water efficiency because water is a relatively minor cost to most Kent businesses.</p> |
| <p>12. The Select Committee encourages local authorities, DEFRA and the Environment Agency to take forward the following actions:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - compulsory metering of non-mains abstraction within the Stour Catchment, especially any closely linked to water resources for the Ashford growth area, in order to ascertain usage – to be complete within five years - research into the possibilities offered to farmers and horticulturists, through diversification, to proactively adapt to water resource pressures and climate change, and into the best policies and means by which to support such adaptation - research into the means to make the most efficient use of water from abstractions, and into alternative water resources (including reservoirs) - partnership working with farmers and with groups such as the NFU, to give practical advice and support regarding efficient water use and the planning, development and deployment of alternative resources. Within Kent, such work could be facilitated by the Stour Catchment group as outlined in Recommendation 2. | <p>In the absence of adequate information on non-mains water use this recommendation has not yet been progressed.</p> |
| <p>13. The Select Committee would endorse the IPPR's position that 'we do not feel that a lack of evidence should mean an abandonment or down-playing of demand management strategies, but that greater effort should be made to build the evidence base on how effective different strategies are in reducing water demand'. Given the existing concern regarding abstraction levels and the</p> | <p>The Kent Water Demand Management Group (KWDMG) has been expanded. The Savings on Tap project with</p> |

potential impact of growth on the supply-demand balance, discrepancies between population and demand projections, and uncertainty regarding the viability of some resource development options, demand management measures must be viewed as an immediate priority for action.

- Public education could be led in the first instance by local authorities such as Kent County Council and Ashford Borough Council, in partnership with water companies, developers and local environmental groups.
- The Committee is encouraged by the work of the Kent Water Demand Management Group, led by KCC, in promoting water efficiency in building and business; the work of this Group should be supported and extended to support the mobilisation of stakeholders to systematically address water consumption pressures and develop related business opportunities locally (e.g. in water efficient technology).
- Should a Stour Catchment Group such as that proposed in Recommendation II be developed, this group could take forward work in engaging the local population to tackle challenges in the supply-demand balance in their area.
- Local authorities should carry out auditing of their own water use, and take action to improve efficiency. KCC should reaffirm and act on its commitment to carry out a water audit across all its areas of business, excluding schools, within three years. Schools should be encouraged to respond to this action within the same timescale.

Hillreed Homes has demonstrated water efficiency measures in new homes. Per capita consumption in these homes was 112 l/h/day in 2008.

Using the Code for Sustainable Homes, high standards are now being set within Kent LDFs.

KCC is leading a project to address water efficiency in existing homes. This is very popular with residents and the project is on track to reach its objectives. The project also includes activities aimed at public behaviour change.

Overall, water companies in the SE have found that pcc has been relatively static since the 2005- 2006 drought.

The KWDMG is currently identifying schools with high per pupil water use for a targeted water efficiency campaign.

From 2010 OFWAT will give all water companies minimum targets for water efficiency gains.

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| <p>14. The Select Committee would urge OFWAT (and its successor as the economic regulator) to give greater long-term financial security, through a revised Price Review process, to water companies' plans for long-term enhancement of their services. The economic regulator is also asked to consider how the process and timing for approval of water companies' asset management plans could be made more flexible, to allow greater synchronicity with local development frameworks and with actions identified through area projects such as the Ashford IWMS.</p> | <p>There has been no change on the timing of the Price Review process, however OFWAT has introduced mechanisms to remove some of the disincentives for investment in demand reduction.</p> |
| <p>15. The Select Committee recommends that not only flood risk implications but also the protection and enhancement of the River Stour should be taken into account in the consideration of all proposals for development in the Ashford growth area. (This recommendation supports the Committee's Recommendation 3).</p> | <p>This is being addresses by the EA as part of an Upper Stour Strategic Review.</p> |
| <p>16. The Committee recommends that separate storm and foul sewerage should be installed in place of CSOs, as and when redevelopment work takes place in the vicinity. It also recommends that OFWAT (and its successor as the economic regulator) should ensure there are financial means to fund the replacement of CSOs before unacceptable impacts are detected.</p> <p>The Committee also recommends that the Environment Agency should be required to advise the public through posting of notices and through public journals of all untreated or unsatisfactorily part-treated discharges – both licensed and unlicensed – of sewage and effluent into the sea, watercourses or over land. A record of such discharges should be maintained and be available to members of the public.</p> | <p>All new developments are served with separate foul and storm sewers.</p> <p>There are currently no funding mechanisms for the replacement of existing CSOs. However, improvements to the network capacity appear to be reducing the frequency of CSO incidents.</p> |

GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES IN KENT – MAY 2006

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| <p>Recommendations</p> <p>1. For KCC, in partnership with all Kent local authorities, to take joint responsibility for the establishment of a network of transit sites across Kent. For KCC to co-ordinate the submission of funding bids to the regional housing fund for January 2007 and subsequent bidding opportunities, where appropriate and sustainable. (Page 22, 4.5.10)</p> <p>2. For Kent local authorities to investigate ways to facilitate growth in the number of self-owned, self-leased and self-managed private sites, within the existing planning and legislative framework. (Page 23, 4.6.4)</p> | <p>Progress at end March 2009</p> <p>There has been significant progress made. The planning advice options were submitted to SEERA and made available on the KCC website, including the full version of the four Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments for Kent and Medway. A number of counties and districts revised their accommodation figures (not including Kent).</p> <p>The South Eastern Regional Assembly decided, at their meeting on 4 March 2009, to recommend that transit site proposals should be determined locally. Before the Examination in Public on the Partial Review of the South East Plan, SEERA Officers aim to commission a study on transit movement patterns and high-level evidence of need for transit provision, to inform the work their draft policy indicates will be needed at county group level to identify transit provision requirements.</p> |
| <p>2. For Kent local authorities to investigate ways to facilitate growth in the number of self-owned, self-leased and self-managed private sites, within the existing planning and legislative framework. (Page 23, 4.6.4)</p> | <p>The Housing Corporation produced a paper on this subject, to act as a basis for increased RSL involvement and the Communities and Local Government Departments produced revised guidance on Accommodation Assessments. The KCC GTU developed a closer working relationship with AMICUS Housing and was keen to hold an event, involving RSLs operating in Kent, once there was Housing Corporation or CLG new proposals to discuss - this has not yet taken place, but has been</p> |

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| | <p>discussed informally with an officer from the new Homes and Communities Agency.</p> <p>A paper will be prepared by the Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board once the proposals were produced.</p> <p>Opportunities for owner-occupied sites will continue to be looked for, as part of necessary new site development in Kent.</p> |
| <p>3. For the KCC Gypsy Unit to investigate the situation of Irish Travellers in Kent, regarding access to local authority sites, and to monitor and report on the pitch occupancy rate on public sites. (Page 25, 4.7.8)</p> | <p>KCC is now discussing with other authorities in Kent and Medway the review of public plot allocation policy, to reflect the needs and site stock that exist, the different groups seeking accommodation, and to enable those from different groups to live side by side.</p> |
| <p>4. For KCC to facilitate the sharing of best practice between Kent local authorities, over the needs assessment processes, including addressing future needs. (Page 28, 5.1.4)</p> | <p>Sharing of practice continues through the Kent and Medway Site Managers' Group (to which other agencies are also invited) and occasional meetings of the planning officer group which helps steer the Kent and Medway SEERA work.</p> |
| <p>5. All Transit and permanent site provision in Kent should have amenities and services, including boundary fencing, hardstanding on each pitch, water supply, toilet and washing facilities, waste disposal and electricity supply and ensure adequate health and safety measures are taken. (Page 30, 5.2.5)</p> | <p>Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Service have completed, and launched in February 2009, an excellent DVD, for Gypsies and Travellers living on any type of site, or in a caravan with no site, which is being well-received in Kent and other parts of the country. It provides practical guidance on how to prevent fires starting, what happens when they do, and how to respond effectively and protect people and property. Anyone who would like a copy can contact the Gypsy and Traveller Unit.</p> <p>The Government's Site Design Guide was</p> |

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| | <p>published in May 2008, and is the basis for decisions on grant for current and future public sites.</p> <p>The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 received Royal Assent in July 2008, making Mobile Homes Act 1983 provisions apply to publicly-run Gypsy and Traveller sites for the first time. Some exceptions can be made, and consultation on those (principally about right of assignment and rights to plots on succession after death) took place in autumn 2008. The further changes will be included in regulations expected to be placed before Parliament before the summer recess. A model new national pitch agreement is due to be prepared, and recommended to all public bodies managing sites. The change to the new system, with the new law applying, is expected by the end of calendar year 2009 or by 1 April 2010. New Site Management Guidance will be published at the same time by the Communities and Local Government Department.</p> |
| <p>6. Where transit sites are to be provided in Kent by the district authorities, KCC should offer its expertise in managing sites that have special challenges, such as transit sites. (Page 31, 5.3.5)</p> <p>7. For all Kent local authorities, to increase the involvement and responsibility of Gypsy and Traveller residents in site management arrangements. (Page 32, 5.4.6)</p> | <p>That offer remains in place, to facilitate the provision of transit sites which operate successfully.</p> <p>There has been improvement in site management, including on new licence consultation.</p> <p>There are discussions with site residents over site management issues, and joint involvement in making improvements.</p> <p>A Countywide group of Traveller site managers has been established, and meets regularly to share best</p> |

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| | practice in site management, including the involvement of site residents in it. |
| <p>8. For KCC, in consultation with district authorities, to consider having a residential 'gatekeeper' on transit sites in Kent. (Page 33, 5.5.3)</p> | Needs further discussion at CWG once transit work is progressed. |
| <p>9. For Kent local authorities to ensure that any new transit sites in Kent should be self-financing, with rent charged on sites. The revenue costs for the running of transit sites should be shared between KCC and the relevant District/Borough Councils. (Page 34, 5.6.5)</p> | Needs further discussion at CWG once transit work is further progressed. |
| <p>10. For KCC, with district authorities, to lobby the Department of Work and Pensions to address the difference in the treatment of County Councils (as if they were profit-making landlords) in comparison to housing authorities. This is in the context of the Department of Work and Pensions meeting the full reasonable rent of claimants in receipt of housing benefit who reside on Gypsy and Traveller sites. This is in order to ensure that County Councils and Housing Associations who provide and manage public sites are not forced to subsidise the costs of provision. (Page 35, 5.7.6)</p> | The Department of Work and Pensions, no doubt noting the reduction in the numbers of county councils from 1 April 2009, and thus the reduction in the net impact of changing back to the old system, has decided to return to the pre-2001 system, whereby rents do not need to be referred to rent officers, and this took effect from 1 April this year, and will produce additional revenue for KCC and other councils to defray the costs of managing sites. |
| <p>11. For KCC, with district authorities, lobby the government to provide sufficient resource to ensure that unsuccessful retrospective planning applications can be dealt with in weeks rather than years. (Page 42, 6.9.14)</p> | None, but anecdotal evidence suggests the level of concern appears to have diminished in some parts of Kent, and the number and scale of new cases appears to have fallen. |
| <p>12. For Kent local planning authorities to consider the importance of ensuring that temporary applications are refused in situations where there are material objections, along the same lines as dealing with permanent permission applications. (Page 42, 6.9.14)</p> | None - we will table this as a matter for a meeting of the Kent Planning Officers Group – perhaps in combination with a number of the other issues mentioned here that have not yet been pursued. |

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| <p>13. For Kent local planning authorities to consider the importance of ensuring that, where rural exception policies are included within Local Development Frameworks, there is a need to ensure that they are tightly drafted to mitigate any potential increase in planning applications on these grounds. (Page 42, 6.9.14)</p> | <p>Ditto recommendation above.</p> |
| <p>14. KCC to facilitate the establishment of a Countywide partnership group, which will work to share best practice and information to reduce and tackle Unauthorised Developments. (Page 42, 6.9.14)</p> | <p>The Kent Planning Officers' Group are discussing this issue again in June 2009.</p> |
| <p>15. For the KCC Gypsy Unit and Trading Standards to demonstrate increased collaboration in effectively reducing the practice of rogue trading, including more effective strategic and operational data sharing. (Page 45, 7.4.8)</p> | <p>The KCC GTU has been successful in working with Kent Waste who worked with the BBC "Rogue Traders" programme to expose a partner of the licensee of one of KCC's managed sites as a fly tipper, including on an access road to the site itself. The individual has been convicted and fined, and other individuals have also been prosecuted successfully.</p> |
| <p>16. For KCC, with district authorities, to lobby the government, to ensure that there is stronger multi-agencies work to tackle any criminality or tax evasion in transient populations. (Page 47, 7.5.9)</p> | <p>Multi-agency work continues successfully, over a range of issues.</p> |
| <p>17. For KCC to facilitate the establishment of a joint Kent and Medway Authority group, to address the accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers. The primary objective of this group is to address the accommodation needs that are identified. It will also provide a vehicle for consultation and a sub-regional approach for applying for funding. In addition, it will consider the revenue cost implications linked to site provision, with a view to pooling resources. (Page 49, 8.5)</p> | <p>A Countywide Group with nominated representatives from all local authorities and other agencies has been established and has met regularly.</p> <p>It has, very significantly, included, at every second meeting, individuals invited from Gypsy and Irish Traveller communities, and this has enabled very detailed discussion of issues of mutual concern, and engagement over the planning, housing and needs assessment processes that are proceeding</p> |

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| | <p>in Kent, the South East and across England.</p> <p>The work of this group is the biggest progress made with the Select Committee recommendations, as it involves invitations to all the relevant stakeholders, including the Kent Association of Parish Councils.</p> <p>The Group is the key to future progress with partnership working on the remaining recommendations.</p> |
| <p>18. For the KCC Gypsy Unit to be renamed as the 'Gypsy and Traveller Unit', in order to reflect the role of the Unit in working with all Gypsies and Travellers. (Page 49, 8.5)</p> | <p>Achieved.</p> |

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| <p>HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT – APRIL 2006</p> | <p>Recommendation</p> <p>1. For Kent County Council to make the description and explanation of school transport rules in its school admission booklets more clear and accessible (Page 11).</p> <p>2. To consider the provision of online systems that supply school admission and transport information, and that enable electronic applications and payments (Page 11).</p> |
| <p>Progress at end March 2009</p> | <p>Description and explanation of school transport was enhanced in Admission to Secondary School booklet for 2007. It has been maintained in all books since with a dedicated section clearly explaining transport eligibility.</p> <p>The Transport Team also developed a new transport booklet back in 2007 this is distributed each year to Primary and Secondary schools. It has been designed with the applications for transport forms inside the back cover so parents will have full access to transport information on hand while completing their applications for transport.</p> <p>Officers within Admissions & Transport attend some school open evenings to assist parents in understanding the rules. Admissions & Transport staff will continue to monitor feedback regarding the School Admission booklet and indeed the transport booklet, both of which ask for feedback and suggestions for improvement. Any comments will then be used to inform future editions of the publications.</p> <p>The Home to School Transport booklet was enhanced further in 2008 when the Transport team gained the Crystal Mark for the booklet from The Plain English Campaign.</p> <p>Comments gained from the Customer Satisfaction Survey have shown that parents are very satisfied with the booklet and the information that is available.</p> <p>Section 508A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, in force from 1 April 2007, places a general duty on local authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel and modes on the journey to, from, and between schools and other institutions. The Act also requires an audit of the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority that may be used when travelling to and from, or between schools/institutions. As part of addressing both of these requirements, Kent Highway Services undertook a full infrastructure audit of all KCC schools in 2008 and has</p> |

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| | <p>worked with CFE and ISG to develop and expand the 'School's Searchable Database' on kent.gov.uk to include an additional section on 'Safer Journeys To School'. The facility contains information regarding the School's Travel Plan and also basic information about local speed limits, crossing points, the availability of a school crossing patrol etc. It is planned to develop this facility over the next 12 months to include more interactive mapping that allows the user to view, precise locations of things like walking bus routes and school crossing patrols. Additionally the website www.11-19travel.info, provides bespoke public transport and journey planning information for every secondary school in Kent.</p> |
| <p>3. To ensure continuous dialogue between Kent County Council and religious denominations in an effort to reflect more accurately the communities that denominational schools serve in the entitlement and provision of free home to school transport (Page 14).</p> | <p>The guidance from the DCSF states that the Secretary of State continues to attach importance to the opportunity that many parents have to choose a school in accordance with their religious and philosophical beliefs and believes that wherever possible LAs should ensure that transport arrangements support the preference of the parents. He hopes that LAs will continue to think it right not to disturb well established arrangements for denominational transport assistance. Regular contact is maintained by the LA and the diocesan boards of education on matters relating to transport and indeed admissions.</p> |
| <p>4. That in the interests of consistency consideration be given to free home to school transport for pupils specifically selected by aptitude to attend specialist schools (Page 14).</p> | <p>Home to school transport is provided to children who are selected for grammar school education, attend their nearest appropriate school and live more than three miles from the school. However, they must live within a selective area of education to receive assistance. If they live in a comprehensive area of education, children would not receive assistance to a grammar school even if they have been selected unless the school was geographically nearer and over 3 miles away (2 miles for low income groups). For children taking aptitude tests to enter specialist or particular types of schools – this would depend on whether or not the school is the nearest appropriate school or not.</p> <p>There are a large number of specialist schools and changes would require an extension of the transport provision across the County, with undoubtedly, further financial implications. One would hope that the Kent Freedom Pass will open up access to such schools where cost of transport may have been a barrier in the past.</p> |

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| <p>5. That in the interests of consistency consideration be given to providing transport to the nearest single sex school if a preference is expressed by the parents (Page 14).</p> | <p>The County's transport policy is currently under review and it is felt that the LA provides parents with a significant choice of single sexed schools to express preferences for. The transport policy reflects parent's preference by providing transport assistance to a child's nearest schools, which can include single sexed schools.</p> |
| <p>6. To ensure additional legal support is available to Members when they exercise their discretion at the Regulation Committee Case Panel (Page 16).</p> | <p>If Members require Legal support, Democratic Services would make the necessary arrangements. Legal Services do charge and this charge would have to be met by Democratic Services. To our knowledge, there has only been one appeal where a Legal representative was present as the parent had brought her own representative to the appeal.</p> |
| <p>7. To consider younger siblings' eligibility for free transport when applying to a school that, although not their nearest appropriate, is the one to which the older sibling has been directed, therefore receiving free transport (Page 16).</p> | <p>When siblings apply for transport all circumstances are taken into consideration. However, whilst Members refer to the LA 'directing' pupils to schools there are several scenarios that have to be taken into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) If it has not been possible to offer a place at any of the preferred schools at the time of secondary transfer and have allocated child a place – transport would only be granted to the allocated school if the nearest appropriate school had been named and refused a place. b) If a child has moved in and cannot attend nearest appropriate school – Admissions & Transport would advise parent of where there are places available and therefore it would be parents who decide where their child will attend. If they attend the next nearest appropriate school transport would be granted. <p>If it is deemed appropriate to make changes to the existing policy this would require a Cabinet decision, such a scenario would ordinarily be considered through the independent appeals process. This route is far more appropriate because panels can consider the full implications of individual circumstances and effect the overriding of the policy. This process protects the LA and facilities an opportunity to make exceptions on a case by case basis.</p> |

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| | <p>The County's transport policy is currently being reviewed and will take this question into account. It should be remembered that parents having the right to express preferences for schools may not necessarily want their siblings to go to the same school but would prefer them to be in separate schools depending on their abilities.</p> |
| <p>8. For Kent County Council to take lead responsibility in promoting walking bus initiatives. This includes: for KCC to make financial contributions to walking bus schemes; attract business sponsorship to help funding walking buses; encourage a greater involvement of Community Wardens in promoting walking buses at strategic and operational level (Page 22).</p> | <p>Kent Highway Services are part of a unique partnership to develop and promote Walking Buses and associated Walk to School initiatives in the County. This partnership involves, KCC, Medway Council, the Kent and Medway Charity Team (affiliated to the KM Group) and private sector sponsors. This partnership has gone from strength to strength in recent years and has contributed to a gradual shift to walking to school at primary schools, helping to tackle congestion on the school-run. Broadly speaking, KCC provide safety and administrative support to Walking Buses, ensuring they are properly risk assessed and meet insurance requirements. KCC also provides support in identifying appropriate routes and training volunteers to operate within clearly defined guidelines. The Kent and Medway Charity Team, funded in part by a grant from Kent Highway Services, work with schools and walking bus volunteers to ensure the longevity of the schemes, through a series of incentives and events. They also help to secure private sector sponsorship for equipment like hi-vis tabards. Through the partnership, over 70 walking buses currently operate in Kent, in addition to 130 schools participating in either Walk on Wednesday (WOW) or Walking Bug in 2008/09. It is estimated that the schemes save in excess of 150,000 school-run trips each year.</p> |
| <p>9. To continue to support and promote initiatives and schemes aimed at encouraging safe cycling to school and at improving the quality of cycling networks and services in Kent (Page 24).</p> | <p>Cycle Training in Kent continues to be delivered to Year 6 pupils as part of the Kent Rider scheme, a one day course led by the Road Safety team in KHS. However, KHS has recently obtained additional funding for £112K to develop and expand existing arrangements to deliver cycle training to the new national 'Bikeability' standard at selected schools in Ashford and Canterbury. Subject to available funding and the outcomes of this pilot, it is intended that these arrangements will be rolled out across the County in due course.</p> <p>Additionally, Kent continue to work with Sustrans to deliver the BikeIT programme to 12 selected schools in Ashford and Canterbury to promote and encourage cycling to schools. This scheme has been highly successful and has resulted in significant mode</p> |

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| | <p>shift to cycling at the targeted schools.</p> <p>Finally Kent Highway Services has entered into an innovative partnership with Sustrans to develop and expand a volunteer 'Ranger' scheme, where Rangers for specific cycle routes keep track of maintenance requirements and work collaboratively with Kent Highway Services to ensure on and off-road sections of route are maintained to a safe standard.</p> <p>Enhancements to the cycle network County wide continue to be delivered through Developer funding and the Integrated Transport programme.</p> |
| <p>10. For Kent County Council to enhance its involvement in organising, promoting and monitoring its own car sharing initiatives in order to increase the number of people using the scheme (Page 28).</p> | <p>Kent Highway Services' highly successful <i>Kentcarshare.com</i> journey matching facility is being developed and expanded to include greater flexibility for journey matching.</p> <p>This will include new 'budi' elements for walking, cycling and taxi trips aimed at improving personal security, knowledge and confidence of local cycle routes and cost sharing opportunities.</p> <p>The new facility will be called <i>Kentjourneyshare.com</i></p> <p>The <i>Kentjourneyshare.com</i> scheme currently has 3000 members with 3117 journeys registered. Based on current matches it is estimated that in 2009 the scheme will save:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,163,283 miles • £577,312 • 1,040.7 metric tonnes of CO2 <p><i>Kentjourneyshare's</i> sister scheme <i>Kentschoolrun</i>, targeted specifically at schools, was taken out of service in 2008. This was largely due to new seatbelt and child restraint legislation which has made it increasingly difficult to transport other peoples' children without transferring often bulky equipment between vehicles. Also, experience has taught us that car-sharing schemes at schools tend to work better when they are managed locally, rather than via the web which tends to lead to concerns over</p> |

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| | <p>personal security etc. However, the University of Kent are working with Liftshare.com to establish a car-sharing scheme for Universities and Further Education Establishments across the County.</p> |
| <p>11.To maximise the use of the rail network, where available, for school transport purposes. (Page 29).</p> | <p>Transport Integration does make use of the rail network currently having children travel by rail where appropriate. However, it should be remembered that the rail companies consider a child as an adult on their 16th birthday and would charge KCC accordingly. The potential to increase this above the 13% mainstream pupils eligible for free travel is limited by a number of factors e.g. a high number of rail journeys involve a considerable walk at either end of the journey which is generally less so with buses whose timetables are more suited to school sessions.</p> |
| <p>12.To urge a stricter enforcement of parking regulations in schools' surroundings (Page 30).</p> | <p>The first step in enforcing parking regulations outside of schools is to ensure that the relevant Traffic Regulation Order is in place. Historically, the default position with school zig-zag and 'Keep Clear' markings has been 'advisory'. This means that parking on them is inconsiderate and potentially dangerous but often not a traffic contravention. However, as part of Kent Highway Services' emerging Asset Management Plan, it is anticipated that the precise situation at each school site will be identified and that the necessary Orders will be published to ensure all 'Keep Clear' markings are enforceable in the future. In addition, KHS have recently begun piloting a new 'hearts and minds' campaign with schools in Dartford and Gravesham to remind parents of the potential dangers of inconsiderate parking. The scheme, based on a yellow and red card theme, has been well received and had positive press coverage. It is hoped that the scheme will be rolled out across the County in due course. The scheme has involved enthusiastic participation from local PCSOs and Civil Enforcement officers and is another excellent example of partnership working.</p> |
| <p>13.To ensure that Green Travel Plans are embodied in the planning stage before building new schools, which should include consultation with KCC Commercial Services (Page 31).</p> | <p>Kent has recently published its 'Guidance on Transport Assessments and Travel Plans' which makes it clear that all new developments which are expected to have a significant impact on traffic and transport require a Travel Plan. A Travel Plan is defined as 'A strategy for managing multi-modal access to a site or development focusing on promoting access by sustainable modes'. The main objective of a Travel Plan is to reduce the number of single occupant car trips to a site. A successful Travel Plan will give anyone travelling to and from a site a choice of travel options and</p> |

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| | <p>encourage them to use the more sustainable ones. It has been agreed that all new schools and BSF refurbishments will require a Travel Plan. In many cases this will be an expansion and development of existing School Travel Plans developed as part of the Government's 'Travelling to School Initiative'. This project is entering its final year and it is hoped that virtually 100% of schools will have developed a Travel Plan by March 2010.</p> <p>A Travel Plan is a 'whole school community' initiative and requires extensive consultation with key stakeholders, including Commercial Services, where applicable.</p> <p>KHS, CFE and Commercial Services are currently working collaboratively to address the travel and transport implications of delivering the 14-19 diplomas in the county as well as the Kent Freedom Pass so the relevant lines of communication are well established.</p> |
| <p>14. For Kent County Council to gradually expand its bus fleet, where this can be done without unacceptable harm to the viability of commercially provided routes (Page 33).</p> | <p>KCC has been gradually expanding its own fleet with the combined objectives of market moderation and raising standards. This has met with an adverse reaction from some local bus operators and Members should be cognisant of that. Longer term, introduction of free transport for all would affect this policy.</p> |
| <p>15. To promote the use of CCTV systems in all buses used for school transport provision in Kent and to encourage the provision of escorts in school buses (Page 35).</p> | <p>At present, Transport Integration do not require potential transport providers to supply CCTV on hired school bus services. This could, however, be included as a pre-requisite in all Invitations to Tender for hired services. There would, however, need to be regulation specifying the type of systems to be used and issues such as data protection would need to be addressed. The cost of retro-fitting CCTV to a vehicle is in the order of up to £3500 and it is unlikely that operators would be able to bear this additional cost; it is probable, therefore, that the tender prices received, and hence the cost of home to school transport in general, would rise as a result. As a guide, Transport Integration currently manage around 260 hired contracts with vehicles of 16 or more seats (£910k).</p> |

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| | <p>A rather more difficult consideration would be if this requirement was extended to all commercial bus routes upon which entitled scholars travel.</p> <p>The cost of providing escorts on all buses could be as much as £2 million per annum.</p> |
| <p>16.To carry out further investigation, through bus companies and school clusters, into the staggering of starting and finishing times of primary and secondary schools in Kent in order to reduce car congestion and school transport costs (Page 38).</p> | <p>This exercise is being explored and implemented in a number of areas following consultations with schools and parents. The impact of such changes have yet to be fully established and will require close monitoring before any further reaching policy decisions can be explored.</p> <p>Problems can be increased costs, as existing contracts may have to be cancelled to gain new ones, which would be quoted at a higher cost. Times could cause issues for parents for collecting and delivering children to school. Possibly more congestion due to breakfast club/after school clubs being at different times.</p> <p>Initial discussions with Headteachers would indicate their primary concern is raising standards of achievement and extending or staggering the school day is not proven to be conducive to this.</p> <p>Hugh Christie School has embarked on this process and already found that transports costs have increased in the region of £65,000.</p> <p>There will be obvious staffing and student concerns to be overcome in the process and a full cost benefit analysis will need to take place in due course. A major consideration for primary schools parents is a disruption in childcare arrangements that may be costly.</p> |
| <p>17.To continue to monitor technical developments which may be of use in the provision of school transport to a higher appropriate standard (Page 40).</p> | <p>Kent Highway Services have secured £1 million through the Integrated Transport capital programme in 2009/10 to invest in Smartcard reader machines on Kent's bus fleet. The Smartcard system will allow significantly greater flexibility on public transport ticketing across the county, benefiting both the user, operators and KCC, particularly in terms of tracking and monitoring usage and reimbursement. The Smartcards will be piloted with Stagecoach as part of the Kent Freedom Pass for Thanet schools from June 2009.</p> |

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| <p>18.To support the East Kent Direct Project in an effort to supply a more co-ordinated, integrated and efficient allocation of transport services which meet the needs of Kent residents (Page 41).</p> | <p>Transport Integration has played a significant role in the East Kent Direct project and is keen to work further towards the stated goals. Although there has been a recent lull due to the re-alignment of Ambulance Services across the southeast, work has already been undertaken in relation to the provision of public transport information, joint procurement activities, joint provision of training services and the development of common eligibility criteria for Primary Care Trusts amongst other activities. The proposed absorption of the East Kent Social Services client transport by Transport Integration, which already manages the service for the former Mid and West Kent areas, has been delayed due to internal KCC re-structuring although work has recently re-commenced.</p> |
| <p>19.To continue to support cross-border collaboration with neighbouring authorities, and to promote the initiative of a shared, co-ordinated transport database aimed at maximising the utilisation of school transport and at creating a more cost-effective transport system (Page 43).</p> | <p>Transport Integration has good contacts with colleagues in neighbouring Authorities and effort is made to share information and vehicle movements where possible. However, the natural pupil flows mean that there is not a great deal that can be achieved with regards to mainstream transport; flows from Kent into neighbouring Authority schools are often in the opposite direction from those arranged by that Authority. Greater opportunities, although still few in number, exist for pupils attending special schools.</p> |
| <p>20.To explore the possibility of becoming a Pathfinder authority, by providing all students aged 11 to 16 years living in a selected area of Kent with an annual bus pass in order to evaluate bus usage and consequent reduction in car use (Page 50).</p> | <p>The School Travel (Piloting of Schemes) (England) Regulations 2007, S.I.2007/1366 made provision for the piloting by authorities (Pathfinders) of the school travel scheme provisions in section 508E of, and Schedule 35C to, the Education and Inspections Act 2006.</p> <p>Accordingly in 2007 the DfES (DCSF), invited Local Authorities to submit bids for Pathfinder funding for innovative schemes that met the following key criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transport arrangements that support parental preference; • transport arrangements for pupils living more than 2 miles from school; and • reducing levels of car use on the home to school journey. <p>KCC submitted a bid for match-funding to support the roll out of the Kent Freedom</p> |

Pass. However, KCC and other Local Authorities were subsequently notified by DfES that:

'None of the bids were fully compliant with the criteria set out in the prospectus or in regulations. Ministers have therefore decided that we should not proceed with the pathfinder pilot at this time. We will however consult with the Local Government Association to consider alternative options for home to school transport arrangements.'

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| <p>CLIMATE CHANGE – OCTOBER 2006</p> | |
| <p>Recommendation</p> | <p>Progress at end March 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. • Council approved first set of actions in response to Select Committee. • Chief Executive communicated to all staff and has taken on climate change champion role. • Cabinet Working Group on Climate Change established to oversee implementation of actions (Alex King, Keith Ferrin, Kevin Lynes) meets as a minimum on a quarterly. • A small climate change programme team has been established within the Chief Executive's Department. • Director-level leads identified to champion action for each of the 3 workstreams. • Lead officers identified for each action within each workstream, with regular reports to project manager. • Additional governance in place where needed (e.g. working groups reporting into KCC Environment Board). • KCC emissions reductions embedded in Corporate Environmental Performance and ISO 14001 delivery (on track) with continued improvements in baseline data. • Revised KCC Environment Policy (including carbon emissions) agreed by Cabinet Dec 2007, formally launched Jan 2008. • Business planning templates have included issues for climate change mitigation and adaptation since 08/09. • Revised Cabinet Report template includes implications for climate change (issued Nov 2007). • Relevant Towards 2010 targets and indicators agreed. • Environmental performance and climate change now covered as part of all KCC induction. • Papers taken to each of the five Directorate Policy Overview Committees (POCs) in Sept 2008, summarising each directorate's progress to date in response to climate change and seeking commitment to next steps. All papers were approved in their entirety. • Each Directorate is now required to report progress to their POC on a six-monthly |

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| | <p>basis commencing March 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC climate change officers are leading and actively participating in several regional and national good-practice networks. |
| <p>2. Detailed assessment of climate change impacts on KCC services and development of adaptive responses.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of UK Climate Impacts Programme's Pilot Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP), based on analysis of past weather events. Pilot completed in Sept 2007 and is recognised as a best practice exemplar. • Funding secured and work started on a comprehensive, Kent-wide LCLIP with a range of key partners. Preparation for release and use of new UK climate scenarios in summer 2009. • All 2008-09 business unit operating plans had some initial reference to developing an understanding of how the changing climate will impact service delivery and what action to take in response. • Adapted Nottingham Declaration Action Park methodology to help KCC service areas assess impacts of climate change on service delivery to support 2009/10 business planning process. • Ongoing series of senior management adaptation workshops to take all directorates through the climate change risk assessment process, enabling the production of a comprehensive climate change adaptation plan/strategy for each directorate by 2010. • Climate change adaptation target (NI 188) for the county agreed under the Kent Agreement 2 (2008-2011). |
| <p>3. Ensure climate change impacts on flood risk, water resources and emergency planning are taken into account.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive range of new national and regional guidance published on flood risk and adapting to climate change. Some good work on planning and flood risk with Environment Agency. • Separate Select Committee on Flood Risk convened in summer 2007, recommendations adopted by Council in March 2008 (together with Pitt Review actions). Significant work now being taken forward in KHS, Kent Resilience Forum and elsewhere. • New water policy approved Dec 2006. Now being delivered through mechanisms ranging from responses to external consultations through to practical KCC led delivery projects. • The 'Towards 2010' Target 46 (lobby to ensure housebuilding does not threaten |

Kent's water supplies) provides focus for specific outputs guided by the Water Policy. For example the principal of a "water policy hierarchy" has ensured that efforts are focused on water use reduction ahead of recycling and the development of new resources.

- Target to reduce KCC's own water use by 7.5% by 2010 on track.
- Successful water efficiency demonstration projects for new housing: KCC organised a major seminar held in March 2007 to disseminate results of water-savings demonstration to major housing developers and local authorities. KCC is also working with Hillreed Homes and Mid Kent Water to trial a water-saving tariff on a new housing development in Ashford. This is the first of its kind in the UK and it is progressing well. The demonstration and trial have won several awards. Recent results show that per capita water use in this development is 20% below the water company's baseline. As a result of this project the housing developer now installs these water saving measures in all their new homes and is now willing to consider increasing their water efficiency standards further.
- New water efficiency demonstration project for existing housing: KCC is leading a 500 home pilot project in Ashford to retrofit water saving measures into existing homes. This is a partnership project with South East Water, Environment Agency, Ashford Borough Council and the Kent Wildlife Trust and it is promoting simple, free water saving measures to households in the Washford Farm area of Ashford. The project started at the beginning of March and aims to offer a cost effective mechanism for off-setting the additional water use from new homes at the same time as helping local residents to save money on their water bills. If successful, this project could be rolled out more widely.
- KCC has set up and, since 2005, has led the Kent Water Demand Management. This partnership with key water industry organisations has established itself as a national exemplar and has won a commendation for 'Inspiring Change' under the Environment Agency National Water Efficiency Water Awards for 2007. Kent Resilience Forum has established a Severe Weather sub-group is currently developing a Strategic Flood Framework for Kent; this will frame any specific plans for high-risk sea-flooding areas in first instance. KRF Severe Weather Group reviewing the recently published DEFRA guidance on preparation of multi-agency flood plans. After flooding, the group will have to consider the need for improved specific plans for areas at high risk of other climate change impacts

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| | <p>(recognising that in many cases the risks and responses are generic and do not require specific plans).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Resilience Forum Risk Assessment Working Group have updated Kent Community Risk Register to reflect current likelihood of flooding and other extreme weather hazards (e.g. heatwave, snow, severe gales). Kent LCLIP work (see Recommendation 2 and 9) will inform this further. • Kent's Community Risk Register has been assessed against 2006 guidance for inclusion of climate change risks (based on current understanding – Kent LCLIP work will help inform this further in future). |
| <p>4. Provide support for better sustainable energy advice to Kent's residents.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Energy Saving Advice Centre and Districts to provide advice and help to households in reducing emissions. All departments across the LSP who have direct contact with the public will be made aware of the advice centres and targeted mail outs will be carried out to households with high carbon profiles to raise awareness and offer support. • Completed the Low Carbon Communities pilot project (working with Kent Energy Centre to help four Kent communities become low-carbon). The project has created significant public interest, has the potential to make real carbon savings, and has produced what is probably the most comprehensive and practical community toolkit currently available (launched Dec 08). • Carbon Challenge Fund distributed to pilot communities in Dec 08 to enable further carbon reduction projects. • Energy efficiency promoted on KCC website and aligned to national "Act on CO2" campaign. • Held several Big Green Fairs to engage schools about tackling climate change. • Funding opportunities identified in principle (e.g. Interreg IV, Kent Improvement Partnership) for several parts of this action plan (not just limited to sustainable energy advice). • Priorities for KCC involvement in Interreg projects for climate change objectives have been agreed with EHW&P. |

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| <p>5. Complete a feasibility study for use of biomass in KCC buildings and replace conventional fuels with bio-fuels in KCC vehicles where possible.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC fleet vehicles operated by Commercial Services have been running on 5% biodiesel since 2006. Now technically possible to increase to 30% although currently this does not seem commercially viable (increases vehicle service frequency). • Feasibility studies completed for biomass and other renewable energy sources in schools. 1 or 2 suitable for biomass boilers (will be installed summer 2008), up to 20 ongoing solar photovoltaic / wind projects. This will increase proportion of renewable energy used (and uses Energy Loan Fund as per 6). |
| <p>6. Increase support for energy efficiency and renewable energy, particularly micro-generation, in the KCC estate and across Kent as a whole.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon emissions reduction targets for KCC (10% by 2010, 20% by 2015 on 2004 baseline) agreed by Cabinet (March 07). • Carbon emissions reduced by 4% to date. • Commitment in principle to BREEAM “very good” design standard for KCC buildings. Government now requires all new buildings to be “excellent / zero carbon” by 2019. Formal monitoring of BREEAM uptake under Towards 2010 reporting. • KCC Energy Loan Fund extended (total £1m fund for capital investment in energy / water efficiency and renewables projects within specified payback period) and making significant emissions and budget savings. Additional support officer now in post to manage fund. • Participating in Carbon Trading Councils initiative 2008-10 to help prepare for Carbon Reduction Commitment (mandatory cap and trade scheme from 2010). • A Carbon Hub web-based resource is currently being developed. This will enable more accurate measuring of energy usage across Kent and increase engagement. • 10 schools took part in the pilot and the resource is being rolled out to all KCC buildings. • Sustainable Estates Taskforce established as formal KCC Environment Board working-group, overseeing benchmarking and prioritisation exercises to support further retrofitting of energy efficiency and water efficiency measures. • Ongoing training programmes on energy management for facilities managers, school caretakers etc. |

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| <p>7. Review transport policy to achieve an overall reduction in emissions from transport in the KCC estate and across Kent as a whole.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Transport week 2007 promoted range of available sustainable travel options for KCC (e.g. Kent car share, Streetcar etc) although lasting impact was low. • Cross-cutting Sustainable Travel and Transport working group now established and has commissioned in-depth KCC travel carbon footprint study (due later in spring 2008) to improve baseline data, prioritise and take forward a range of further actions. • Switch to low energy traffic signals to be undertaken; streetlights subject to the outcome of pilot testing. • KCC Streetcar fleet now VW Polo Blue Motions (low emission vehicles). • Majority of schools now have travel plans. |
| <p>8. Make more efficient use of land in the development process and meet higher standards of sustainable construction.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC submitted responses to consultations including on PPS on climate change (which has now been published in final form). • High-level training sessions provided to Planning colleagues on climate change. • Report published and implementation in progress about impacts of climate change on Kent biodiversity. |
| <p>9. Introduce a Climate Change Action Plan, supported by clear targets.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC's own emissions targets adopted and published. • Climate change mitigation (NI 186) and adaptation (NI188) targets for the county agreed under the Kent Agreement 2 (2008-11), under both the Environmental and Economic themes. • Comprehensive, yet pragmatic delivery plans have been created, identifying the activities necessary to ensure progress on the KA2 targets. Template plans for districts include examples of best practise, support mechanisms and identification of where resources are available. • The climate change programme team provide a central resource of expertise for the LSP, becoming a Centre of Excellence for the county as a whole and are beginning to gain national recognition. • Work has started on a comprehensive, partnership-wide Local Climate Impacts Profile. • Climate change officer network established with participation from all district councils, working on delivery of the climate change KA2 targets. Climate Change Project Board has also been created. • Engaging with a range of business sector leads to take action forward, range of |

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| | <p>funding opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work aligned with wider ongoing work to review Kent Environment Strategy, including Kent-wide eco-footprint exercise. |
| <p>10. High profile communications programme.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revamp of kent.gov climate change pages with new Kent case studies and greater detail on actions that can be taken by schools and communities. • The 'Greener Kent' brand is currently being developed. • Work is underway on a climate change briefing pack for Members and senior managers, to be launched in June 2009. • Continue to engage with 'Act on CO2' brand and other regional brands as appropriate. • Strong local media opportunities through Low Carbon Community project pilot areas. |
| <p>11. Clarify political and management leadership and accountability on climate change within KCC.</p> | <p>Please see R1.</p> |
| <p>12. Improve education on climate change impacts.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Education Working Group now set up under KCC Environment Board and will seek to develop programmes to influence public behaviour through adult education, libraries, schools, youth service, youth council etc. • The KCC Climate Change Pack for schools was launched in Dec 2009, together with the Kent Schools Action on Climate Change Pledge. The pack builds on the recent Government pack and drills down to make the information and activities more Kent-specific and aligned to the new curriculum changes as far as possible. The pledge asks schools to commit to joining in action to reduce the carbon emissions of Kent. • Held several Big Green Fairs to engage schools about tackling climate change. |

| PSHE/CHILDREN'S HEALTH – APRIL 2007 | |
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| Recommendations | Progress at end March 2009 |
| <p>1. That all those dedicated individuals working to provide young people in Kent with high standard sexual health services be commended. (Section 3.6, p29)</p> | <p>Complete</p> |
| <p>2. The Committee urges that all key agencies be wholly committed and signed up to the Kent Teenage Pregnancy Strategy in an effort to decrease the rate of teenage pregnancy. (Paragraph 3.6.7, p31 to Paragraph 3.6.15, p32)</p> | <p>Partnership working between LCSP Managers, Director of Public Health, CFE and Teenage Pregnancy Board is established. All key agencies are signed up to the KCC PSHE Education Strategy. A directory of local services to support schools in PSHE Education is being developed by all partner agencies.</p> |
| <p>3. The Committee endorses and supports all the efforts of the Kent Teenage Pregnancy Partnership. It recommends expanding the Partnership's reach to all the young people in Kent by further promoting its sexual health services in places young people frequent. (Section 3.6, p29)</p> | <p>The media campaigns and distribution of promotional materials to support KTPS is ongoing. Sexual health outreach nurses are available to the most vulnerable young people. School-based sexual health services are being developed in increasing numbers of secondary schools. Youth and community tutors are supporting KTPS through projects such as 'The House' Project.</p> |
| <p>4. The Committee strongly recommends the broad production, promotion and distribution of discreet information on local sexual health services and support. (Paragraph 3.6.19, p34 to Paragraph 3.6.26, p36)</p> | <p>'For young people' resources are available in increasing numbers of schools. Some progress has been achieved through the use of on-line resources, e.g. Teen Health Check. Dissemination of sexual health literature for young people is being co-ordinated through Health Promotion services.</p> |

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| <p>5. The Committee recommends that all partner agencies involved must facilitate the expansion of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme, to ensure full screening coverage of all sexually active young people in Kent under the age of 25. (Section 4.3, p44)</p> | <p>Chlamydia screening teams have been very active in increasing uptake of the service. The screening programme is supported by KTPP in addition to C Card scheme.</p> |
| <p>6. That GUM clinics must replace appointments with a “walk in” service. The Committee insists that the proportion of Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinic attendees offered an appointment within 48 hours of contacting the service must reach 100% by 2008. (Section 4.3, p44)</p> | <p>West Kent NHS is developing Contraceptive and Sexual Health Clinics for young people. The West Kent GUM clinic targets are being achieved.</p> |
| <p>7. That the number of school nurses working in secondary schools in Kent be increased, and that the number of accessible, confidential and young people friendly sexual health clinics in all secondary schools in Kent be raised by at least one per cluster by 2008. (Paragraph 4.3.15, p46; Section 4.3, p44)</p> | <p>47 schools/colleges across Kent now have a School based Sexual Health service, including 11 offering a full service including contraception. These are staffed by school nurses and sexual health outreach workers. Additional school based services are under development through LCSP plans.</p> |
| <p>8. The Committee commends and supports all those working with disengaged, vulnerable young people, and urges the effective re-integration of more young mothers and fathers into school to complete their statutory education. (Section 5.3, p52)</p> | <p>LCSP plans include opportunities to support re-integration of teenage parents, e.g. Care to Learn programmes. The Re-integration Manager for Teenage Parents is working as part of the CFE Attendance and Behaviour Service. Six Pinnacle Coordinators are working county-wide supporting young parents to access YAPs and YAPs Plus Groups, as a route back into education.</p> |

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| <p>9. The Committee recommends that all schools in Kent work towards Healthy Schools validation by March 2009, through a process which is all inclusive to parents and governors. (Section 5.4, p56 and Section 5.5, p58)</p> | <p>All Kent schools are working towards Healthy Schools validation or have achieved this status. A new enhanced model for Healthy Schools status is to be launched in September 2009.</p> |
| <p>10. The Committee strongly recommends a strategy for a more consistent and systematic Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) delivery, that is coupled with more robust assessment and monitoring methods and that is adopted in all primary and secondary schools in Kent. (Section 5.6, p59)</p> | <p>The PSHE Education Strategy (2008-2012) was approved and launched in autumn 2008. An action plan to deliver the strategy has been developed and is being implemented by a multi-agency group.</p> |
| <p>11. The Committee urges that the new RE and Citizenship Advisor remains permanently in place to ensure that one advisor is permanently and wholly responsible and accountable for PSHE in Kent. (Paragraphs 5.3.14 and 5.3.15, p54)</p> | <p>Advisor in place. Funding position for the future confirmed.</p> |
| <p>12. That PSHE certificates for both teachers and nurses be widely promoted and supported. That each school cluster in Kent has a PSHE lead and each secondary school in Kent has at least one PSHE certified teacher. That PSHE awareness be raised through a countywide multi-agency conference, which includes all the decision makers, by March 2008. (Section 5.6, p59)</p> | <p>Programme in place and oversubscribed. This programme has now been extended to enable other professionals to undertake this training. Places will be promoted to the target schools. The course is heavily promoted to school nurses. However, there is an optional module within the Specialist Practitioner course regarding SRE and Drugs/Alcohol with regard to young people. Nurses will be asked to undertake this module on accreditation course due to government agenda to significantly increase numbers of Specialist Practitioners.</p> |

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| <p>13. The Committee strongly urges the County Council to press Government to make PSHE statutory and therefore part of the core curriculum, thereby ensuring that a selection of PSHE lessons are duly observed during inspections by Ofsted. (Section 5.2, p51)</p> | <p>DCSF announcement in Oct 08 of intention to make statutory provision for PSHE. Final guidance due in Summer 09.</p> |
| <p>14. The Committee insists that all secondary schools in Kent ensure access to websites such as “foryoungpeople”, “Ruthinking” and “Frank”, and that they provide permanent information on local sexual health services on a visible notice board. (Paragraphs 5.6.24 and 5.6.25, p63)</p> | <p>Completed. Firewalls lifted in schools. Web based resources promoted through display at headteachers conference.</p> |
| <p>15. The Committee recommends that school governors ensure that strong and consistent sex and relationships education within a PSHE framework is delivered. That SRE be taught appropriately from primary school and by specialist teachers. (Section 6.4, p70)</p> | <p>Ongoing training for teachers, head teachers and school governors supported by ASK is available and promoted to schools.</p> |
| <p>16. The Committee strongly recommends that the “relationships” aspect of SRE be emphasised more than the biological aspect, and that, in order to reflect this emphasis, the name “sex and relationships education” be</p> | <p>The new national guidance for PSHE and SRE is awaited. Kent guidance promotes the teaching of sex within the context of relationships.</p> |

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| <p>changed to “relationships and sex education”. (Paragraphs 6.4.16 and 6.4.17, p73)</p> <p>17. That the nature of SRE lessons reflects equality of responsibility between boys and girls, and therefore that it has a stronger focus on young men and on their attitudes and responsibilities when negotiating sexual relationships. That it be considered to teach particular aspects of SRE in single-sex groups. (Paragraphs 6.4.18, 6.4.19 and 6.4.20, p74)</p> | <p>Kent guidance reflects the equality of responsibility between girls and boys, and schools are encouraged to pay particular attention to the attitudes and behaviours of some young men.</p> |
| <p>18. The Committee commends that schools encourage greater involvement of both pupils and parents/carers in the planning and evaluation of SRE programmes. (Paragraphs 6.4.10 and 6.4.11, p71; Paragraph 6.4.21, p74; Paragraphs 6.4.22 and 6.4.23, p75)</p> | <p>The involvement of parents and pupils/students is promoted in information to schools. This is further supported by national guidance as part of the Children’s Plan.</p> |

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| <p>TRANSITION TO A POSITIVE FUTURE – MAY 2007</p> | |
| <p>Recommendations</p> | <p>Progress at end March 2009</p> |
| <p>1. That KCC work with all providers to increase the availability and choice of leisure facilities for young disabled people and promote and publicise 'taster sessions' to encourage participation.</p> | <p>KCC is one of 21 Pathfinder authorities allocated £15m for short breaks and access to leisure activities for more young disabled people. Partnership working is being developed to take this forward across the county. The Kent Partnership Board, local Learning Disability groups and KASS teams have worked with colleagues, for example, the District Council Sports Development Officer in Thanet. Bluewater management were engaged through Dartford LDPB resulting in a 'Changing Place' to facilitate better disabled access at the centre. Members would like good practice to be emulated across the county to bring consistency and continuity.</p> |
| <p>2. That KCC and schools promote a variety of initiatives to raise disability awareness among peers of young disabled people in mainstream schools and the wider community.</p> | <p>The Kent Children's Trust will be signing up to the Charter proposed under 'Every Disabled Child Matters'. KCC also works with organisations such as Partnership with Parents, Parents Consortium and the Centre for Independent Living, all of whom are engaged in raising disability awareness. There is evidence that projects in particular districts have raised levels of confidence and improved access by disabled people to a noticeable degree in some shops.</p> |
| <p>3. That the Cabinet Members for Children Families & Education and Adult Social Services Directorates are made aware of the Hampshire transition documents and protocols, particularly the new Transition Handbook and Multi-agency Guide, with a view to working towards a similar scheme, for Kent.</p> | <p>Kent's Transition Protocols are now in place having been developed in consultation with numerous stakeholders and informed by best practice in a variety of authorities. They were signed off by the Children's Trust Board and formally launched by the Leader on 6th November 2008.</p> |
| <p>4. That KCC should evaluate the capacity of current data systems to enable strategic monitoring of transition plans.</p> | <p>A non-technical solution is in place ensuring that key data is, with parental consent, shared across agencies. The introduction of ICS should facilitate further improvements in the future.</p> |

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| <p>5. That the Transition Task Group investigates the potential for the increased use of Trans-active in Kent schools, colleges and other settings.</p> | <p>Trans-Active and other models have been investigated.</p> |
| <p>6. That KCC should identify the source and type of advocacy available for parents and young people to facilitate better transition planning and make provisions to meet any gaps in service.</p> | <p>For the first time ever, a contract for advocacy services for adults with LD has been let to a national organisation. KPB and the 2010 Transition Executive are overseeing training of peer mentors identified through local LD groups. Partnership with Parents provides independent advice and representation.</p> |
| <p>7. To ensure that Children, Families and Education and Adult Social Services' commissioning strategies are co-ordinated, including the use of jointly-resourced budgets where appropriate, to provide a more graduated and consistent approach to service provision for young disabled people in transition from childhood to adulthood. Such strategies should incorporate Transition Worker roles or demonstrate clearly alternative means of providing similar support.</p> | <p>This longer term aim will be helped by the Kent Protocol (Rec 3) which requires KASS to have early involvement in planning for children with complex needs and the continued involvement of CFE staff beyond a young person's 18th birthday in an advisory role. The 'transition worker' role is under review and an 'Invest to Save' business case is being put forward.</p> |
| <p>8. That the Managing Director of Adult Social Services and the Managing Director of Children, Families and Education must ensure that information about transition and Adult Social Services is available in a range of accessible formats and is brought to the attention of young disabled people and their parents in advance of meetings to enable them to participate in transition planning.</p> | <p>The KASS/CFE officer team are checking that this sharing of information is happening as it should. The Transition Protocols include information for families and there is an Easy Read version for people with LD.</p> |

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| <p>9. That KCC, Connexions and partners identify how to use available resources more effectively to benefit young disabled people (including those with learning difficulties) in transition.</p> | <p>The Protocols should lead to more effective use of multi-agency resources and KCC's influence over Connexions resources is increasing.</p> |
| <p>10. That individuals identified as Lead Professional for young people in transition to adulthood have the capacity to undertake the function and are provided by KCC and partners with training and support.</p> | <p>LP role was rolled out April-September 2008 and the requirements of the Transition Protocol were included in guidance.</p> |
| <p>11. That KCC, schools and other partners promote the use of Direct Payments by young people whose social care needs will extend into adulthood, by raising awareness and understanding of Direct Payments among CFE staff and ensuring that Direct Payments are discussed (with the involvement of a peer-mentor or Direct Payment Support Worker/Adviser where possible) as part of transition planning from Year 9 onwards.</p> | <p>Aiming High Pathfinder funding will enable more staff to be recruited, more Personal Assistants and a higher take up of DP. DP are addressed in the Protocol and Legislative barriers will largely be rectified by the Health and Social Care Bill when it becomes law in 2009. (A complex situation remains for a large number of young people placed in Kent by other local authorities for whom Kent would take on considerable cost if they choose to stay in the county and access its services at 18.)</p> |
| <p>12. That KCC, through Kent Supported Employment and its partners, explore the potential of a programme whereby disabled young adults are employed as peer-mentors to assist with transition planning in schools and elsewhere.</p> | <p>The Job Action Group has been established to increase employment opportunities for people with LD. KSE lead on a pilot (DwP) project to help disabled young people to achieve their employment aspirations</p> |

| FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SELECT COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER 2007 | FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SELECT COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER 2007 |
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| Recommendations | Progress at end March 2009 |
| <p>1. That KCC look into setting up and resourcing a permanent Flood Risk Committee, in partnership with District Councils, to monitor: organisational changes affecting the management of flood risk in order to minimise the effect of such changes; the KHS gully clearance programme; non-structural means adopted by KCC and District Councils to reduce flood risk, and the Environment Agency's progress on proposed flood defence works as well as maintenance of existing defences.</p> | <p>It is suggested that a new forum is not required as many of the listed actions are already covered by established groups. Instead communication between Natural Environment & Coast Team, KHS, Strategic Planning and Emergency Planning should be improved and to enable a more coordinated and cohesive approach it is suggested that dedicated Flood Risk Officer post be created.</p> |
| <p>2. That there should be adequate, ring-fenced, direct government funding for flood risk management to provide a more transparent system which will reassure the public that vital plans, strategies and flood defence work will not be compromised by competing demands within DEFRA or elsewhere.</p> | <p>LGA coastal issues Special Interest Group continues to lobby on flood risk management.</p> |
| <p>3. That KCC should lobby the government to consider re-designating the flood management arm of the Environment Agency as a dedicated flood risk agency as well as giving the EA a strategic overview of all types of flood risk.</p> | <p>No action (EA objected).</p> |

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| <p>4. That KCC promotes the further development of an Engineering Consultancy led by Canterbury City Council Engineers to disseminate good practice and offer training/apprenticeships to build a practical skills-base and retain local knowledge/expertise in flood risk management.</p> | <p>A county-wide drainage team has been established within KHS.</p> |
| <p>5. That KCC supports development in brownfield and other areas subject to the rigorous application of site specific sequential and exception tests of Planning Policy Statement 25.</p> | <p>KCC Planners have noted and observed – no further action required.</p> |
| <p>6. That KCC oversee the development of further sub-regional flood risk assessments, based on river catchments, and undertakes to monitor this development.</p> | <p>EA are leading on work with districts to identify gaps in assessments and to complete assessments for the county.</p> |
| <p>7. That KCC ensures that its Environment and Waste Team are sufficiently resourced to enable them to: develop a county-wide coastal policy; maintain their oversight of Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) to promote consistency across the county; and raise public awareness of plans.</p> | <p>The Coastal Officer post has been secured and (see R1) it is suggested a Flood Risk Officer post be created.</p> |
| <p>8. That KCC should lead on the co-ordination of work with landowners and other agencies to identify options for the funding of changed land-use or buy-out to ensure that plans to achieve more</p> | <p>No local action has been taken pending the outcome of national work being undertaken to look at issues of blight associated with coastal policy (Defra).</p> |

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| naturally functioning flood plains and coastline in Kent are arrived at equitably. | |
| 9. That KCC works in partnership with the EA to ensure that River Basin Management planning is fully integrated with existing Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) and with regard to SMPs. | KCC and EA are working to ensure integration and no additional action is required. |
| 10. That Kent Highway Services (KHS) and the EA seek to reconstitute Flood Liaison Advice Groups (FLAGS) in Kent (ideally catchment based), with representation from the insurance industry and local communities. | KHS are now working with KRF, with input from Emergency Planning. |
| 11. That KCC instigates discussions between local planning authorities, Southern Water and others on the feasibility, benefit and cost implications of using non-return valves/sealed sewage systems in all new developments and existing developments where sewage flooding is proven to be a problem and requiring it to be a condition of planning consent. | KCC have still to table a suggestion for new developments at the KPOG meeting. KFRR have completed a study in Kent to assess surface water and groundwater risk, identifying at risk areas and providing recommendations. Discussions to be held on Minerals and Waste Development Framework (incl. waste water) with Southern and Thames Water early 2009. |
| 12. That KCC promotes the use of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) throughout Kent with over-attenuation of surface runoff, guided by best practice adopted by Canterbury and Ashford councils and findings of the integrated urban drainage pilots. | Kent Design Guide (with Technical Index) promotes SUDS and no further action is required. |

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| <p>13. That Kent planning authorities adopt the requirement for Drainage Impact Assessments for all new developments, following the Canterbury model.</p> | <p>Discussion needs to be held at district level to review the requirement of drainage impact assessment and feasibility for its inclusion.</p> |
| <p>14. That the Fire & Rescue Service are included as an active partner in the planning process for new developments.</p> | <p>District development control liaise with KFRS and no further action is required.</p> |
| <p>15. That the Kent Design guide is revised to include information on mitigating flood damage and makes reference to innovative designs for the future, such as floating homes.</p> | <p>KCC to consider flood mitigation designs etc during next review of Kent Design Guide in 2010.</p> |
| <p>16. That KCC lobbies government to produce a set of Building Regulations for use in flood risk areas so that planners are supported by increased but nationally consistent obligations to assist developers with a high level of flood proofing/mitigation.</p> | <p>Pitt Review also identified need for such building regulations – and outcomes of review are awaited before actioning recommendation. Flood and Waters Bill is to be drafted and consulted on in 2009. This issue will be picked up by consultation.</p> |
| <p>17. For KCC to work in partnership with the EA to publicise actions householders can take to increase the flood resilience of their homes.</p> | <p>The KRF Public Warning and Informing Group are currently producing a document on public readiness detailing measures to make homes more flood resilient.</p> |
| <p>18. That KCC specifically allocate funding to enable the proposed road gully cleansing work to go ahead without delay and, where necessary, to enable the condition and capacity of highway drainage systems to be improved and the location of gullies</p> | <p>The budget for gully cleansing was increased from £1.8 to £2.8 million.</p> |

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| <p>and their characteristics to be recorded on GPS. That the KHS winter maintenance budget is readjusted to become an extreme weather budget.</p> | |
| <p>19. That KCC works in partnership with local authorities, the police and traffic wardens to inform the public about road drainage cleansing activities to address the issue of vehicles obstructing gullies and delaying vital works.</p> | <p>KHS will be developing a website over next two years that will list programme of works and facilitate the prioritisation of maintenance.</p> |
| <p>20. That the government should urgently consider the EA's request for funding to enable vital works to proceed at Jury's Gap, Camber.</p> | <p>This refers to the Broomhill area, between Jury's Gap and Camber. The EA have brought the works forward and are in the pre-planning design stage. This work is moving on in advance of the strategy approval because of immediate need.</p> |
| <p>21. That the EA should encourage the input of local authority and Internal Drainage Board (IDB) experts on local strategies and schemes and that IDBs gain representation on the Southern Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC) in order to optimise the benefit to be gained from local knowledge.</p> | <p>In relation to the SE RFDC, IDBs are represented through the local authority representative, which has been agreed by the RFDC as the correct approach.</p> |
| <p>22. That the EA develop and implement a phased rolling programme of maintenance to include 'low risk' areas (in collaboration with the Kent Internal Drainage Boards).</p> | <p>The year of the Select Committee, cuts were made to the rolling programme. These cuts are not reflected in this year's work and the maintenance programme is in place and includes areas classed as 'low risk'.</p> |
| <p>23. That the EA prioritise clearance of waterways in the Romney Marsh Area.</p> | <p>Clearance work is carried out on a priority basis – most of Romney Marsh is classed as medium or high risk. Work is underway.</p> |

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| <p>24. That the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) Severe Weather Group (SWG) audit and promote the development of emergency plans/specific flood plans for at risk areas in liaison with the Environment Agency and develop and generic flood plan for Kent.</p> | <p>This plan is due for ratification and approval by the KRF on the 8th April 2009.</p> |
| <p>25. That the government consider placing a duty (with funding) on the Fire & Rescue Service to respond to a flood emergency and further considers designating FRS as the lead body in charge of a flood incident.</p> | <p>This recommendation has been made by the Pitt Review and has been adopted by Central Government. It will now be a matter for them to incorporate this into legislation.</p> |
| <p>26. That the Kent Resilience Forum Severe Weather Group formulate and publicise an action plan in relation to flooding to raise public confidence in Kent's preparedness for flood events and consideration should be given to merging the SWG with the Flood Warning Planning Liaison Group to reduce duplication and avoid confusion as part of a wider streamlining of the group structure within the Resilience Forum.</p> | <p>Classification of the flood plan will be subject to final KRF approval. Once established, levels of information can be extracted and placed into existing warning & informing work streams within the KRF. Regardless of any sensitive detailed information, the KRF continue to underpin county-wide W&I strategies to support this statutory duty under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.</p> |
| <p>27. That KHS should send officers to work alongside local district colleagues in an emergency situation.</p> | <p>Arrangements exist for this and no further action is required.</p> |
| <p>28. That the Environment Agency, through its chairmanship of the KRF Severe Weather Group, should ensure there is a systematic survey of critical infrastructure (location and flood defences) and through</p> | <p>These discussions are on-going between the EA and the Utility Companies.</p> |

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| <p>the SWG promote work with utility companies to ensure supplies can be protected and maintained during flood emergency situations.</p> | |
| <p>29. That the Severe Weather Group liaise with partners in the Kent Resilience Forum and east coast authorities to formulate an emergency response plan for an extreme coastal event and, given the risk to life and property from sea flooding, assess whether the current warning system and communication processes are adequate or whether a siren system should be acquired for Kent, and that people are educated about what to do when they receive a flood warning.</p> | <p>The generic plan detailed above will deal with many of the issues stated in this recommendation. However, coastal flood risk mitigation and further analysis are continuing to support this approach.</p> |
| <p>30. That KCC support the Environment Agency in raising flood risk awareness (including the appointment and training of flood wardens and to ensure that vulnerable people are identified and supported in emergency situations) via town and parish councils and similar community groups.</p> | <p>In direct response to the Pitt Review, KCC are piloting the development of a generic community resilience plan template which is being rolled out to PCs across the T&M area. Response has been positive; therefore we are looking to further rollout county-wide.</p> |

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| <p>CARERS SELECT COMMITTEE – DECEMBER 2007</p> <p>Recommendations</p> | <p>Progress at end March 2009</p> |
| <p>1. Need to raise awareness and profile of carers and carer support services and make information available out of standard hours.</p> | <p>To raise the profile of young carers a range of events have been held, which have included training for school governors, school staff, and events with children organised via the projects working in schools. Children, Families and Education have developed young carers leaflet available through key statutory and non-statutory organisations countywide. To help raise professionals' awareness of how to identify and support young carers a DVD has been produced featuring input from Kent's young carers.</p> <p>Kent Adult Social Services HQ and area based staff supported carers' week events.</p> <p>The KASS carers' website has been revamped to make it easier to use.</p> <p>Carers' issues featured prominently in a Conference held in May 08 on the economic, social, employment and housing implications of the ageing population. This helped highlight the critical role carers' play with partner organisations across Kent. The conference attracted national/ international experts including one on carers' policy.</p> <p>KASS continues to involve carers in recruitment process where possible. Users and carers have been engaged in drawing up shortlists of candidates, contributing interview questions, sitting on interview panels. Users and carers have also been involved in selecting panels to appoint providers.</p> <p>The work of the standing Adult Services Carers Advisory Group has also added weight to raising the profile. West Kent NHS and NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent (Primary Care Trusts) have carer leads identified which has had the effect of pushing carers' issues forward.</p> <p>Inequalities in Health in Kent the Director of Public Health's annual report contained a chapter about the health inequalities experienced by carers. This is an influential report read by health and social care commissioners, which contains specific recommendations to</p> |

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| | <p>improve the health & well being of carers.</p> <p>Work is underway to raise the profile and the support offered to carers within KCC workforce. A staff survey is planned to gain insight into the number of employees juggling caring with employment. The carers leave pilot scheme has been well received and extended until August 2009.</p> <p>KASS is planning a Carers and Personalisation event to provide carers the opportunity to inform the implementation of Self Directed Support</p> <p>Work has been undertaken with County Duty Service to ensure a more consistent and proactive response to carers' issues and enquiries when raised through the duty service.</p> |
| <p>2. Promote single point of contact for carers.</p> | <p>The Department of Health is soon to launch and promote a national Single Point of Access for Carers. KASS has supplied local carers' information to this scheme and is pursuing opportunities to utilise this scheme locally. We do not want to duplicate or confuse carers with two single points of access and hence we are eagerly awaiting the national scheme to see how best to supplement with more local information.</p> <p>The Carers Emergency Card Scheme has created a unique telephone number for carers 08458 247 105. This number is operated by the Kent Contact Centre and could be further utilised as a single point of contact if necessary.</p> <p>The Carers Emergency Card is promoted and administered on KASS behalf by seven Carers Support Organisations across Kent. When carers make a request to join the scheme if they wish they will also be informed of other carers services available in their area, such as support groups etc.</p> |
| <p>3. Involvement of the Carer Support Organisations at assessment and subject to carers consent sharing the statutory assessment should be considered.</p> | <p>A new Carers Assessment Policy has been written and formally agreed at KASS Policy Development and Review Board. The policy clearly sets out KASS duties in assessing and providing support to carers.</p> <p>In conjunction to developing the policy it has been agreed to trial the outsourcing of carers' assessments to Carers Support Organisations. Work has begun to progress this trial, two pilot sites have been identified in Tonbridge & Dover. The pilots are planned for a year with</p> |

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| | <p>monthly monitoring of three key quality markers, quantity, quality (including carers experience) and cost.</p> <p>We are exploring mechanisms for information sharing across health, social care and the voluntary sector. Carers Assessments have been considered in discussion regarding Kent Adult Social Services decisions to procure a Common Assessment Framework /Single Assessment Process tool. We are actively exploring enhancing self-assessment for carers (online and paper) as part of the Self Directed Support.</p> |
| <p>4. Reviews or contact from Care managers should be regular with annual reviews as a minimum.</p> | <p>The present policy is clear in that service users and carers needs should be assessed as follows: Within 3 months of the initial service, annually there after or sooner if a significant change in needs/circumstances do arise.</p> <p>The revised carers' policy makes it clear to carers who and how to contact the relevant teams.</p> <p>The issue will be addressed further as KASS finalise its development plans for Self-Directed Support.</p> <p>Performance monitoring systems on reviews are in place and reported to the Government and KASS Senior Management Teams. These reports will also be shared and discussed at the Carers Advisory Group.</p> |
| <p>5. District Social Services Teams to address and overcome issues around call management.</p> | <p>The launch of the revised Carers Assessment Policy will provide the opportunity to further raise the profile of carers within KASS.</p> <p>To compliment the new policy, training is being developed to reinforce the policy implementation and further clarifying duties and responsibilities towards carers. The aim is to create a far more consistent approach to the assessment and support offered to carers.</p> |
| <p>6. Emergency Card Schemes, backed up by emergency plans and response teams</p> | <p>On Carers Rights Day December 5th 2008 a Kent Carers Emergency Card Scheme was launched. The scheme is designed to provide carers with peace of mind when away from the person that they care for that should something untoward happened to them that</p> |

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| <p>should be expanded and developed Kent wide if the pilot is successful.</p> | <p>emergency assistance could be accessed. Currently there are over 300 carers signed up to the scheme and the number is growing steadily, since the launch there have been 107 applications generated from the website alone. When applying Carers are offered as much support as necessary to complete their emergency plan if they have no friend or relative to step in at short notice or their emergency plan fails for any reason, either County Duty or the Out of Hours service will step in to arrange emergency support. This support is available to all carers not just those carers of people receiving community care services.</p> <p>To compliment the scheme additional carers grant funding has been commissioned with the voluntary sector to provide increased levels of community based respite.</p> |
| <p>7. KCC together with Health and VCO's need to ensure that provision of respite/breaks is flexible, of the right type and that provision meets the needs of carers as well as the cared for person.</p> | <p>A standing Carers Advisory Group has been established. The Group is jointly chaired by Steve Leidecker, and Barbara Hagan, a representative of carers support organisation. The Group was instrumental in shaping the service development priorities for 2008/9. These are;</p> <p>A Single Point of Contact - a county-wide dedicated advice and information helpline service for carers</p> <p>Carers' Emergency Card - 24/7 contact number in case of an emergency. This means that if a carer becomes ill or is involved in an accident they can be assured that there will be someone to look after the person that they care for</p> <p>Carers' Training and Education - to cover topics such as moving and handling, medication, dealing with difficult or challenging behaviour, coping with specific conditions and employment. A group of Kent carers support organisations, supported by KASS are bidding for funding to provide the Expert Patient Programme for carers called 'Caring with Confidence'.</p> <p>Carers' Emergency Support Services - developing time-limited (48-72 hours) home-based emergency cover to provide support in times of crisis e.g. carer's unplanned admission to hospital or a medical emergency, a family member being taken ill and requiring help or attention, the death or funeral of a close friend or family member.</p> |

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| | <p>Short breaks - Increasing the type and availability of short breaks, including at home, in the evening and overnight.</p> <p>KASS will use its influence via the Carers Advisory Group and other methods to ensure that the PCT sign up to joint commissioning plans to ensure that the additional carers' money routed through the NHS is spent to compliment existing services, addressing gaps and delivering against the agreed priorities. Emergency or crisis support will be a priority commissioning area for the NHS.</p> |
| <p>8. Multi Agency Adult Carers Strategy to be progressed as a priority.</p> | <p>Work has begun to develop a Kent Adult Carers Strategy; the strategy will be our Kent response to delivering the National Carers' Strategy which was published in June 2008. To take the works forward a sub group of the standing Adult Services Carers Advisory Group has been established with representation from KASS, the voluntary sector, both Kent PCT and carers. The group will develop a high level strategy to show how in Kent we intend to implement the National Carers Strategy. Following on from the strategy there will be two separate joint commissioning plans for East & West Kent.</p> <p>KASS will ensure that links are made between the Kent Adult Carers Strategy and work within Kent to deliver the imminently expected National Dementia Strategy and the recently published End of Life Strategy 2008.</p> |
| <p>9. Need to ensure that awareness is raised within schools to increase understanding of what it means to be a 'young carer', and find ways to identify and support Young carers.</p> | <p>In 2008 guidance was issued to all schools regarding the needs of young carers and how to support them in the school environment. In order to support schools in applying this guidance an additional 20K was allocated to each of the five young carers projects across the county to enable them to work directly with local schools. This has enabled us to identify additional young carers across the county.</p> <p>Awareness raising and training has taken place with a number of Local Children's Services Partnerships (LCSP) and with specific groups of staff who work in schools or support the school environment i.e. Family Liaison Officers, Parent Support Advisors etc. Strategic links have been made with other initiatives that support the well-being of pupils in school e.g. PSHE and Healthy Schools.</p> <p>The Anti-bullying Strategy makes specific reference to bullying that takes place as a result of disability and the KSCB Anti-Bullying Policy specifically identifies young carers as a group of</p> |

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| <p>10. Consider the need for a clearly identified lead professional for young carers on CSS operational front and education, alongside those for policy/strategy.</p> | <p>vulnerable young people at risk of bullying. The Joint Protocol between Children's and Adult Services (see below) clarifies the routes of referral into children's services for those young carers with additional needs.</p> <p>The additional monies identified during the last year to support local young carers projects working more closely with local schools will have helped to begin to share the expert knowledge held within the projects to other agencies, specifically schools. This year, to support the LCSPs in developing links with the young carers projects and to prioritise support for young carers, each LCSP has been offered £500 per 1000 of child population to develop young carers support. To date the majority of LCSPs have taken up this offer and a report will be made next year on the outcome of this work will report.</p> <p>In a year of great change in children services the majority of agencies have identified leads for young carers. These leads are proactive in promoting the needs of young carers within their agency and as a result a range of awareness raising events have taken place and are planned. Further work will take place to clarify young carers leads for all agencies. It is as yet too early to judge the impact of the CAF in identifying and meeting the needs of young carers. It will be important to monitor this during the coming years.</p> |
| <p>11. Need to ensure clear responsibilities and referral pathway for young carers between Kent Adult Social Services, and CFE and other agencies, and ensure that protocols between Kent Adult Social Services and Children's Social Services are developed as a matter of urgency.</p> | <p>A Joint Protocol between Adults and Children's Services is now in place within KCC. Recommendation will be made to the Kent Children's Trust Board that the Protocol is adopted children's and adult services across the county.</p> <p>The joint protocol identifies the appropriate person to carry out assessment within households. It is anticipated the adoption of the protocol will increase the number of young carers identified and therefore support offered to them.</p> <p>Staff awareness/briefing plan is being developed.</p> |
| <p>12. Invisible People – the multi agency young carers strategy and accompanying commissioning strategy</p> | <p>Invisible People- Kent's Young Carers Strategy was subject to formally launched in July. The document is available via Kent Trust Web and the KCC web-site. The multi-agency implementation plan that supports the document is subject to annual review by CFE POC and the Kent Children's Trust Board.</p> |

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| <p>(currently in draft) should be implemented urgently and monitored to ensure objectives and targets are met.</p> | <p>Work has begun on a 'Hidden Harm Strategy' this multi-agency strategy will pull together the work necessary to protect vulnerable children (many of whom will be young carers) who live with parents of guardians with substance misuse problems.</p> |
| <p>13.KCC in partnership with Health and the VCO's need to improve understanding and signposting from Health sector to available help and support for carers in the county.</p> | <p>The new standing Carers Advisory has for the first time in Kent brought all the key strategic partners involved in supporting carers together. Both PCT have identified Carers Leads who are working in partnership with KASS to develop the Kent Adult Cares Strategy and associated commissioning plans. The identification, sign posting and support offered by primary care is a consistent theme and one that will feature heavily in the strategy.</p> <p>We expect that training for GPs, a requirement of the dementia strategy will also contribute to improving the current situation.</p> |
| <p>14.KCC to pursue with Health the need to consider how carers of mental health patients (and service users) can be better supported, particularly at times of crisis and out of hours.</p> | <p>The provision of carers assessment workers, piloted in West Kent, has now been extended to cover all of Kent. These workers ensure that all carers of people with severe mental health problems are offered their own assessment of their needs and are signposted to the support they need. Likewise, funding for Carers Breaks has in the last year been implemented in all parts of Kent. These are designed to give carers a break and are arranged by carers support projects.</p> <p>The Mental Health Matters help-line is now funded from 5PM to 9AM on weekdays and 24hrs weekends and holidays. The service is available to carers and referrals can be made to the Crisis Resolution and Home treatment Teams.</p> <p>Kent Adult Social Services will aim to influence how the local NHS intends to allocate the new funds that they are receiving for carers, increasing services available to carers out of hours and at time of crisis will be a priority.</p> <p>Further work needs to be done to ensure carers needs are fully recognised in crisis and out of hours. We will be finding ways to include mental health in the Carers Emergency Card scheme. A seminar is shortly to take place with all mental health carers projects across Kent which will examine how carers needs can be better recognised at times of crisis and out of hours.</p> |

| ALCOHOL MISUSE – MARCH 2008 | |
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| Recommendation | Progress at end March 2009 |
| <p>1. Kent County Council (KCC) establishes, in partnership with Kent Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), an independent task board which will carry out a comprehensive and systematic needs assessment of alcohol service provision in Kent. This review should investigate, quantify and evaluate the current level of need and the financial resources available in both East and West Kent; it should consider coordination, commissioning and provision mechanisms involved; it should assess the effectiveness of local alcohol treatment systems in all the four tiers of intervention, and it should explore opportunities for savings in order to maximise budget spend on service delivery. The Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team (KDAAT) should produce an annual updating report indicating in the various areas of operation the number of individuals receiving treatment and the reasons for their referral. (Please refer to Sections 3.1 and Section 3.2)</p> <p>2. The Committee recommends that the needs of all those individuals requesting assistance, especially those caring for dependants, should be assessed carefully, and that treatment should be prioritised according to the importance and urgency of each situation. (Section 3.2)</p> | <p>Kent Action on Alcohol Steering Group (KAASG) was established to reflect multi-agency representation and resources were identified enabling the commissioning of Oxford PHRU for the completion of a comprehensive alcohol needs assessment. An initial report was received in readiness for the launch in the Alcohol Select Committee Report in July 2008 and a final report is anticipated on 31 July 2009.</p> <p>KAASG is working with KDAAT Young Person's Service in the coordination of a multi-agency group to address issues of Hidden Harm. A gap analysis has been completed and a Hidden Harm Strategy has been prepared for consultation across the County. Via safeguarding structures the identification and assessment of families at risk is prioritised and ongoing work will be developed with substance misuse treatment providers and Children's Social Services.</p> |

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| <p>3. The outcomes of the needs assessment should inform the production of an overarching alcohol strategy for Kent. The production of the strategy, aiming at reducing the impact of alcohol misuse in Kent, should be lead by KDAAT. The strategy should address a variety of issues including treatment services, underage drinking, public awareness, alcohol-related crime and responsible retailing. It should clearly identify effective actions to be taken, together with responsibilities and accountability of all the agencies involved in the coordination, commissioning and provision of alcohol-related services. The strategy should include mechanisms that will evaluate and monitor the progress of its implementation, and it should encourage closer collaborative ties between all the agencies involved. (Section 3.1 and Section 3.2)</p> | <p>The draft Alcohol Strategy is now ready for consultation across the County with a view to progress to Council in Autumn 2009.</p> |
| <p>4. The Committee urges KCC to lobby Central Government to raise the priority and profile of the issue of alcohol misuse in the UK. KCC should press for an increase in funding to finance services dealing with alcohol misuse. This pressure should be carried out through the influence of the Local Government Association (LGA), as well as through direct contact with Central Government agencies. (Section 4.1)</p> | <p>Alcohol misuse and issues relating to licensing and retail costs have been a Central Government priority for action and legislation is anticipated that will amend current licensing laws. The issue of cost is now in the public domain and KAASG can contribute to this ongoing work. Kent is working with the retail industry via Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (KCAP) – see answer to point 27 and a dialogue has commenced with Shepherd Neame.</p> |
| <p>5. KCC should ensure that the distribution of financial resources for alcohol-related services is monitored, amongst other methods, through Local Area Agreement (LAA) structures and mechanisms. KCC should prioritise the allocation of resources for these crucial alcohol services, given their impact across so many other aspects of life. (Sections 4.1 and 4.2)</p> | <p>KAASG has identified, within the Alcohol Strategy, the areas that contribute to the LAA process, namely treatment services, Accident & Emergency Admissions and young people and alcohol. Additional resources have been secured from PCTs and a further growth is planned in expenditure in 2009/10.</p> |

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| <p>6. KCC establishes closer links with local academic institutions, such as the University of Kent, in order to deal with alcohol misuse. Work should be carried out with the European Institute of Social Studies (EISS) of the University of Kent, in an effort to attract European Union funding to finance alcohol misuse services in Kent. KCC should liaise with EISS to encourage the participation of both the alcohol industry and Kent-based agencies dealing with alcohol misuse in the EU Alcohol and Health Forum. Care should be taken to present the Forum with the many projects that the alcohol industry in Kent may initiate. (Section 4.2)</p> | <p>KCAP is to be externally evaluated by the University of Kent and other treatment services will be assessed and evaluated as appropriate and as funding permits. In the Autumn 2008 a dinner was held at the University of Kent to establish links and areas for future exploration.</p> |
| <p>7. The Select Committee urges that the effectiveness of GPs in early identification and referral of alcohol misusers in Kent should be improved. All GPs in Kent should be strongly encouraged to attend special training that will help them identify alcohol misusers, especially those with dependants. (Section 5.1)</p> | <p>GPs with Special Interest (GPSI) have become established in respect of the drugs agenda. KDAAT is seeking to address GPSIs with a specific alcohol brief once funding becomes available. Via the Accident & Emergency pilots briefing intervention models are being developed via existing providers in the treatment field.</p> |
| <p>8. GPs and other primary care staff should increase the provision of “motivational brief interventions” and advice to individuals drinking excessively, but not yet experiencing major problems resulting from excessive consumption. Funding sources to finance these brief interventions should be identified by Kent Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). (Sections 5.1 and 5.2)</p> | <p>See answer to Recommendation 7.</p> |
| <p>9. The Committee urges that KCC offers immediate intervention to support those with urgent needs, such as children mistreated by alcoholic parents, young carers of misusers and misusers suffering from alcohol withdrawal crises. If during assessment a parent is identified as in need of alcohol treatment, KCC Social</p> | <p>See answer to Recommendation 2.</p> |

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| <p>Services should ensure that support is provided to ascertain that the children are properly cared for. (Section 5.3)</p> | |
| <p>10. It is paramount that additional temporary sheltered housing should be facilitated by KCC for individuals recovering from alcohol addiction, particularly those discharged from hospitals, prisons and residential alcohol treatment, in order to prevent relapse. (Section 5.4 and Section 8.1)</p> | <p>Discussions have commenced with service providers in the county who act as registered social landlords (RSLs) for this targeted group. Existing provision is currently coping with demand and additional resources from Supporting People to provide floating support at the point of move on has enabled a more fluid and flexible accommodation response.</p> |
| <p>11. The Select Committee supports the promotion of a hard-hitting health campaign targeted at the young to increase their awareness and so reduce the damaging effects of alcohol. The Committee urges that this campaign should stress personal responsibility and self esteem, give information about sensible drinking and about the variety of alcohol-related services available in the County (Section 6.1)</p> | <p>House has been developed as a multi-agency response across the county. The programme will be assessed and evaluated externally but already evidence is emerging that young people previously outside treatment services are being identified and support is being given and where necessary referral on to more structured programmes.</p> |
| <p>12. In order to help those seeking support, the Select Committee recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A logo, which facilitates the identification of all alcohol services in the County, is adopted. (Section 6.2) • The “alcohol” section in the KDAAT website is developed and expanded. (Section 6.2) | <p>The issue of a logo is a matter for resolution at a corporate level and has not been progressed. The KDAAT website is being refreshed and new leaflets supporting the NHS campaigns have been produced.</p> |
| <p>13. KCC should produce a directory in hard copy of all alcohol-related services available in the County which includes all voluntary sector provision, to aid partners and clients to access help for individuals in crisis. (Section 6.2)</p> | <p>KDAAT has produced a new leaflet identifying treatment providers and other avenues of support. This links to the national directory. No hard copy document has been produced but a Communication Strategy has been established to ensure that the timeliness and accuracy of information available to professionals and other groups is available.</p> |

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| <p>14. More consistent Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), which includes effective alcohol education, should be delivered in both primary and secondary schools in Kent. PSHE accreditation for both teachers and nurses should be widely supported. The organisation and promotion of this training should be carried out by Schools Drugs Education Advisers through Local Children's Services Partnerships. The Kent PSHE Advisory Group should pay particular attention to this recommendation when investigating young people's personal health and wellbeing in the County. (Sections 7.1 and 7.2)</p> | <p>Kent is now compliant with the PSHE requirements and further opportunities are being developed by the Kent Safer Schools Health model.</p> |
| <p>15. The Committee recommends that the inclusion of persons recovering from alcohol addiction in the delivery of alcohol education in schools in Kent should be considered by Local Children's Services Partnerships. Guidance for schools will ensure that lessons delivered by outside speakers, including previous alcohol misusers, comply with a clear quality assurance framework. (Section 7.2)</p> | <p>Within the Alcohol Strategy workforce development is recognised as a key strand and through the Progressions Awards at South Kent College, we are developing opportunities for service users to develop the skills and confidence to begin to contribute to the overarching agenda. LCSPs in their Needs Assessment can access these resources via local treatment providers.</p> |
| <p>16. The Committee commends that parents and Kent-based primary and secondary schools should work in partnership to promote legal, safe and sensible drinking. Schools should involve parents in their children's alcohol education by transferring learning about sensible drinking into the home. (Sections 7.2 and 7.3)</p> | <p>Parental Awareness has been developed using the national tool kit and a booklet has been issued to all schools to engage parents in the promotion of the work.</p> |
| <p>17. Successful initiatives dealing with other related health issues, such as drug misuse, drink driving and sexual health, should be explored for adaptation to the theme of alcohol misuse. KCC should support the delivery of these initiatives in tackling alcohol misuse. (Section 7.2)</p> | <p>This is being addressed through the KAASG Communication Strategy.</p> |

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| <p>18. The Select Committee commends and supports the work carried out by the Safer and Stronger Communities Group and its sub-group, in their effort to reduce alcohol-related crime linked to the night-time economy and to deal with domestic violence in Kent. It recommends that this work should be comprehensive, including the diversity of offences fuelled by alcohol misuse which are not necessarily of a violent nature. (Sections 8.1 and 8.2)</p> | <p>Work is ongoing with Kent Police, Probation and Children's Services to ensure the sharing of data and information in order that a more coherent approach can be applied and resources can be targeted more effectively. The analysis is being linked to the work being undertaken by Oxford PHRU.</p> |
| <p>19. Communication between agencies at county level and those at more local level should be enhanced. Better data sharing between organisations dealing with alcohol-related crime, such as the police and Crime Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) should be secured. The sharing of best practice between Kent-based CDRPs in tackling alcohol-related disorder should be improved. Both Central Government and the alcohol industry should be encouraged to provide data and finance. (Section 8.2)</p> | <p>KAASG is leading on the coordination of the groups that sit within Safer Stronger Communities, Safer Kent Delivery and the Public Health Boards. KAASG has a clear data strategy attached as Appendix 1.</p> |
| <p>20. The Committee strongly recommends that the Kent-based alcohol misuse conference, including representatives of local authorities, CDRPs, KDAAT and the alcohol industry, is established. (Section 8.2)</p> | <p>On July 08, the Select Committee Report was launched at a Kent based conference. In November 2009 an EU Symposium will address young people and alcohol.</p> |
| <p>21. All hospitals in Kent improve Accident and Emergency (A&E) data gathering on injuries resulting from alcohol-related violence. All A&E departments in Kent should be strongly encouraged to collect and share data with other agencies in order to pinpoint "hot spots" and sources of crime resulting from alcohol misuse, and should quantify accurately NHS costs of dealing with health consequences. (Section 8.2)</p> | <p>Two pilots are currently being completed and evaluated. A review of the evaluation will commence in July 2009 and the outcomes considered prior to further roll out.</p> |

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| <p>22. KCC should recommend that magistrates are provided by Her Majesty Court Service (HMCS) with training which will enable them to deal more effectively with alcohol-related crime. (Section 8.2)</p> | <p>Magistrates across Kent are in the process of being trained. This is related to the delivery of alcohol treatment programmes ATR (statutory court order) and is being managed by the Kent Probation Service.</p> |
| <p>23. The Select Committee supports the KCC Towards 2010 target 58 to work with off licence pub and club owners to reduce alcohol fuelled crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse. In addition, we recommend that problems of drinking outside the curtilage of licensed premises should be addressed, and that KCC should seek to discourage the practices of discounting alcoholic drinks, charging high prices for soft drinks and other strategies that could promote irresponsible drinking by all retail outlets. (Sections 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3)</p> | <p>Drinking outside licensed premises is an area being addressed by Kent Police and other responsible authorities. A number of reviews resulting in licensing conditions have been imposed following crime, disorder or serious nuisance caused outside licensed premises. Examples include a review called by environmental health due to repeated excessive noise and by police following crimes outside a licensed premises. Clearly, each case is considered on its merits and the aim is to work with Designated Premises Supervisors to prevent any issues arising or reoccurring.</p> <p>Police have used dispersal powers requiring that persons leave an area if they are linked to alcohol-related crime and disorder. These are used extensively throughout Kent.</p> <p>Kent Police set a target for 2008-09 of reducing alcohol and drug-related violence in identified night-time economy areas by 5% based on 2007-08 figures, although full year data is not available, the figures for the first 11 months show significant falls in these violent crimes.</p> <p>Second point: If discounted drinks promotions are shown to directly impact on any of the 4 licensing objectives (public safety, crime and disorder, public nuisance and harm to children) responsible authorities can seek a review to impose appropriate conditions.</p> <p>See also answer to 27 re KCAP</p> |

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| <p>24. KCC supports, where appropriate and after other measures have been explored, the establishment of alcohol free areas and of Alcohol Disorder Zones, which can require premises failing to implement actions designed to reduce alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in their vicinity to contribute towards the cost of the additional policing necessary to suppress the disruption. Kent Police, Trading Standards and other appropriate agencies should increase their efforts to identify retailers who supply alcohol to under age persons and ensure that penalties are applied. (Sections 9.2 and 9.3)</p> | <p>Alcohol Disorder Zones (ADZ). It is widely accepted that designating an area as an ADZ is very much a last resort when all other measures have been pursued. There have been none created to date anywhere in the country, creating an ADZ shows that the partnership has failed to manage the NTE. [An ADZ could be adopted when all other measures failed to reduce the identified disorder. If so, the police and the local authority need to agree that an ADZ is necessary. A 28 day consultation process follows, then an action plan is agreed, if this fails, the ADZ can be designated. This means that premises in that area can be made to contribute towards the costs towards dealing with issues in the night time economy.</p> <p>Underage drinking: Kent Police have used confiscation powers to confiscate drink from underage persons. This also involves investigating where the drink was purchased from and notifying parents of what has happened. Following test purchases KCC's Trading Standards have prosecuted a number of retailers for selling alcohol to young people. Trading Standards Officers have been accredited and have issued a large number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND's) - effectively an £80 fine, where a prosecution is not appropriate. More recently the service has instituted a number of reviews of licenses which have resulted in the licensing authority adding conditions or even suspending a licence.</p> |
| <p>25. The Committee recommends KCC to improve public knowledge of the rights to object to licence applications for the sale of alcohol and to call for license reviews if problems of public nuisance occur. Local experience of public nuisance was previously submitted via Parish Councils, and the Select Committee recommends that KCC engages the support of the Kent Association of Parish Councils to lobby Government to reinstate</p> | <p>The 12 District Councils as the licensing authorities receive all the applications for new licences and alterations to existing licences. This same information is also sent by applicants to the statutory responsible authorities, which includes KCC but does not include the Parish Councils. Parishes have expressed a desire to comment on licence applications / changes but it appears that they are not being consulted by the licensing authorities. KCC's Director of Community Safety is writing to the</p> |

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| <p>Parish Councils as consultees in license applications. (Sections 9.2 and 9.3)</p> | <p>12 DC Chief Executives to establish the position within each licensing authority. Depending on the answers received this matter will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the Crime and Disorder Partnership (CDRP) meetings to consider a local change of policy or, if required, an approach to Central Government for a change in the law or guidance issued to local authorities.</p> |
| <p>26. The Select Committee urges KCC to engage and encourage Central Government to ensure that the rate of taxation of drinks increases proportionally with their alcoholic strength. A greater part of the additional revenue accrued from alcohol taxation should be re-invested for the prevention and treatment of alcohol misuse. (Section 10.1)</p> | <p>Since the Select Committee hearings, the low cost of alcoholic drinks and its effect on levels of consumption has been well publicised in the media. The Government are considering a number of possibilities which would result in the price of alcoholic drinks being increased.</p> |
| <p>27. The Committee recommends that KCC supports Central Government's engagement of large supermarket chains encouraging them to review their alcohol marketing strategies, including "loss leader" discounting practices, and to ensure that alcohol is not sold to under-age customers. (Section 10.2)</p> | <p>KCC's Trading Standards service is leading on the UK's largest partnership initiative joining forces with Kent Police, the Health Service, District Councils, many services across the County Council (such as the DAAT, Community Wardens, Youth Service, Schools etc) and the retail industry to form the Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (KCAP). Large national retailers are represented by the Retail of Alcohol Standards Group which comprises all the major supermarkets and other national retail chains. The Kent Community Alcohol Partnership has a Steering group led by KCC's Dir of Community Safety and includes a national senior manager for one of the major supermarkets, on behalf of RASG.</p> <p>KCAP aims to change attitudes to drinking by informing and advising young people on sensible drinking, supporting retailers to reduce sales of alcohol to underage drinkers, promote responsible socialising and helping local communities to tackle alcohol related issues.</p> |

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| | <p>The project was launched across the County in November 08 and in the three pilot areas (Edenbridge, Canterbury City Centre and the Westwood Cross area in Thanet, covering a population of almost 100,000) in March 09. The pilots will run until September 09 and if successful (evaluation to be carried out by Univ of Kent at Canterbury), the project will be rolled out across Kent.</p> |
| <p>28. The Committee commends that KCC encourages Central Government to make Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) a statutory subject with inspection by Ofsted (please refer to Appendix 4 for related recommendations in KCC PSHE report). (Section 10.3)</p> | <p>Incomplete – the Action Plan indicates work to commence June 2009.</p> |

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| <p>ACCESSING DEMOCRACY – SEPTEMBER 2008</p> | |
| <p>Recommendations</p> <p>1. Raise profile of elected members and use other strategies to change public perception.</p> | <p>Action Plan at end March 2009</p> <p>This overarching recommendation depends on the delivery of all the other recommendations. It involves the use of technology, development of a Members portal, potential development of Members' blogs, and Members websites, shadowing opportunities for elected Members and officers, roadshows, the emerging localism agenda etc, etc.</p> <p>Members are welcome and encouraged to use Gateways to hold "surgeries" or as a facility for reaching their local constituents.</p> |
| <p>2. A 'menu of options' of how local people can get involved in local democracy in Kent should be promoted.</p> <p>(a) All proposals taken through County Council or Overview and Scrutiny should be required to state the degree of public involvement to date. This would improve accountability and demonstrate how information from consultations is used (especially the effect on decision making).</p> <p>(b) Existing good practice should be advertised and promoted, identifying future priority issues for local action/campaign with elected members and/or highlight possible areas for review.</p> | <p>Report to Chief Officer Group, Cabinet, Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee and Policy Overview Committees to ensure that the model report enshrines the degree of public involvement to date and how the duty to involve and to promote democracy is being delivered.</p> <p>Gateways are available to promote democracy more generally where this is appropriate.</p> <p>Kent TV is an excellent medium to facilitate democracy and reach younger people in particular. The use of Kent TV during elections is currently being explored by the editor who will be approaching the three political group leaders.</p> <p>The County Council is exploring the various mechanisms available to it to allow the public to express their views which might highlight areas for possible review. This could be piloted through a mechanism to be developed to understand the views which might lead to a Topic Review for the Select Committee Topic Review Programme.</p> |

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| <p>3. The Member Charter, and programme of member development to help ensure Kent has high calibre effective community leaders, should incorporate media training and public speaking skills.</p> | <p>As part of the County Council's preparation for the South East Employers Member Development Charter all Members were invited to identify those skills on which they would welcome development. Media training was a high priority and this is being built into the ongoing programme of development for all Members. The IMG Member Development and the IMG Member Information will be undertaking a survey of all prospective candidates and interviewing all elected Members on their needs following the County Council elections.</p> |
| <p>4. As part of the Communications Strategy KCC should actively promote the role of elected members as community leaders and advocates within their community using a range of communication tools.</p> | <p>The Media and Communications Centre can advise but do not have the resources to promote each Member. It would be possible to run a publicity campaign to promote KCC Members and what they do.</p> |
| <p>5. Embrace democracy in secondary schools and school councils should be encouraged to operate through age range - advocate school councils in primary school.</p> <p>a. All elected members should be involved in schools democracy week.</p> <p>b. Ensure all teaching staff are firmly encouraged to undertake Continuous Professional Development on democracy.</p> <p>c. Linkage between School Councils, Kent County Council and District, Town and Parish Councils should be promoted.</p> | <p>Opportunity to embrace democracy in secondary schools through the Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum on School and Councillor Wellbeing, extend the Kent County Council where Year 6 children will join together to form the Kent Primary School Children's Council and discuss the big issues of the day.</p> <p>Explore and develop the Councillors in Schools project which the County Council undertook in early 2006.</p> <p>Explore and shadow Hampshire County Council's involvement in the national programme called "Take Part" and learn from best practice which could be developed into a model for Kent.</p> |

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| <p>6. Citizenship pack should include information on how to register to vote, the role of local elected members and how to contact local members at District, County and National level.</p> | <p>The Citizenship pack already includes the Electoral Commission leaflet "Register to Vote" which includes an electoral registration form. The leaflet is a generic one. Also enclosed in the pack is a list of the addresses of the 12 district council electoral registration sections in Kent. Many new citizens will have registered to vote prior to gaining citizenship as they already have entitlement to vote e.g. EU elections etc but the leaflet will be useful to those who have not already registered.</p> |
| <p>7. Need to ensure that induction and information pack for new staff includes information on how to have your say and get involved in local decision making and how public involvement has made a difference.</p> | <p>Fact sheets are being prepared for inclusion in the induction packs. The induction programme for new staff includes the decision making process and how it is possible to get involved in local decision making. This programme is also delivered to other staff groups across the County Council.</p> |
| <p>8. KCC should provide subtitles and British Sign Language option on all DVDs produced.</p> | <p>Strategic Development Unit already do this and the Gateway DVD produced in January 2007 has been used as an example.</p> |

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| <p>9. Elected members should have a hard copy summary of all the planned KCC consultations.</p> <p>a. Information regarding consultations and the need to inform and involve elected members needs to be highlighted and included within future plans to develop a discreet section of information for members on the web and clear commitments reflected within the Consultation and Engagement Strategy.</p> <p>b. Information on consultations should include note on method of engagement to be used.</p> | <p>This will be linked to the new consultation and involvement database being developed for Kent.gov.</p> <p>The Consultation and Engagement Strategy offers the opportunity to explore a range of tools depending on the consultation being conducted to reach the audience using in the most appropriate method(s).</p> |
| <p>10. Facilities for video conferencing should be utilized, maximizing opportunities in Kent with KCC and partners.</p> <p>Elected members should be supported in using this service through current resources, training and support mechanisms.</p> | <p>To ensure that when opportunities present themselves for installing video conferencing facilities this should happen. For example, 'Gateway's' have video conferencing facilities. Through the decision making and democratic processes of the County Council all opportunities should be taken to explore the use of video conferencing</p> <p>This will be built into the Training and Development module for elected Members</p> |
| <p>11. Need effective promotion of E-consultation and decision making to raise profile and encourage local people to have their say and voices heard.</p> <p>a. All engagement activities and web links should be brought under easily</p> | <p>E-consultations represent only one engagement tool. The Consultation and Engagement Strategy offers the opportunity to explore a range of tools depending on the consultation being conducted to reach the audience in the most appropriate method(s).</p> <p>"Access Kent" is one of the key themes being supported by the Kent Partnership and will contribute a lot on streamlining engagement as well as access. A</p> |

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| <p>recognisable umbrella and portal e.g. 'Ask Kent', to ensure two way interactive communication.</p> <p>b. Facilities for blogs, emails, online surgeries, plus training and support should be available for elected members.</p> | <p>Member seminar was held before Christmas and there is a paper included on the agenda for today's meeting.</p> <p>Consideration is being given to revamping Member blogs. There is an issue here about developing a policy on the use of blogs.</p> |
| <p>12. In promoting the role of elected members and interaction with communities KCC should embrace e-democracy/ technological solutions to make elected members activities more visible and to open up dialogue and debate, for example e-petition, e-campaigns generated by Local Boards and local people, and e-debate.</p> | <p>The emerging localism agenda and the duty to involve and to promote democracy opens up a whole range of ways in which the Council will engage with its local people which will promote the role of elected Members. The Gravesham Neighbourhood Forum recently submitted a bid looking at the feasibility to web cast meetings and provide the opportunity to interact with the meeting by e-mail. Kent TV can potentially offer a range of initiatives on this recommendation.</p> |
| <p>13. Raising interest in both the opportunity and how to become an elected member needs to be clear and transparent. Agree more diversity in elected members is seen to be beneficial but is complex and worthy of separate study.</p> | <p>Help KCC embrace the duty to promote democracy when the duty exists and the statutory guidance for this duty needs to be taken into account.</p> |
| <p>14. 'Top tips' and contact details on making contact with seldom heard/ perceived hard to reach communities should be included in all new ward packs.</p> | <p>To raise awareness and use of the Social Innovation Laboratory for Kent "method deck". Ofcom published a report that highlighted minority ethnic groups as having more likely to access information by broadband than other Britons. Kent TV can therefore help to reach minority ethnic groups.</p> |
| <p>15. a. The introduction of role descriptions for all elected members needs to be supported.</p> | <p>(a) All this work is being picked up in the work that is being undertaken in the County Council's bid to achieve the Member Development Charter. Work is also being undertaken to identify the support councillors need to carry out their role</p> |

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| <p>b. The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) Councillors guide should be actively promoted and need to ensure all elected members have a copy.</p> <p>c. Training for elected members in ways of local government and ongoing training to help elected members carry out their role effectively should be actively supported.</p> | <p>and the County Council will be invited to sign up to the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) declaration of giving councillors the support they need.</p> <p>(b) All County Council Councillors will be issued with a copy of the Councillors Guide.</p> <p>(c) An ongoing and full training and development programme has been prepared and in consultation with the IMG. Member developed and is being delivered.</p> |
| <p>16. To effectively strengthen local structures for community engagement and encourage involvement in local decision making need</p> <p>a. Localism to be more outcome focussed.</p> <p>b. mechanism for prompt feedback to the public on specific issues.</p> <p>c. to explore further with District, Town and Parish Councils and other local partners what they believe would improve community engagement.</p> <p>d. to devolve power and resources to support local priorities and action, from discretionary funds being delegated to local forums for decision making.</p> | <p>Ongoing discussions are taking place with partner organisations to develop a range of pilot models for localism across the county and for ensuring that the localism agenda is more outcome focussed with appropriate feedback mechanisms for the public on specific issues, ongoing.</p> <p>Several Members as well as local fora have expressed a wish to pursue the model of participatory budgeting when allocating its grants which will allow the communities to set its priorities, ongoing.</p> <p>In the County Council Budget for 2009/2010 £25,000 has been set aside for each Member top sliced from the Highways Budget for Members to spend on highways issues and other service areas and budgets are being explored by Cabinet and Chief Officers.</p> <p>“Gateways” and Kent TV are ideal facilities to access communities and effectively engage.</p> |

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| <p>e. Chief Officers and Cabinet should identify which services can be delegated to local level and be influenced by members in their representative capacity based on views of community priorities and preferences.</p> | |
| <p>17. The opportunity for participatory budgeting from devolved discretionary funds should be provided within the next budget year, with delivery mechanism to be determined, and a sum of underpinning monies to enable local people to determine how the resource should be spent.</p> | <p>Participatory Budgeting was one of the workshops featured at the Community Engagement Conference at Oakwood on 28 November 2008. A workshop has been prepared for inclusion in the Member Development programme and several Members have already expressed a wish to try a method of Participatory Budgeting in terms of Member Grants.</p> |

By: Mr K Ferrin, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste.

To: County Council – 30 April 2009

Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEE: Domestic Rail Services**

Summary: To comment on the report of the Select Committee on Domestic Rail Services

1. Introduction

1.1 The Environment and Regeneration Policy Overview Committee, at its meeting on 25 September noted the proposal to establish a Select Committee to look at the issue of Domestic Rail Services. This was agreed by the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee and noted at its 23 May and 10 September meetings.

2. Scene Setting

2.1 In December 2009, domestic passenger rail services in Kent will be completely recast when new services are introduced using the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (High Speed 1). This will mean journey times between parts of east and north Kent and London will be significantly reduced and many existing services will be revised

2.2 The reduction of journey times from parts of Kent which need to be regenerated is welcomed, but there are concerns that the regenerative effect could be reduced for a number of reasons, including fare levels being set too high and the current economic climate. It will also be a number of years for people to adjust to the new opportunities the new services provide and for residents and people to relocate to take advantage of them.

3. Select Committee Process

Membership

3.1 The Members of the Select Committee were:

Miss Susan J Carey, Chairman: Conservative Member, Elham Valley

Mr Terence Birkett: Labour Member, Deal

Mr Alan Chell: Conservative Member, Maidstone South

Mr Dan Daley: Liberal Democrat Member, Maidstone Central

Mr Charles Hibberd: Conservative Member, Birchington and Villages

Mr R Parker: Labour Member, Northfleet and Gravesend West

Mr Richard Parry: Conservative Member, Sevenoaks West

Mrs Elizabeth Tweed: Conservative Member, Ashford Central

Additionally, Mr Ken Bamber of Medway Council was a Member of the Committee.

Terms of Reference

3.2 The aim of the Committee was to identify the best rail passenger services solution for Kent, both in terms of:

- The immediate benefits of the solution in terms of journey times and improved services to London and around Kent ; and
- The long term benefits of the solution in terms of the regeneration of Kent and the impacts on the wider rail network and transport in the County.

3.3 This involved investigating the following:

- Current proposals of the franchise holders, Southeastern, for services from December 2009 and proposed fare levels;
- Forecasted effects of these proposals and whether they are robust - including whether rising general fare levels and additional premium fares on CTRL DS will prove to be a deterrent to travel by rail;
- The effects the proposed services will have on the regeneration of Growth Areas and the coastal towns;
- The case for new parkway stations at Minster and Westenhanger;
- The likelihood of rail heading to certain stations with significantly improved services and likely effects;
- Access to stations forecast to attract significant rises in passenger volumes;

Evidence

3.4 The Committee received both oral and written evidence from a wide range of witnesses. Witnesses included professionals dealing with rail and public transport issues and from the tourism and property industries.

4. Conclusions

(1) I welcome the report and would like to thank the Select Committee on completing this piece of work and to thank all those witnesses who gave evidence to the Select Committee.

(2) The Select Committee report was presented to the Cabinet on 1 December 2008 by Miss Carey, Chairman of the Select Committee, and Mr Daley. Cabinet welcomed the report but considered that they needed to look in more detail on some issues including rail fares on the new services and improving the facilities and accessibility at stations on the high speed domestic network.

(3) Since the report was considered by Cabinet, more information on the proposed services levels has been issued by Southeastern, the Train Operating Company, and the County Council commissioned a survey into passengers' reactions to the possible

premium fare levels on the new high speed services. Additionally, Southeastern has published revised information on journey times.

In the light of this new information and the comments by Cabinet, I set out comments on the recommendations of the Select Committee below:

5. Select Committee Recommendations (with my comments)

The County Council should:

- 1. with the evidence available at this time, welcome the new high speed rail services starting in December 2009 serving stations in Kent with new trains.**
- 2. welcome the link to St. Pancras in opening access to a growth area in London and offering excellent connections to the Midlands and the North.**

Comment:

Agreed. The County Council has consistently supported the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL). One of its benefits is to offer faster domestic services from east and north Kent to London and over the years the County Council has worked with partners to lobby for the CTRL scheme to be completed and for domestic services to serve as many stations as possible.

The new high speed rail services will help regenerate parts of east and north Kent by making access to London more attractive. This will encourage people to move to cheaper housing, further away from London but within acceptable commuting range. With the new services running to St. Pancras and Stratford, people currently living to the north and east of London will in future be attracted to relocate in Kent. The new services will also attract businesses to locate in areas close in London in terms of time, but at rates significantly below those in central London. They will also encourage tourism to Kent by making attractions in the County more accessible by rail from central and north London as well as areas beyond the capital.

However, the success of these services will also depend on the fares charged on these train (see response to Point 9 below) as well as access to stations and the state of the stations themselves (see response to Point 6 below).

The County Council should:

- 3. use the publicity surrounding the launch of the new services to promote:**
 - a. Tourism from London and north of London to Kent, building on the present campaigns by Visit Kent.**
 - b. Inward investment by businesses especially knowledge based (i.e. non industrial) businesses to take advantage of Kent's good connectivity building on the work by Locate in Kent.**

Comment:

Agreed. The County Council needs to work closely with both Visit Kent and Locate in Kent to publicise the opportunities the high speed services offer to attract businesses and tourists to the County.

The County Council should:

- 4. lobby for services lost in the new timetable to be reinstated at the earliest opportunity.**

Comment:

Agreed. However, it is most unlikely that changes to the train specification will be made until after the new services actually start running from December and the effects are seen in practice.

The introduction of the new services at some stations has meant that revisions to the existing services to London from these stations will be made from December 2009. When the Strategic Rail Authority and Department for Transport (DfT) announced indicative train levels in 2005, a significant number of existing services to London were cut. Since then Southeastern has persuaded the DfT to restore many of these cuts.

Peak Services

Information on peak period services (ie trains arriving in London between 7 and 10 am in the morning and leaving London between 4 and 7pm), was not available at the time the Select Committee considered the issue. This is now available and the proposed high speed services are shown in Figure 1 with three services from Whitstable, Herne Bay and Birchington and five or six services from the other high speed stations. Table 1 shows all the proposed services from these stations – high speed and those to existing London termini. There was particular concern that peak services to the City (ie Cannon Street) would be significantly cut from December, but the reductions have been limited to no more than one in the three hour period and in some cases services to Charing Cross have been increased enabling passengers to change at London Bridge for Cannon Street. Victoria services have also been reduced to no more than two trains (from nine to seven at Faversham and Sittingbourne).

As the timetabling becomes more detailed, it is likely that more existing peak services will be slower than now and the County Council will need to monitor the situation and ensure Southeastern gets the right balance between journey time and accessibility from all stations. Experience shows that relatively minor changes in train timings can upset people as it changes their routine. It will depend on how attractive the high speed services are in the short term, which will depend on how passengers actually value the improvements in journey time and quality of the new trains against the fares. The continuing effects of the credit crunch on the numbers commuting to London at the end of the year will also be a factor on crowding levels on particular services.

Off-peak

The proposed off-peak service levels on the high speed line are shown in Figure 2 and a summary of the services to London from the high speed stations is shown in Table 2. This information has been in the public domain for longer and concern has been particularly expressed at the reduction of off-peak services from four to two per hour between Ashford and Charing Cross. There is also concern that journey times on this service will be lengthened as the reduced service has to stop at all immediate stations whereas currently there is a mixture of faster and slower trains. There are also concerns that off-peak trains on the North Kent Line (between Sittingbourne and Thanet) travelling to and from Victoria will be slower. Figure 3 shows revised before and after journey times from the stations which will have the new high speed services from December

The County Council should:

- 5. work with key partners to ensure a direct pedestrian link between Northfleet and Ebbsfleet stations is created as soon as practicable**
- 6. produce a review of the stations that will be served by High-Speed rail to identify and prioritise work needed to stations and station access to be ready for or soon after the December 2009 launch.**

Comment:

Ideally there should be a high quality pedestrian direct link between Ebbsfleet and Northfleet to enable ready access to high speed and Eurostar services from rail passengers from Dartford and stations in south London. The current distance between the two stations is around one kilometre and a direct link with an underpass crossing under a number of railway lines would reduce the distance to some 300m.

However, the cost is high, requiring an underpass estimated to cost in the order of £9m and unfortunately, the ongoing credit crunch has meant no development in the Ebbsfleet area is currently taking place and the scope for developer contributions in the near future is therefore limited. It seems therefore extremely unlikely that such a link could be provided in the near future.

The work of the Select Committee on establishing Network Rail's station improvement schemes on the high speed service network has revealed that there are a very large number of schemes being considered, but programming of works is sometimes vague due largely to uncertainties over funding. It was hoped that extensive improvements to stations such as Canterbury West and Dover Priory would be completed before the services start in December, but these are being scaled back

Additionally, improved access to stations by all modes is not going to be completed before the high speed services begin. Improved access by car is particularly difficult as land adjacent to stations is not sufficient to meet demand, there are land acquisition difficulties and in some cases, development of multi-storey car parks in environmentally sensitive areas will be difficult to progress through the planning system.

It is vital that adequate parking at the stations is provided as soon as possible to meet demand.

Theoretically more bus services to stations to meet increased demand can be provided relatively quickly but sometimes there is resistance for operators to serve a station directly at peak traffic times as congestion can mean significant delays in returning to the main road flow.

Kent Highway Services has recently recruited into the public transport section so that the County Council can play a more pro-active role in co-ordinating and progressing station access schemes in conjunction with the District Councils, Network Rail, Southeastern and the bus companies.

The County Council should:

- 7. encourage the bus and rail companies to introduce more promotional off-peak fares, joint passes, through tickets (such as the BusPlus pass) and Open Jaw tickets.**
- 8. work with the bus companies to develop more frequent services serving rail stations, particularly more late services serving returning rail commuters and to assist with the Traveline project for accurate journey planning.**

Comment:

Agreed. These are worthy aims and should be progressed although the scope for revenue support from the County Council for more bus services is limited.

The County Council should:

- 9. lobby for low introductory fares to ensure early success for the High Speed services.**

Comment:

Already fares in Kent and East Sussex are rising faster than elsewhere in the country (average RPI + 3%) and this situation is likely to continue for the next two years, although with the Retail Price Index forecast to fall by this Summer (the base used for fare calculations), rises in future will be significantly lower than experienced over the last three years.

On top of these increases, there will be a premium added to existing fares for the high speed services. These have yet to be finally announced and it is unknown whether there will be different rates in the peak periods from the off-peak. The latest

published premium fares (by the Strategic Rail Authority in 2005) suggested that the premiums would be 10 – 30% higher than existing fares.

The County Council commissioned a survey at stations where high speed services are to run from to gauge rail passengers' reaction to such fares and based on these premiums and the known journey time savings in January.

Countywide, only 21% of those surveyed said they would be willing to pay these levels of premium and only 36% said they would be willing to pay around half this level of premium. 62% said they would use the new services if there was no premium applied. A summary of the findings on a station by station basis is attached as Appendix 1.

From the evidence available it seems very unlikely that the new high speed services will be successful unless urgent consideration is given to substantially reducing the premium on fares which has hitherto been suggested.

I recommend that the County Council makes urgent representations for the reduction of these levels of premium; because otherwise it is most unlikely that we will see the potential benefits to Kent residents which have been long promised.

The County Council should:

- 10. decide how best to consider public transport issues in future either through an existing or new board; a formal S101 Joint Committee between Kent County Council and Medway Council; or by establishing a separate or joint Strategic Public Transport Forum**

Comment:

Better liaison between the County Council and Medway Council on public transport issues would be advantageous. However, to avoid creation of new administrative bodies, it is proposed that this should be achieved at officer-level in the first instance and this be reviewed at a later date.

The County Council should:

- 11. recognise the timescales for influencing rail services and infrastructure provision and begin consideration of the following:**
 - a. potential Thameslink services to Maidstone, the Medway Towns, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks**
 - b. Network Rail's forthcoming Rail Utilisation Strategy**
 - c. The renewal of the Southeastern franchise in Kent 2014**

Comment:

Agreed. The Thameslink scheme is due to be completed in 2015 and with significantly increased capacity between London Bridge and St Pancras, via Blackfriars, City Thameslink and Farringdon offers great potential for direct links from

parts of Kent to the City and the County Council must work with partners to secure these opportunities.

The Kent Rail Utilisation Strategy (RUS) is due to be issued for consultation on 28 April and it is imperative that the County Council engages fully with the process to influence future Network Rail schemes.

The current Southeastern franchise runs from April 2006 to the end of March 2012, with an automatic two year extension if targets are met. The County Council will have eventually to consider carefully what the bidders to run the franchise from 2014 are offering.

The County Council should:

12. consider the feasibility of the following rail services/infrastructure projects:

- a. direct services from Kent and Medway to Gatwick airport**
- b. rail links to the Kent International and Lydd Airports**

Comment:

Agreed. In particular, the County Council considers that a Parkway Station near to Kent International Airport is necessary to improve journey times from the surrounding area (including Pfizer, China Gateway and Manston Business Park) and to assist in the regeneration of Thanet.

The County Council should:

13. engage with Southeastern and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to plan for joint ticketing arrangements to maximise use of public transport to the Games and to minimise disruption to Kent's residents and businesses during the 16 day period of the main Games.

Comment:

Agreed.

Mr K Ferrin
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste

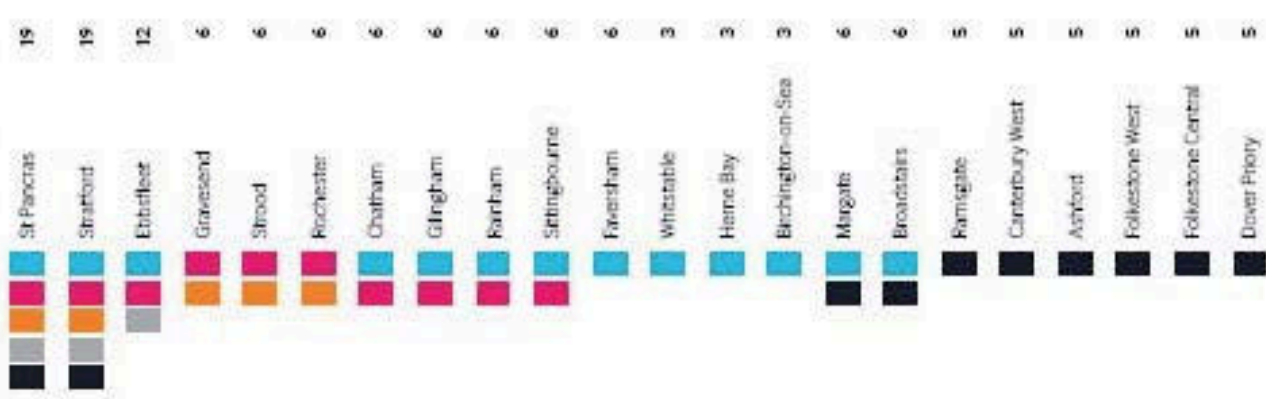
Background Information: *None*

If you require a full copy of the report please contact Mick Sutch on 01622 221612 or email mick.sutch@kent.gov.uk

Figure 1

Highspeed service December 2009

Total trains services during Peak



Peak service arriving at St Pancras between 07:00 – 09:59

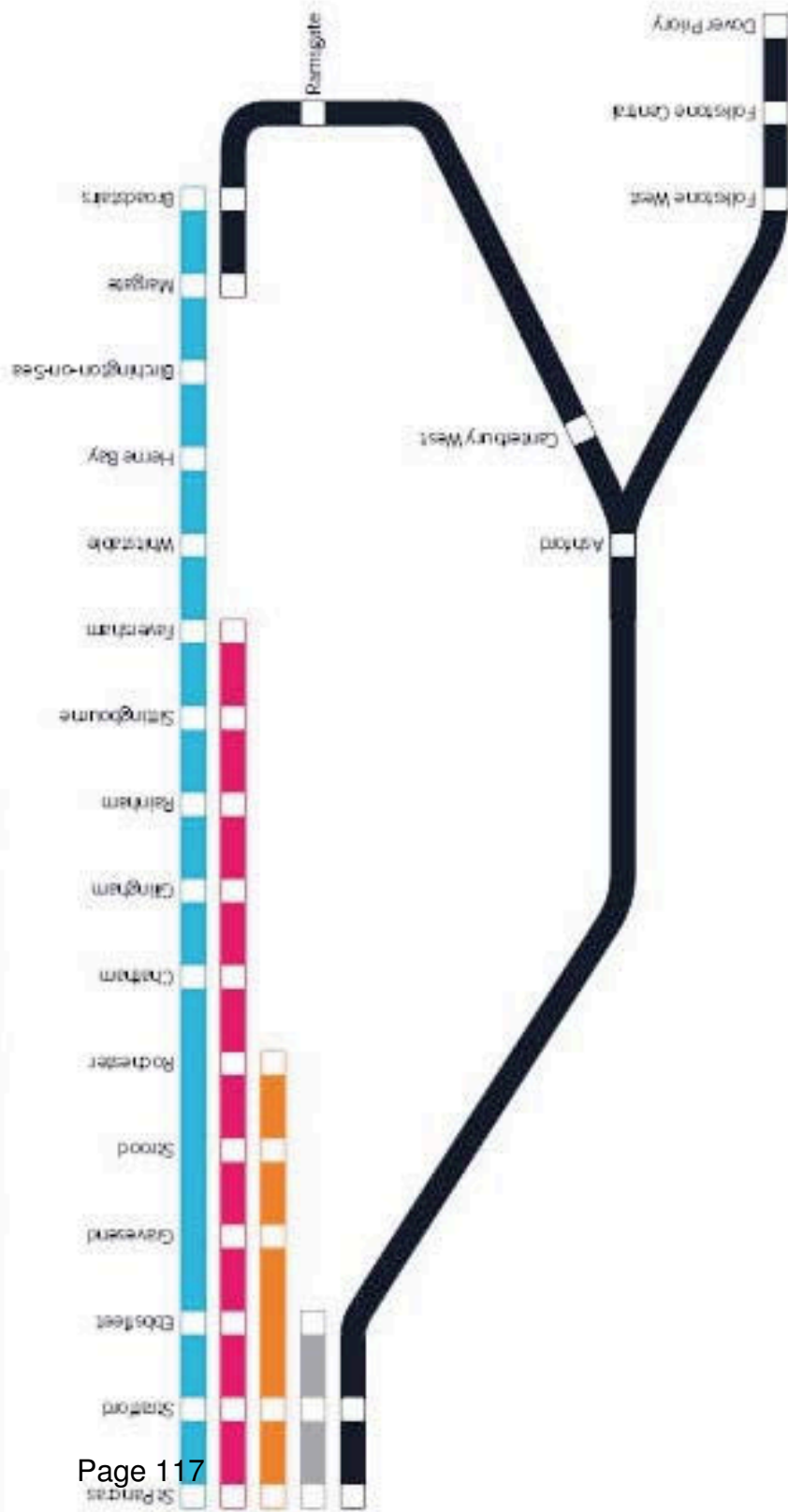


Table 1

INTEGRATED KENT FRANCHISE (SLC2) - SUMMARY OF TRAIN SERVICE CHANGES (AM PEAK THREE HOURS, PEAK DIRECTION)

| | St Pancras | | Charing Cross | | Cannon St | | London Bridge | | Victoria | | Blackfriars | | All Termini (not Lon Br) | | |
|-----------------|------------|--------|---------------|--------|-----------|--------|---------------|--------|----------|--------|-------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|----|
| | Current | Future | Current | Future | Current | Future | Current | Future | Current | Future | Current | Future | Current | Change | |
| Ashford | | 6 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 27 | 8 |
| Birchington | | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | | | 12 | 13 | 1 |
| Broadstairs | | 6 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | | | 14 | 16 | 2 |
| Canterbury West | | 5 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | | | 6 | 13 | 7 |
| Dover Priory | | 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 2 | | | 8 | 13 | 5 |
| Ebbsfleet | | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| Gravesend | | 6 | 10 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 16 | | | | | 16 | 22 | 6 |
| Herne Bay | | 3 | | | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | | | 12 | 13 | 1 |
| Margate | | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 6 | | | 13 | 16 | 3 |
| Ramsgate | | 5 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | | | 18 | 22 | 4 |
| Sittingbourne | | 6 | | | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 7 | | | 16 | 19 | 3 |
| Whitstable | | 3 | | | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | | | 12 | 13 | 1 |

Source: www.nationalrail.co.uk

Figure 2

Highspeed service December 2009



Off-peak and weekend services

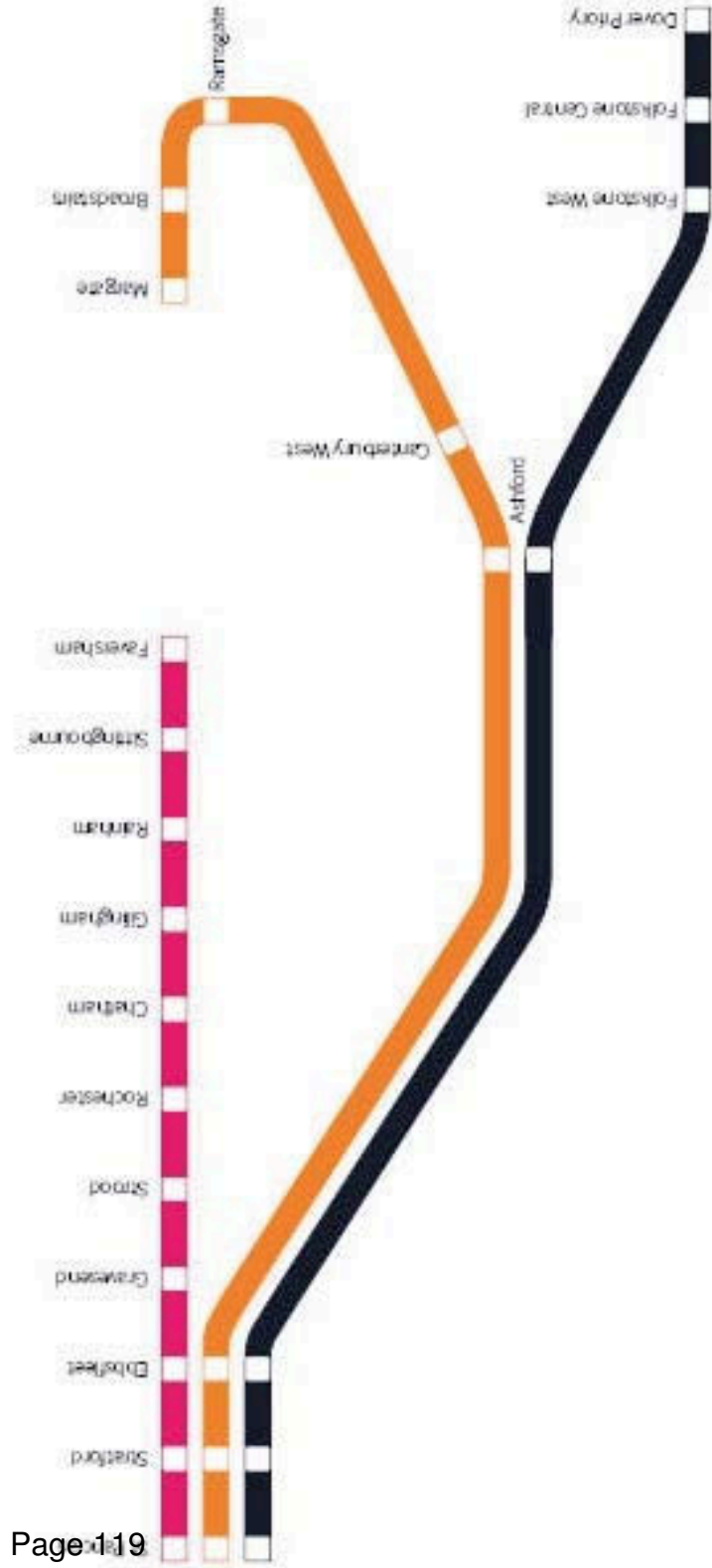


Table 2

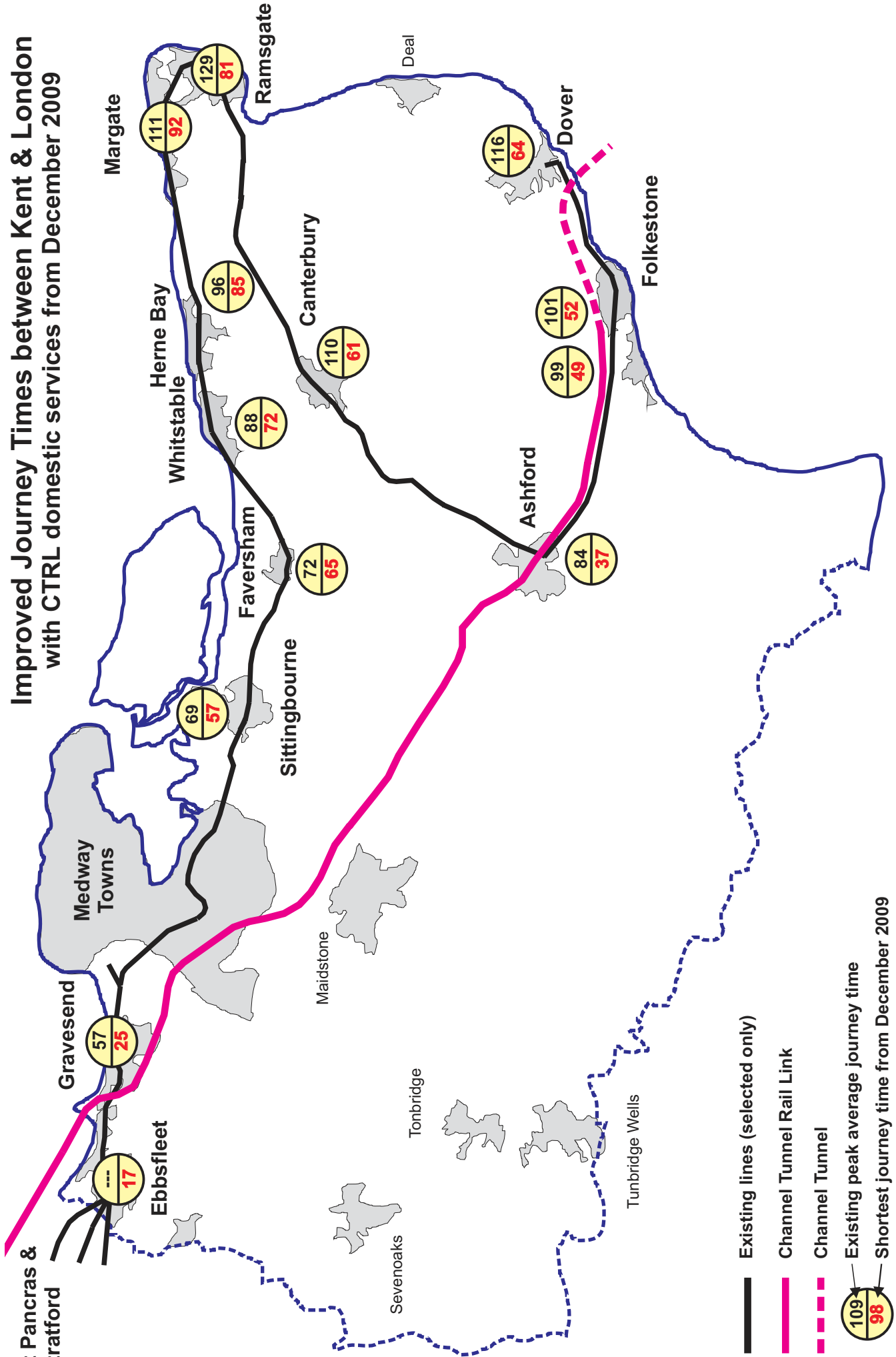
INTEGRATED KENT FRANCHISE (SLC2) - SUMMARY OF TRAIN SERVICE CHANGES : **OFF PEAK**

| | St Pancras | | Charing Cross | | Cannon St | | London Bridge | | Victoria | | Blackfriars | | All Termini (not Lon Br) | | |
|--------------------|------------|--------|---------------|--------|-----------|--------|---------------|--------|----------|--------|-------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|---|
| | Current | Future | Current | Future | Current | Future | Current | Future | Current | Future | Current | Future | Current | Change | |
| Ashford | 0 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Birchington | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Broadstairs | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Canterbury West | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | 0 | 2 | | | | | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Dover Priory | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| Ebbsfleet | 0 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Gravesend | 0 | 2 | | | | | | | 4 | 2 | | | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Folkestone Central | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | 0 | 2 | | | | | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Folkestone West | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 0 | 2 | | | | | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Gravesend | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 | | | 4 | 4 | | | | | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| Herne Bay | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Margate | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Ramsgate | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| Sittingbourne | 0 | 2 | | | | | | | 4 | 2 | | | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Whitstable | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | 0 |

Source: www.nationalrail.co.uk

Figure 3

Improved Journey Times between Kent & London with CTRL domestic services from December 2009



Schematic Only - Not to Scale

Rail Passenger Survey Results

Figure 4: Percentage of respondents who would pay the full latest proposed premium for the new high speed services

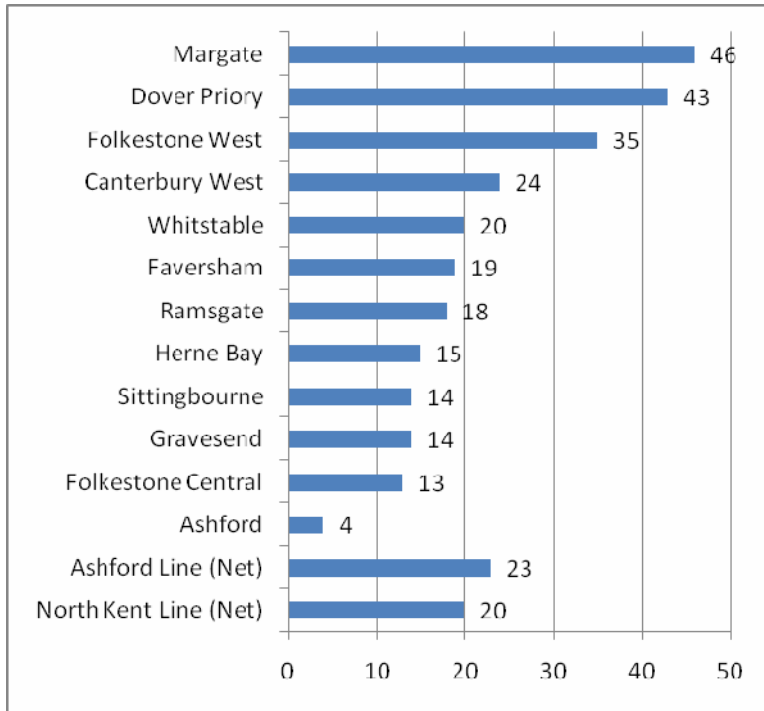


Figure 5: Percentage of respondents who would pay half the latest proposed premium for the new high speed services

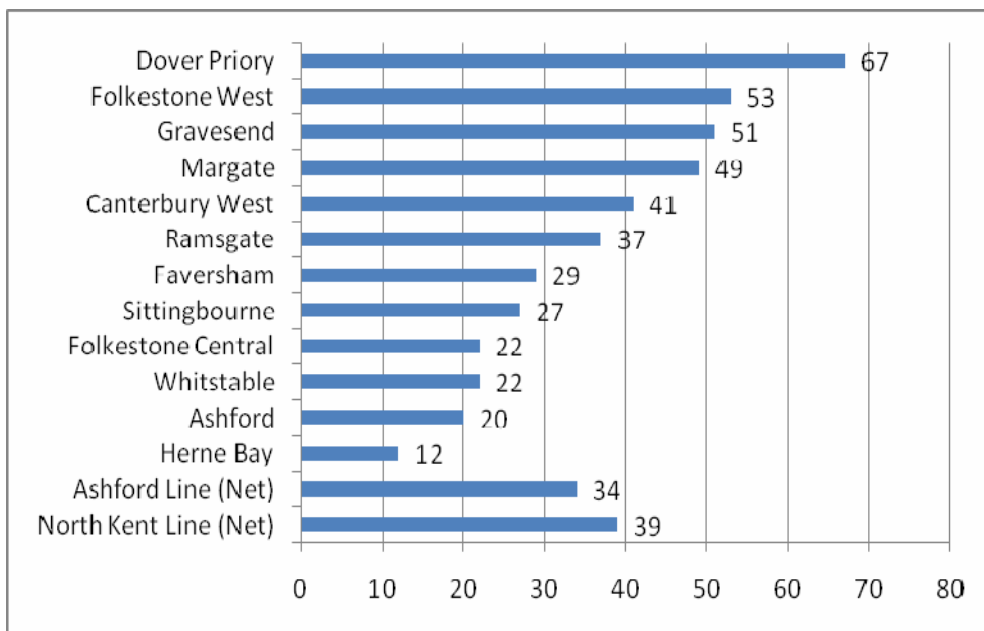
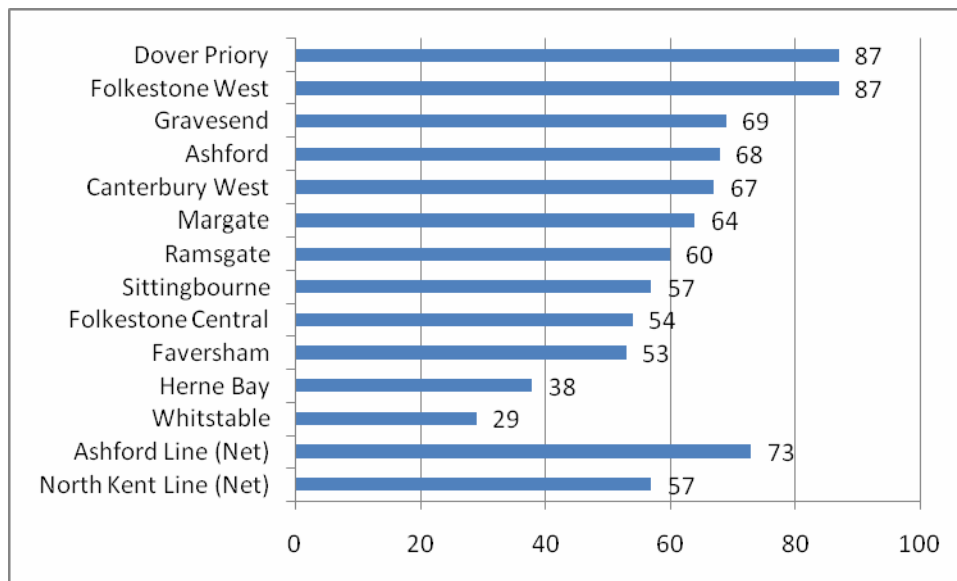


Figure 6 Percentage of season ticket holders prepared to pay the current price (ie no premium) for the new high speed services



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By: Mr G Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services
To: County Council – 30 April 2009
Subject: SELECT COMMITTEE: AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER

Summary: To comment on and endorse the report of the Select Committee on Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Introduction

1. The Adult Social Services POC proposed a Select Committee to look at issues relating to service provision for adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. This was agreed by the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee at its meeting on 14 February 2008.

Select Committee Process

Membership

2. The Select Committee commenced its work in July 2008. The Chairman of the Select Committee was Mr J Simmonds, other Members of the Committee were Mrs A Allen, Mr G Cowan, Mrs E Green, Mr G Koowaree, Mr M Northey, Mr R Pascoe and Dr T Robinson.

Terms of Reference

3. The Terms of Reference for this Select Committee Topic Review were to:-

- To investigate the extent and prevalence of people with autism in Kent.
- To explore existing and emerging national and local policies and strategies with regards to Autistic Disorder Spectrum (ASD).
- To examine the effectiveness of current ASD-related services in Kent.
- To explore existing and emerging approaches to funding, and present financial resources employed to support ASD-related services in Kent.
- To investigate the extent of existing collaboration and partnership working amongst individuals and agencies providing support to people with autism.
- Having considered all the above aspects, to make recommendations for an approach for Kent.

Evidence

4. The Committee used a number of evidence sources to inform their investigations including oral and written evidence from a wide range of stakeholders. A meeting was also held with stakeholders to share the recommendations of the Select Committee and to receive their comments.

Report

5. A copy of the Executive Summary and recommendations is attached as Appendix 1. The full report is available on the website at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/publications/council-and-democracy/selcomrep-asd.htm> and on request to the Democratic Services and Local Leadership Unit. (overviewandscrutiny@kent.gov.uk or 01622 694269)

Conclusion

6. (1) I would like to congratulate the Select Committee on completing this very challenging piece of work. I would also like to thank all those witnesses who gave evidence to the Select Committee.

(2) The report was presented to Cabinet on 30 March 2009 by Mr J Simmonds, Chairman of the Select Committee, and Mr G Cowan. The Leader welcomed this report and there was a very constructive debate. It was suggested that there be a multi-disciplinary task force established and that further consideration be given to the possibility of using some of the performance reward grant to take forward some of the key recommendations working in conjunction with other partners.

4. Recommendations

I recommend that:-

- (a) the Select Committee report and its recommendations be endorsed by the County Council;
- (b) the Select Committee be thanked for an excellent report on a complex, challenging and emotive issue;
- (c) the witnesses and others who provided evidence and made valuable contributions to the work of the Select Committee be thanked;

Background Information: *None*





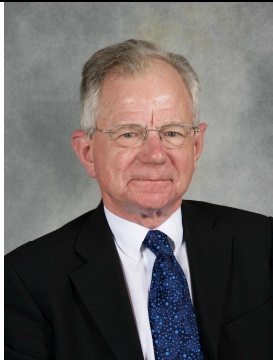



Mr G Gibbens
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services

AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Committee Membership

1.1.1. The Committee membership consists of eight Members of Kent County Council (KCC): five Members of the Conservative Party, two Members of the Labour Party and one Member of the Liberal Democrat Party.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Mrs Ann Allen Conservative | Mr Michael Northey Conservative | Mr Richard Pascoe Conservative | Mr John Simmonds Conservative Chairman |
|  |  |  |  |
| Dr Tony Robinson Conservative | Mr Gordon Cowan Labour | Mrs Elizabeth Green Labour | Mr George Koowaree Liberal Democrat |

1.2. Scene Setting

- 1.2.1. Autistic spectrum disorders (ASDs) are complex, and people with autism are amongst the most vulnerable and excluded in society. Yet, only in recent years has there been growing awareness of the condition. Very little is still known about how many adults have autism in England.
- 1.2.2. According to research, about 1% of children in England suffer from ASD, that is, about 107,000. If the same percentage is applied to the adult population, there are approximately 433,000 men and women with autism. The total number of people with autism in the UK, then, would exceed 500,000, making autism more common than Down syndrome and Cerebral Palsy combined.
- 1.2.3. Given that the families of these individuals are often also touched by their condition, today over 2 million people may be affected by autism in the Country.
- 1.2.4. It is widely accepted that autism is more prevalent in males than in females, by a proportion of 4:1. This consensus, together with studies on twins and families, seems to suggest that autism has a genetic component.
- 1.2.5. In June 2008 the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Select Committee began its investigation of a wide range of issues and problems concerning autism. In particular, the review explored the extent to which mechanisms and services met the needs and expectations of people with autism in Kent, and considered whether the effectiveness of such services could be enhanced. A series of recommendations resulted from the review in an effort to improve the lives of Kent residents.

1.3. Terms of Reference

1.3.1. The terms of reference of this review were as follows:

- to investigate the prevalence of autism in Kent
- to explore existing and emerging national and local policies and strategies with regard to autistic spectrum disorder (ASD)
- to examine the effectiveness of current ASD-related services in the County
- to explore existing and emerging approaches to funding, and present financial resources employed to support ASD-related services in Kent
- to investigate the extent of existing collaboration and partnership working between individuals and agencies providing support to people with autism
- having considered all the above aspects, to make recommendations for an approach for Kent.

1.3.2. The more detailed scope of the review included:

To investigate the prevalence of autism in Kent.

- a. Identify the range of disorders within the autistic spectrum.
- b. Investigate the number of individuals with autism in Kent.

To explore existing and emerging national and local policies and strategies with regard to autistic spectrum disorder (ASD).

- a. Examine current policy and planning in relation to ASD both at national level and in Kent.
- b. Explore emerging national and local policies and strategies – if any - that can affect the way current ASD-related services are organised and delivered.

To examine the effectiveness of current ASD-related services in Kent.

- a. Investigate the effectiveness of current eligibility criteria, and of commissioning and provision mechanisms with regard to autism in Kent.

- b. Explore the extent to which ASD service provision meets the needs of people with autism, especially adults and young people in transition into adulthood. Consider the extent to which ASD-related services may meet future demand.
- c. Examine the existing support offered to carers and families of people with autism, and the support and training available to staff dealing with people affected by autism.
- d. Explore good practice examples of ASD service organisation, commissioning and provision in other local authorities in the UK.

To explore existing and emerging approaches to funding, and present financial resources employed to support ASD-related services in Kent.

- a. Examine present approaches to funding and the financial resources available to fund ASD-related services in Kent.
- b. Consider the impact of, and the implications for, these resources should the organisation, commissioning and provision of ASD-related services be altered in the future.

To investigate the extent of existing collaboration and partnership working between individuals and agencies providing support to people with autism.

- a. Explore the current degree of collaboration and partnership working between individuals and agencies providing support to people with autism.
- b. Investigate the current level of information and awareness about the condition of autism in the community.

Having considered all the above aspects, to make recommendations for an approach for Kent.

1.4. Recommendations

While recognising today's particular financial constraints, it is the aspiration of all the major organisations involved in this review, including Kent County Council, Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust, West Kent Primary Care Trust and Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, to deliver the objectives set out in this report.

Recommendation 1

The Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Select Committee recommends that the Kent Adult Social Services Directorate, through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for adults in Kent, establishes the most effective way of conducting a county-wide study investigating:

- the prevalence and incidence of adults with ASD in need of support and not currently receiving service provision
- levels of service satisfaction of those adults with autism living at home and currently receiving support.

This investigation will inform the planning and commissioning of future services for adults with ASD. The study could involve sponsoring a bursary for a student to carry out a research project at the Tizard Centre, University of Kent (Chapter 3).

Recommendation 2

KCC should encourage the inclusion of autism-related services amongst the services provided by multi-disciplinary mental health teams in the County. The local authority should also explore the possibility of setting up, in partnership with the NHS, a highly specialised autism service in Kent, such as the one offered by the South London and Maudsley Hospital (Chapter 4, Section 4.1 and Section 4.2).

Recommendation 3

The Kent Adult Social Services Directorate should ensure that:

- all its staff involved in the assessment of autism are fully trained to understand the uniqueness, complexity and implications of the condition. This training should be coupled with an increasing number of early interventions aimed at diverting people with autism from care pathways that are inappropriate and expensive

- adequate advocacy services with ASD-specific knowledge are offered to all people with autism who require them (Chapter 4, Section 4.3 and Section 4.4).

Recommendation 4

The Kent Adult Social Services Directorate should aim to achieve greater access to person-centred planning for, and a greater usage of Direct Payments by, people with ASD. It will liaise with the recently appointed Specialist Advisor for Autism at the Department of Health in an effort to expand its capacity, expertise and leadership on autism in Kent (Chapter 5).

Recommendation 5

The Managing Director of Kent Adult Social Services should oversee and ensure the prompt production and implementation of a protocol for joint working between KCC's learning disability and mental health teams, in order to provide a more inclusive and responsive service to individuals with ASD (Chapter 6, Section 6.1).

Recommendation 6

The Select Committee endorses the production of Transition Protocols, which can enhance data sharing between children and adult social services in Kent, and recommends that the impact of these protocols on service planning and provision for young people with ASD – including those with Asperger syndrome - is specifically monitored (Chapter 6, Section 6.2).

Recommendation 7

Kent Adult Social Services should lead on the establishment of a multi-disciplinary task group with representation from agencies including health, social care, housing, employment services, education, independent sector providers and the voluntary sector. The task group - which should liaise with the Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board - will widen and strengthen the interdependence and joint working amongst all these agencies, to provide more efficient and effective services to people with autism and individuals with learning disabilities in the form of care pathways (Chapter 6, Section 6.3).

Recommendation 8

KCC should make sure that transition planning offered to young people with autism should start at the age of 14, and that it should be in place before they reach statutory school leaving age. The local authority should ensure well coordinated, seamless transitions into adulthood, involving person-centred, effective planning and support. Planning should be coupled with a mechanism

to monitor progress and to secure a smooth transition (Chapter 7, Section 7.1, Section 7.2 and Section 7.3).

Recommendation 9

Kent County Council should review the availability of specialist psychology, psychiatry and speech therapy health services to people with autism both during transition and into adulthood (Chapter 7, Section 7.4).

Recommendation 10

Kent County Council should support a campaign to raise awareness in the community about autism. KCC should also urge internal and partner agencies, including the NHS, the Criminal Justice System, the police and the housing, employment and education services, to enhance awareness amongst their staff about autism, its complexities and the implications for their service delivery (Chapter 8, Section 8.1 and Section 8.2).

Recommendation 11

KCC should contribute to the development of a website which provides up-to-date national guidance as well as local information on all the services and support available to people with ASD and their families in Kent. Information and guidance should be presented in a clear, unambiguous and user-friendly form (Chapter 8, Section 8.3).

Recommendation 12

Kent County Council should:

- review its recruitment practices and selection criteria so that they support and enable the employment of more people with autistic spectrum conditions within the Authority
- explore the potential of further education colleges in Kent to maximise the employment opportunities of people with autism in the County
- require the Supporting Independence Programme team to carry out a project, possibly with the Tizard Centre, aimed at helping people with ASD to access employment (Chapter 9, Section 9.1 and Section 9.2).

Recommendation 13

Kent County Council should:

- **carry out an audit involving all Kent District Councils to ascertain accurately the housing options available to people with ASD and those with learning disabilities**
- **urge both District Councils and the Joint Planning and Policy Board to take particular account of the needs of people with autism when discussing and deciding housing options**
- **encourage both District Councils and the Kent Adult Social Services Directorate to consider allocating some of their PFI housing options to people with autism (Chapter 9, Section 9.3).**

Recommendation 14

Kent County Council should:

- **start a pilot scheme in Kent in which a drop-in facility providing autism-related information and guidance is available one day a week. The Committee suggests using an existing local setting, such as the successful Ashford Gateway, as the base for this pilot scheme. In order to maximise the effectiveness of this initiative, it is essential that the staff working in the premises are made aware both of the initiative and about the condition of autism**
- **contribute to the funding of a befriending scheme, using trained volunteers, which may be run in collaboration with the National Autistic Society (Chapter 10, Section 10.1 and Section 10.2).**

Recommendation 15

The Kent Adult Social Services Directorate should carry out a county-wide audit to quantify the need for respite of people with ASD and their families. The purpose of this study is to inform the planning of future respite service provision in Kent, taking into account the Authority's financial constraints (Chapter 10, Section 10.3).

By: Mr P M Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services

To: County Council – 30 April 2009

Subject: SELECT COMMITTEE: PROVISION OF ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – *‘Somewhere to go, someone to be’*

Summary: To comment on and endorse the report of the Select Committee on Provision of Activities for Young People.

Introduction

1. The Communities Policy Overview Committee proposed the establishment of a Select Committee to look at the some of the issues around provision of activities for young people. This was agreed by the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee at its meeting on 14th February 2008.

Select Committee Process

Membership

2. The Select Committee commenced its work in August 2008. The Chairman of the Select Committee was Mr Alan Chell, other members being Mr Jeff Curwood, Mr Godfrey Horne, MBE, Mr Michael Northey, Mr Geoff Rowe and Mrs Elizabeth Tweed. The Labour Group indicated that they did not have the capacity for two Members to serve on this select committee but asked that Mr Birkett be kept informed of progress.

Terms of Reference

3. The Terms of Reference for this Select Committee Topic Review were to:-
- explore national and local policies and strategies in relation to the provision of (leisure-time) activities for young people.
 - examine recent consultations and consult with young people during the review, with an emphasis on young people who may not currently engage with services, and motivational aspects.
 - explore how the range of activities available to young people is communicated to them and whether there are opportunities to make this communication more effective
 - examine collaborative and partnership work taking place between KCC and other organisations particularly through Youth Advisory Groups, and any opportunities to develop this further.

- examine whether existing funding streams for provision of activities for young people could be used more creatively to benefit young people and communities.

Evidence

4. The Committee used a number of evidence sources to inform their investigations including oral and written evidence from a wide range of stakeholders.

Timescale

5. The Select Committee met with Lead Members, Directorate representatives and other stakeholders on 11th March 2009 to receive comments on the Select Committee report before it was finalised.

Report

6. A copy of the Executive Summary and recommendations is attached as Appendix 1. The full report is available on the website at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/publications/council-and-democracy/selcomrep-activities-for-young.htm> and on request to the Democratic Services and Local Leadership Unit. (overviewandscrutiny@kent.gov.uk or 01622 694269)

Conclusion

7. (1) I would like to congratulate the Select Committee on completing this very challenging piece of work. I would also like to thank all those witnesses who gave evidence to the Select Committee.

(2) The report was presented to the Cabinet on 30 March 2009 by Mr A Chell, Chairman of the Select Committee and Mr G Rowe. The Leader welcomed the report and thanked the Select Committee for its work.

8. Recommendations

I recommend that:-

- the Select Committee report and its recommendations be endorsed by the County Council;
- the Select Committee be thanked for an excellent report on a complex, challenging and emotive issue;
- the witnesses and others who provided evidence and made valuable contributions to the work of the Select Committee be thanked;

Background Information: *None*

Mr P M Hill
Cabinet Member for Communities

Provision of Activities Select Committee – March 2009

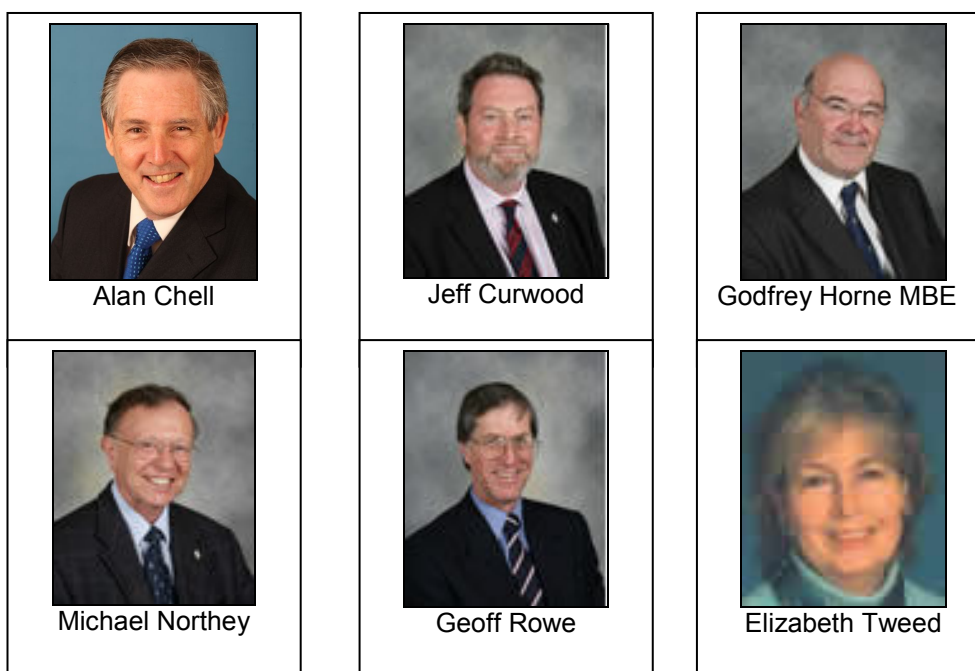
Executive Summary and Recommendations

I Executive Summary

Committee membership

The Select Committee consisted of six Members of the County Council, five Conservative and one Liberal Democrat. The committee also had the assistance of labour representative Mr Terry Birkett.

Kent County Council Members (County Councillors):



The Terms of Reference

1. To explore national and local policies and strategies in relation to the provision of (leisure-time) activities for young people.
2. To examine recent consultations and consult with young people during the review, with an emphasis on young people who may not currently engage with services, and motivational aspects.
3. To explore how the range of activities available to young people is communicated to them and whether there are opportunities to make this communication more effective

4. To examine collaborative and partnership work taking place between KCC and other organisations particularly through Youth Advisory Groups, and any opportunities to develop this further.
5. To examine whether existing funding streams for provision of activities for young people could be used more creatively to benefit young people and communities.

Evidence gathering

The Select Committee gathered evidence through desk research and received evidence in person and in writing from a range of stakeholders including young people, the Youth Service, the Youth Offending Service, Environment & Regeneration, Children, Families and Education Extended Services, District Councils and the voluntary sector. The original aim to include an in-depth look at Youth Advisory Groups was scaled down due to the appointment of an independent consultant to carry out a simultaneous review.

A list of the witnesses who attended Select Committee hearings is at Appendix A. A list of those submitting written or supplementary evidence is at Appendix B. Details of visits carried out are at Appendix C.

Reasons for establishment of the Select Committee

The Select Committee was formed in response to concerns that young people are increasingly being acted against rather than provided for and that information about activities provision could be made more inclusive.

The review has looked at:-

- activities on offer to young people and how this is communicated
- barriers to access
- motivational aspects
- multi-agency work and funding

Introduction

This is the first select committee to have been appointed by the Communities Policy Overview Committee. 'Communities' is the Kent County Council Directorate in which Kent Youth Services and KDAAT 'sit'. In many other council areas youth services are under the same management as Children, Families and Education but in Kent this is a very large directorate, covering all of education and children's social services and it was felt that keeping them separate would help the council to focus on many of the issues that affect young people and their communities as they grow up.

At the same time, having Integrated Youth Support Services means that all the people involved in youth provision will in future meet, talk and work closely together

to make things better for young people and one aspect of this is the provision of positive activities.

There have been other Kent select committees which have looked at the topic of activities such as 'Transition' in April 2007, as well as those which have looked at other important issues affecting people (including young people) such as the Alcohol Misuse Select Committee in 2008. This work was carried out because there were serious concerns about the damage alcohol can cause to people's health and wellbeing and its terms of reference included looking at vulnerable groups (people who are often badly affected), one of which was young people. The report said that one of the reasons for alcohol misuse among young people was having 'nothing else to do'.

Members of this committee decided not to focus just on the work of the Kent Youth Service (KYS) since independent consultants BMG carried out detailed research and published a report in 2008 and Ofsted¹ also inspected and reported on KYS in June 2008. It was decided instead to look at what kinds of activities are on offer in Kent, where they are, how young people find out about what's on and what might be stopping them from taking part.

Kent has a variety of leisure opportunities provided by all sorts of organisations: this ranges from activities anyone could take part in, to those aimed specifically at young people or particular groups of young people. It is not too surprising to find out that young people from less well-off backgrounds and those who are no longer at school, are less likely to participate in positive activities². Apart from that, there are many young people who would like to take part in more leisure activities but can't because of their family situation, or other obstacles such as being disabled or having caring responsibilities, a lack of things to do locally, the cost of taking part, and the availability and cost of transport. Sometimes it's as simple as just not knowing what is around. Therefore we have looked at ways of communicating with young people about what is on offer and how young people with different needs and wants can be encouraged and enabled to participate.

Statistics about the population in different parts of the county can be useful in helping to decide where services should be and people from different organisations can put their knowledge together to help managers to identify where the gaps are, and plan services for the future. It also helps when different organisations put their money together to provide something that young people really want and need – and they only find out what this is by listening to experts, and of course this includes young people themselves. The most important thing is that, because all young people are individuals, there need to be plenty of different things to do. This means that the County Council, district and borough councils, the voluntary and community sector, and private organisations must all work together, and must communicate with young people all the time.

Many youth projects are now funded through the Youth Capital Fund and Youth Opportunity Fund and this gives young people lots of control and choice since they are involved in projects from start to finish.

¹ Office for Standards and Education

² Policy review of children and young people – A discussion paper, HM Treasury, 2007

Another thing which concerned the members of this committee was that many people seem to have a poor opinion about young people because of the kinds of negative stories and images that are always in the news. There is a lot of evidence to suggest that this view is not at all fair or balanced and that there are far more young people acting positively and doing constructive things for themselves, and to contribute to their communities. We therefore also looked at actions that could be taken to bring back some balance and to give people (including young people themselves) a more realistic view. A list of the recommendations that are made in the report is shown on the next few pages.

II Recommendations

Recommendations are numbered according to their sequence in the report but the ten which select committee members believe to be most important are shown first, in bold print. The Chairman will also be consulting with young people to find out which recommendations they feel will make the most significant difference in Kent, given the financial constraints which currently prevail.

R2 That KCC particularly through the Kent Youth Service and Extended Services continue to encourage and support schools in their efforts to develop extended services that compliment and supplement those already available in their local communities as an essential part of Integrated Youth Support in Kent. To facilitate this, the Extended Services Team should explore how available funding could be utilised to ensure that schools are supported in their efforts to develop up to and beyond the core level of extended services by, for example:

- **making extended school co-ordinators or community youth tutors available in more schools**
- **with colleagues in the Youth Service, developing expertise among School Governors and Head Teachers by providing training/presentations on extended service development and community engagement**
- **ensuring that information about extended services within Local Children's Services Partnerships (LCSPs) is gathered, recorded and made available to the public through various media and taken into account as an integral part of the Youth Strategy in every district**
- **with Youth Service Colleagues, encouraging and assisting schools to ensure there is effective and ongoing consultation with local communities (beyond the immediate school population) about the development of extended services**
- **ensuring that the allocation and distribution of funding for extended services (routed LCSPs) is clearly recorded and made available to assist with planning for service provision within local communities.**

- R3 That KCC together with district and borough councils should:**
- a. proactively engage with rail travel providers in Kent to determine the feasibility, cost and business benefits of incorporating off-peak rail travel into the Freedom Pass to enable more young people to make use of existing activities and facilities.**
 - b. proactively engage with bus travel providers to determine the feasibility, cost and business benefits of adding integrated (perhaps specific nights of the week) later bus services to enable more young people to make use of existing activities and facilities.**
 - c. consider the benefits and potential cost savings of combining the Freedom Pass with any (future planned) Leisure Card and for example, Library card. This should be considered alongside the concept of rewards for positive activities (e.g. encouraging use of healthy activities).**
- R4.**
- a. That to fully utilise available transport KCC directorates should co-operate to produce a register of passenger carrying vehicles (minibuses) that could potentially be shared with the youth service and/or voluntary sector organisations for individual trips or on a more regular basis and that guidelines be produced for the use of such vehicles.**
 - b. That the Youth Service liaise with the Rural Regeneration Officer to determine whether links could be made to existing community transport schemes to provide assistance with transporting young people to leisure activities, or to investigate whether any joint funding arrangements could be of benefit.**
 - c. That there be a drive to recruit certified PC V drivers employed by KCC and partner organisations in Kent to register for occasional voluntary driving duties (subject to satisfactory CRB disclosure being in place) to assist the Youth Service's provision of sports/leisure activities to young people. Once established the Youth Service should assess the viability of extending the scheme to include affiliated and non-affiliated voluntary organisations.**
- R6 That KCC (Youth Service and others) should work with district partners including those in the voluntary and community sector to build upon the success of events such as Gifted Young Gravesham, those organised by Blade and Youth of Generation and explore opportunities to hold similar events elsewhere in the county.**
- R7 That KCC adopts a policy of promoting positive language, perceptions and expectations of young people in all KCC publications and communications and encourages and engages with partners and the media to further this aim.**
- R8 a. That meetings which are to involve young people are planned and structured in a young person-friendly format.**

b. That Youth Advisory Groups focus on strategic planning in their districts and extend invitations to, and renews efforts to engage, private and voluntary sector facility and activity providers as well as potential funders, in order to create opportunities for mutually beneficial discussions at YAG meetings.

c. That KCC Members be encouraged to contribute towards local young people's transport funds from Members' Community Grants (and other available sources) to finance organised trips for young people from their local area, focusing on those who attend youth groups and projects.

R12 a. Development of Togogo could include:

- Clear links to leisure listings for specific areas of interest such as cycling, parks, sports**
- Times dates of meetings/venue contacts**
- How to contact local Kent Youth County Councillor and Local Members of the County Council (by postcode look-up)**
- The facility to vote on youth-related proposals**
- Continually providing the opportunity for and proactively seeking out private and voluntary providers to invite listing**
- Interactive local maps showing private/voluntary/LA provision**
- Requesting that schools signpost Togogo on pupil VLEs (virtual learning environments screensaver and enabled in favourite sites) thus reaching every schoolchild**
- Advertising Togogo on the Freedom Pass/Kent Travel Card/Library Card**
- Allowing additional and selected advertising on the website (directly leisure related) to generate revenue and show discount offers.**
- Liaising with the Children's Disability Register co-ordinator to ensure that views and experience of disabled young people and their families help to make the site informative and relevant.**

b. Following an initial reluctance by young people to engage with Togogo its effectiveness in reaching a range of young people from different areas and backgrounds should be measured before and after development of the site by using Mosaic to analyse users registering on the site with a postcode.

R13 That KCC Innovations Team works with young people, supported by professional advisers to produce a policy and guidelines for the safe use of social networking sites (Facebook, Bebo etc) by young people, and that KCC work towards developing protocols for effective and appropriate use of social networking sites by youth work practitioners, other KCC staff and Members as well as members of Kent Youth County Council.

R15 That KCC should consider providing support to Oi! (provided there is a sustainable business plan) to enable more young people to benefit from the work experience and personal development it offers and for the magazine to reach and involve a greater number of young people across the county. This support might take the form of a regular advertising slot paid for by the Kent Youth Service and other directorates/service (particularly CFE Extended Services) to: publicise activities and the availability of other local youth provision, and get across important messages e.g. links to advice on internet safety.

R16 That the Youth Service increases its engagement with the diverse range of services provided by the voluntary and community sector to ensure that the contribution of this sector can be fully acknowledged, mapped and taken into account in planning positive activities within an area.

R1 That, as part of the comprehensive review of community library services, Libraries and Archives consider the role of mobile libraries as a means of engaging more young people in positive activities, and whether a change of timetable is a practical way of facilitating this.

R5 That the Youth Service and in particular the Diversity Team should liaise with the Analysis and Information Team to determine how Mosaic could enhance their work in terms of community profiling and targeting information. That the Analysis and Information Team determine whether Mosaic could incorporate data on Traveller communities.

R9 a. That projects with an intergenerational theme should receive a high priority in decisions about funding in Kent in order to break down barriers and build community cohesion.

b. That KCC should consider how intergenerational activity could be supported in other ways such as through the Staff Club and Staff Discount schemes.

R10 That there should be increased opportunities for well motivated young people to shadow community leaders in order for them to gain experience of political life and leadership and that Members of Kent County Council should take a lead in facilitating this.

R11 That Kent TV continues to provide young people with the opportunity to broadcast their interests and concerns and gain experience of TV and film production through the apprenticeship programme and the development of a dedicated broadcasting unit.

R14 That KCC should investigate the implementation of an SMS texting service to notify young people of discounts and offers of free access to leisure activities.

R17 That KCC, with its partners, considers how to increase the proportion of activities, as well as information advice and guidance, provided to young people in young-person centred surroundings, in locations accessible during evenings/weekends.

Appendix A: Witnesses giving evidence in person

Ashmore, Simon – Project Manager, Lighthouse Project
Baddeley, Richard – Head Teacher, Swadelands School
Baker, Nigel - Head of Kent Youth Service
Barker, Amie – (previously with Youth Offending Service)
Barber, Norry - Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator
Barron, Paul - Director, Kent Foundation
Bose, Andrew - Public Involvement & Communications Manager
Bride, Dan - County Crime Prevention Co-ordinator
Butler, Bill - Area Youth Officer, Thanet and Dover
Cameron, Mr & Mrs - parents
Chapman, Julie - Senior youth work practitioner
Clark, Sue - Chairman, Pegasus Play scheme
Clout, Barry - Executive Officer, Kent Council for Voluntary Youth Service
Davies, Tim - Practical Participation
Davis-Chapman, Chris - PAYP worker
Fitzgerald, Andrew – Founder, Lighthouse Project
Forde, Gary - Diversity Officer
Fulford, Simon - Regional Director, Princes Trust SE Region
Hayden, Richard - Senior Outdoor Education Adviser
Henn-Macrae, Rosemary - West Kent Manager, Disabled Children's Service
Holmes-Brown, Robbie - young person (Linwood Youth Centre)
John, Ms B - Parent
Johnson, Eve - Kent Youth
Kirk, Ian - Policy & Research Officer, Kent Youth Service
McGhie, John – Editor, Kent TV
Milner, Alan - Parents Consortium
Nix, Matthew - Chief Superintendent, Kent Police
Nunn, Jill - Assistant Head, Key Training
Nzou, Blade - Voluntary Youth Worker
Payne, Glynis - Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme Manager
Sales, Jane – County Youth Participation Co-ordinator
Sartain, Alex - Member of KYCC
Slaven, Angela - Director, Youth Services and KDAAT
Smith, Gerry - Detached youth worker
Snooks, Sue - Disabled Children's Register Co-ordinator
Staff and young people at Linwood Youth Centre
Staff and young people at Swadelands School
Staff and young people at Key Training, Wincheap
Stevens, Dr Alex - Senior Researcher, European Institute of Social Services
Tinsley, Rachel - Team Leader, Information & Resources
Walsh, Eddie - Area Youth Worker
Watson, Mr M - Registered Manager, Sunrise Centre
White, Madeleine - CreativeUK Solutions
White, Marisa – Head of Extended Services

Appendix B: Names of people providing written or supplementary evidence

Baillie, Allan - Connexions Strategy Officer

Beaumont, Charlie - Effective Practice & Performance Officer
Bernstein, Alan - Independent Consultant
Billings, Jenny – Senior Researcher, Centre for Health Studies, University of Kent
Bishop, Michael - Kent Sports & Development Manager for Disabled People
Blackburn, Pascale - Project Officer, Kent Film Office & Kent TV
Brightwell, Paul - Policy & Performance Manager - Looked After Children
Bromley, Gill - Strategic Manager, Libraries & Archives
Brown, Gail – Arts Manager
Candy, Lisa – Youth of Generation
Carter, Jo - PAYP County Co-ordinator
Clarke, Jane - Head of Communications & Media Centre
Crilley, Des - Director of Community Cultural Services
Dadd, Richard – GIS Technician
Davies, Janet - Family and Lifelong Learning Services Manager
Doherty, Judy - Policy Manager – Communities Policy & Resources
Douch, Jane – The Mediation Service (has now taken up a different post)
Easton, Mark - Head of Key Training Services
Edwards, Judy - Director, Policy & Resources
Featherstone, Ray – Senior Youth Work Practitioner
Flory, Loic – Community Liaison Manager
Frazer, Julia – Maidstone Borough Council
Gough, Wayne - Staff Officer to the Managing Director
Harman, James – Executive Officer, Kent Resource Directory
Hatch, Noel - Projects & Research Lead, Innovation
Herron, Ruth – Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator (has now taken up a different post)
Jones, Helen – Commissioning Officer, CFE
Joyner, David – Sustainable Transport Manager
Lovelock, Chris - Chief Executive, Swale Carers
MacQuarrie, Bruce – Capital Strategy Manager
Morris, Sally - Head of Strategic Planning & Review
Mort, Anthony - Policy Manager, Policy & Performance
Park, Ian - Community Development & Social Inclusion Manager
Maidstone Borough Council
Phillips, Tom – Community Liaison Manager
Pyke, Dan - Detached youth worker
Ricci, Charlotte - Executive Support Officer To Director Of Health
Children And Young People (current position - previously with strategic planning)
Tonkin, Jo - Interim Young Persons Commissioning Manager, KDAAT
Turner, John - Assistant Head of Youth Service
Members of Greenhouse – KCC Younger Person’s Staff Forum

Appendix C: Visits undertaken as part of select committee review

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 11 th September | Conference: Aiming High for Young People – Delivering in Partnership |
| 7 th October | Key Training, Wincheap |
| 30 th October | Opening of Deal Skate Park & Linwood Youth Centre, Deal |
| 4 th November | Engaging Youth Forum, Concorde Youth Centre, Ramsgate |
| 5 th November | Sunrise Respite Centre, Southborough |
| 7 th November | Silver Cross Youth Club, Allington |
| 10 th November | Swadelands School, Lenham |
| 25 th November | Conference: Unboxed – Positive Activities for Young People |
| 22 nd January | Sheerness County Youth Club and Activity Centre |

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 2 December 2008.

PRESENT: Mr C G Findlay (Chairman), Mr R L H Long, TD (Vice-Chairman), Mr D L Brazier, Mr A R Chell, Ms A Harrison (Substitute for Mrs M Newell), Mr W A Hayton, Mr J F London, Mr W V Newman, DL, Mr R J Parry, Mr D Smyth, Mr M V Snelling and Mr R Tolputt.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr M J Northey.

OFFICERS: Ms L McMullan (Director of Finance), Mr N Vickers (Head of Financial Services), Mrs D Mattingly (Corporate Risk & Insurance Manager), Mr I Clark (Group Leader), Ms J Dawson (Head of Audit and Risk), Mr S Davis (Audit & Risk), Mrs C Dodge (Corporate Access To Information Coordinator), Ms J Hill (Performance Manager) and Mr A Tait (Democratic Services Officer).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D Wells and Mr G Brown of the Audit Commission

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

33. Minutes - 17 September 2008
(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2008 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

34. Progress report on the position with Icelandic Banks (Oral Update)
(Item 4)

(1) The Head of Financial Services gave an oral update on the position with Icelandic Banks. He said that the County Council's creditor status was favourable under Icelandic Law and that there were grounds for cautious optimism that the monies invested should be recoverable, although in some instances this process might take a few years.

(2) The Head of Financial Services informed the Committee that the County Council's Treasury Strategy had been modified in the light of recent events in that all new money would be invested in the Government Debt Management Office for high security.

(3) The Director of Finance explained that the Government had agreed that the Impairment requirement (whereby the Authority needed to include all potential losses in its budgetary process) had been suspended for a two year period in respect of the losses sustained through investment in Icelandic Banks.

(4) RESOLVED that the report be noted.

35. The effectiveness of the Governance and Audit Committee
(Item 5)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the report be noted; and
- (b) Members of the Personnel Committee be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee to consider the report on "Whistle Blowing."

36. Corporate Governance Performance Indicators
(Item 6)

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) the report be noted; and
- (b) a report on Levels of Sickness be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

37. Ombudsman Complaints
(Item 7)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

38. Further steps being undertaken to strengthen the County Council's overall Risk Management
(Item 8)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the report be noted; and
- (b) a further report on risk registers be presented to a future meeting of the Committee to enable further consideration of Risk Appetite.

39. Internal Audit Reporting
(Item 9)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

40. Internal Audit Reporting - Irregularities
(Item 10)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

EXEMPT ITEMS
(Open Access to Minutes)

Members resolved that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

41. Presentation on key financial and economic risks
(Item 13)

(1) The Director of Finance gave a presentation on key financial and economic risks facing the County Council.

(2) Members of the Committee suggested further risks which they believed should be identified as key risks. These included third party contractors, the capacity to cope with unknown risks and the effects of the current economic climate on property values and income generation.

(3) RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday, 4 March 2009.

PRESENT: Mr C G Findlay (Chairman), Mr R L H Long, TD (Vice-Chairman), Mr D L Brazier, Mr J Curwood (Substitute) (Substitute for Mr R J Parry), Mrs T Dean, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd (Substitute) (Substitute for Mr M V Snelling), Mr J F London, Mrs M Newell, Mr M J Northey (Substitute) (Substitute for Mr A R Chell), Mr D Smyth and Mr R Tolputt

OFFICERS: Ms L McMullan (Director of Finance), Mr P Mulholland (Group Leader, Property and Commercial), Ms J Dawson (Head of Audit and Risk), Mr S Davis (Audit & Risk), Mrs J Armstrong (Senior Audit Manager), Ms A Beer (Director Of Personnel & Development), Ms N Lodemore (Personnel Policy Manager), Mr P Bole (Head Of I C T Commissioning), Mr R Fitzgerald (Performance Monitoring Manager), Ms J Hill (Performance Manager), Mrs D Mattingly (Corporate Risk & Insurance Manager) and Mr A Tait (Democratic Services Officer)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D Wells of the Audit Commission.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Minutes - 2 December 2008
(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2008 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

2. Internal Audit Progress Report
(Item 4)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

3. Internal Audit Reporting - Irregularities
(Item 5)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

4. 2009/10 Internal Audit Plan
(Item 6)

RESOLVED that approval be given to the draft Internal Audit Plan and proposed work programme.

5. External Audit Progress report

(Item 7)

(1) Mr D Wells from the Audit Commission was present for this item to introduce the report.

(2) RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6. Audit Commission Internal Audit Review 2007/08

(Item 8)

(1) RESOLVED that the external auditor's report be received and its recommendations noted.

7. Audit Commission Review of Use of Resources

(Item 9)

RESOLVED that the external auditor's report be received and its recommendations noted.

8. Directorate Risk Registers

(Item 10)

RESOLVED that the revised risk registers be noted.

9. An Anti Fraud Strategy for KCC

(Item 11)

(1) The Committee agreed to amend the draft Whistleblowing Strategy through the inclusion of an additional statement within its Introduction that the County Council regards whistleblowing as an entirely positive benefit.

(2) RESOLVED that :-

(a) the promotion of a counter-fraud culture within the County Council be endorsed; and

(b) approval be given to the Anti-Fraud strategy set out in Appendix 1 of the report subject to paragraph (1) above.

10. Data Quality Audit 2007/08

(Item 12)

RESOLVED that:-

(a) approval be given to the action plan set out in Appendix 1 of the report;

- (a) the Policy Overview Committees be asked to discuss the Data Quality audit in order to engage Members more fully with data quality issues; and
- (c) the report be referred to the Informal Member Group: Member Information.

11. KCC Annual Complaints Report 2007/08
(Item 13)

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the proposed changes from 2009 supported.

12. Health, Wellbeing and Attendance Action Plan
(Item 14)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the work underway to address health, well-being and attendance be noted; and
- (b) a report giving greater detail on the work around well-being be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

13. IT Solutions for the provision of key services (Presentation on the response to a key risk identified by Committee Members)
(Item 16)

(1) The Head of ICT Commissioning gave a presentation on the risk to service associated with the County Council's increasing use of information technology.

(2) RESOLVED that Mr Bole be thanked for his presentation and that the level of risk to service (in direct proportion to the level of reliance on the technology deployed) be noted.

14. Superannuation Fund Audit Plan for 2008/09
(Item 15)

The Chairman informed the Committee that this matter would be considered by the Superannuation Fund Committee.

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of A meeting of the Planning Applications Committee held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 9 December 2008.

PRESENT: Mr R E King (Chairman), Mr A R Bassam (Vice-Chairman), Mrs V J Dagger, Mr J A Davies, Mr C G Findlay (Substitute for Mr C Hibberd), Mr T Gates, Mrs E Green, Mr W A Hayton, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne MBE, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr J F London, Mr T A Maddison, Mr J I Muckle, Mr W V Newman, DL, Mr A R Poole, Mr R Tolputt (Substitute for Mrs P A V Stockell) and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Thompson (Head of Planning Applications Group), Mr J Crossley (Principal Planning Officer), Mr R White (Transport and Development Business Manager) and Mr A Tait (Democratic Services Officer).

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

88. Minutes - 4 November 2008
(Item A3)

(1) The Head of Planning Applications Group reported that in respect of Minute 83, the Secretary of State had decided that the County Planning Authority could determine the Lullingstone Country Park application as it deemed fit.

(2) In respect of Minute 86, the Head of Planning Applications Group reported that the applicants had agreed to provide further details to the Environment Agency in respect of the flood risk mitigation measures required to overcome their objection to the Queensborough Children's Centre application.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2008 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

89. Application TM/08/624 - Regularisation of the layout of the gas control compound permitted under Permission TM/04/3135 and installation of a new landfill gas flare at White Ladies Gas Control Compound, Teston Road, Offham, West Malling; Infinis
(Item C1- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

(1) Mrs C Innes from Offham Parish Council, Mr D Stretton and Mr M Balfour addressed the Committee in opposition to the application. Mr D Humpheson (RPS) and Ms J Kwamble (Infinis) spoke in reply as the applicants.

(2) During discussion of this application, Members asked for further details on acoustics and lighting.

(3) Mr J I Muckle moved, seconded by Mr T A Maddison that consideration of this matter be deferred pending a Members' site visit.

Carried Unanimously

(4) RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred pending a Members' site visit and further information on acoustics and lighting.

90. Application DO/08/897 - Enclosed facility to retrieve waste and sort it into reuseable, recyclable and recoverable fractions by physical means. Sorted materials and remaining residual waste to be transported to re-user, recycler, reprocessor and waste disposal sites at Aylesham Industrial Estate, Cooting Road, Aylesham, Canterbury; Clearers (South East) Ltd

(Item C2- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

(1) A revised plan of the site was tabled to replace the version in the report which had become distorted during the printing process.

(2) The Head of Planning Applications Group reported correspondence from Aylesham Parish Council expressing concerns about certain aspects of the application. The Committee agreed that these concerns should be addressed when preparing the detailed conditions.

(3) RESOLVED that permission be granted to the application subject to conditions including conditions covering annual waste throughput; vehicle number restrictions; hours of operation restrictions; notification of intention to work the extended working day hours; and submission of a management plan to demonstrate mitigation measures.

91. Application AS/08/1373 - Retrospective application for composting facility at Land adjacent to electricity feeder station, Church Lane, Aldington, Ashford; J Wanstall and Sons

(Item C3- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

The Head of Planning Applications Group informed the Committee that this application had been withdrawn.

92. Proposal TW/08/3503 - Conversion of tennis courts to multi-use games area (MUGA) at St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive School, Reynolds Lane, Tunbridge Wells; Governors of St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive School and KCC Children, Families and Education.

(Item D1- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

RESOLVED that permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions, including conditions covering the standard time limit; the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details; the school car parking

area being made available for the users of the Multi Use Games Area after school hours; tree and hedge protection during the installation; and the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details.

- 93. Proposal SH/08/1061 - Installation of floodlighting to the artificial turf pitch and to the multi-use games area at Folkestone Academy, Academy Lane, Folkestone; KCC Children, Families and Education**
(Item D2- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions, including conditions covering the standard time limit; hours of use for the floodlighting of the multi-use games area being restricted to between 1600 and 2230 hours with no use on Bank Holidays; hours of use for the floodlighting of the artificial turf pitch being restricted to between 1600 and 2200 hours Mondays to Saturdays, between 1600 and 1800 hours on Sundays with no use on Bank Holidays; details of the revised landscaping scheme being submitted for the written approval of the County Planning Authority within a month of the date of the permission; car parking only being accessed from Kingsmead and being kept available for use after school hours; the development being carried out in accordance with the lighting and other detail specified in the application and not varied without prior written approval of the County Planning Authority; and
- (b) the applicants be reminded by Informative of the existing limits on noise levels.

- 94. Proposal TM/08/2857 - New special school, parking, play area, landscaping and ancillary works at Wrotham School, Borough Green Road, Wrotham, Sevenoaks; KCC Children, Families and Education.**
(Item D3- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

(1) Mr A R Poole and Mrs S V Hohler made declarations of Personal Interest as they had expressed a view on the proposal at a previous stage. They took no part in the decision-making. In addition, Mrs V J Dagger made a declaration of Personal Interest for the same reason. She addressed the Committee in her capacity as local Member and took no part in the decision-making process.

(2) Correspondence from Sport England withdrawing its objections was tabled.

(3) Mr H Rayner from Wrotham Parish Council addressed the Committee in support of the proposal whilst drawing attention to some of the Parish Council's traffic concerns. Mr M Balfour, Chairman of Governors of Grange Park School spoke in reply.

(4) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the proposal be referred to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government as a departure from the Development Plan, and subject to her decision, permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions, including conditions covering the standard time limit; the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details; external materials in accordance with the submitted scheme; implementation of appropriate tree protection measures; implementation and subsequent maintenance of landscaping and planting proposals; details of fencing and paving materials; noise levels in teaching rooms not exceeding 35dB $L_{Aeq,T}$, in accordance with Building Bulletin 93; external lighting specifications being agreed; any necessary conditions relating to archaeology; submission for approval of drainage details, including a drainage strategy to ensure that the development does not increase flood risk elsewhere; prevention of potential land contamination; mitigation measures relating to nesting birds and the protection of the Great Crested Newts, including protection of the pond on the site, and proposals for ecological enhancements; provision of access, circulation and parking facilities before the building is first occupied or brought into use, and the surfacing and marking out of the area of hard standing used by Wrotham School; maintenance of visibility splays; on site facilities for the parking and turning of all contractors' and suppliers' vehicles, with no deliveries being made from the public highway; the use of the vehicle access from the public highway for construction access and deliveries not being used during the school AM drop off and PM collection times unless work is programmed outside of the school term; the public highway being kept clean of mud and debris occasioned by the works, including provision of on site wheel washing facilities; the protection of all pedestrian movements within the site during construction being maintained at all times; submission for approval of a School Travel Plan, and any necessary conditions required by Sport England; and
- (b) the applicants be advised by Informative that account should be taken of the Environment Agency's advice relating to drainage, groundwater protection, waste management and pollution prevention during construction; and that account should be taken of Natural England's advice relating to protected species.

95. Proposal TM/08/2988 - Demolition of a mobile classroom and construction of a new single storey classroom block consisting of a music room, ICT suite and small multi-purpose teaching area at Leybourne St Peter and St Paul CEP School, Rectory Lane North, Leybourne, West Malling; Governors of Leybourne St Peter and St Paul CEP School and KCC Children, Families and Education
(Item D4- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

(1) Mr R Ulph from Leybourne Parish Council and Mr D Hopper from Leybourne Cricket Club addressed the Committee in opposition to the proposal. Mrs V Dunnett, Head Teacher at Leybourne CEP School spoke in reply.

(2) On being put to the vote, the Head of Planning Applications Group's recommendations were carried unanimously with 1 Abstention.

(3) RESOLVED that permission be granted to the proposal (as amended) subject to conditions, including conditions covering the standard time limit; the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details; details of flood-proofing measures being submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority (in consultation with the Environment Agency) before commencement of the development; and details of safeguarding measures to protect the building from cricket balls being submitted to, and approved by the County Planning Authority (in consultation with Leybourne Cricket Club) before commencement of the development.

96. County matter applications

(Items E1-E6 - Reports by Head of Planning Applications Group)

RESOLVED to note reports on items dealt with under delegated powers since the last meeting relating to:-

- (a) County matter applications;
- (b) consultations on applications submitted by District Councils or Government Departments (None);
- (c) County Council developments;
- (d) Screening opinions under Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999; and
- (e) Scoping opinions under Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999 (None).

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Planning Applications Committee held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 22 January 2009.

PRESENT: Mr R E King (Chairman), Mr A R Bassam (Vice-Chairman), Mrs V J Dagger, Mr T Gates, Mrs E Green, Mr W A Hayton, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr J F London, Mr T A Maddison, Mr J I Muckle, Mr W V Newman, DL, Mr R J Parry (Substitute for Mr G A Horne MBE), Mrs P A V Stockell and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr M J Fittock.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Thompson (Head of Planning Applications Group), Mr J Crossley (Principal Planning Officer), Mr J Wooldridge (Principal Planning Officer), Mr A Ash (Local Transport And Development Manager(Sevenoaks And Tunbridge Wells)) and Mr A Tait (Democratic Services Officer).

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Minutes - 9 December 2008
(Item A3)

(1) The Head of Planning Applications Group reported in respect of Minute 88 (2) that the Environment Agency had now withdrawn its objection to the Queenborough Children's Centre application and a temporary 25 year Permission had been issued. This had been granted under Delegated Powers in line with the decision of the Committee on 4 November 2008 (Minute 86).

(2) RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2009 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

2. Applications TM/08/3350, TM/08/3351 and TM/08/3353 - Removal or variation of Condition 12 of Permission TM/06/762 at Blaise Farm Quarry Composting Facility, Kings Hill, West Malling; New Earth Solutions Ltd.
(Item C1- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

(1) The Head of Planning Applications Group informed the Committee that Application TM/08/3351 had been withdrawn. As a result, the recommendations contained in Paragraph 54 of the report were amended through the deletion of sub paragraphs (i) and (iv).

(2) Additional correspondence from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council was tabled.

(3) The Head of Planning Applications Group reported correspondence from Mrs T Dean in opposition to the applications.

(4) Mrs C Innes from Offham Parish Council addressed the Committee in opposition to the applications. Mr T Bleszynski from New Earth Solutions spoke in reply.

(5) RESOLVED that:-

(a) Permission be refused in respect of Application TM/08/3350 for the following reasons:-

(i) The importation of waste from other sources would be contrary to the principles of Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) and contrary to paragraph 3.2 of PPG2 and Policies SS2 and WM2 of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (2006). It would also undermine the County Council's previous decision and lead to reduced capacity for waste arisings from within Kent or Medway (i.e. more proximate waste sources) resulting in such wastes either being transported greater distances with resultant disbenefits or pressure for additional new facilities in the Green Belt which could further undermine National Green Belt policy; and

(ii) The applicant has not demonstrated the very special circumstances necessary to overcome the presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt contrary to PPG2 and Policy SS2 of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (2006); and

(b) Permission be refused in respect of Application TM/08/3353 for the following reasons:-

(i). The importation of waste from other sources would be contrary to the principles of Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) and contrary to paragraph 3.2 of PPG2 and Policies SS2 and WM2 of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (2006). It would also undermine the County Council's previous decision and lead to reduced capacity for waste arisings from more proximate waste sources within Kent or Medway resulting in such wastes either being transported greater distances with resultant disbenefits or pressure for additional new facilities in the Green Belt which could further undermine National Green Belt policy; and

(ii) The applicant has not demonstrated the very special circumstances necessary to overcome the presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt contrary to PPG2 and Policy SS2 of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (2006).

3. Proposal SE/08/1602 - Construction of a part two-storey modular building on existing school playground for use as a Children's Centre, including canopied entrance with buggy storage, weldmesh fencing and tarmac play area, marking out of existing parking bays for use by the centre at The Willows, Hilda May Avenue, Swanley; KCC Children, Families and Education

(Item D1 Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

(1) Mr M J Fittock was present for this item pursuant to Committee Procedure Rule 2.24 and spoke.

(2) The Head of Planning Applications Group reported the views of the Divisional Transportation Manager raising no objection to the proposal.

(3) The Committee asked the Head of Planning Applications Group to hold further discussions with the applicant in respect of providing compensatory tree planting and of improving the design with brick cladding.

(4) RESOLVED that permission be granted to the Proposal subject to conditions, including conditions covering the standard time limit; the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details; a surface water drainage scheme being submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority prior to any development commencing on site; details of materials of the canopy being submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority prior to any development commencing on site; and trees shown for retention being afforded protection during construction in accordance with the current British Standard.

4. Proposal AS/08/1506 - Two mobile classrooms at Norton Knatchbull School, Hythe Road, Ashford; Governors of Norton Knatchbull School and KCC Children, Families and Education

(Item D2- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

RESOLVED that subject to the receipt of amended plans to show the rotation of the mobile classrooms through 180 degrees, together with their associated ramp system, Permission be granted to the Proposal for a temporary period of 3 years from the date of this Permission subject to conditions, including conditions covering the removal of classroom units from the site at the expiration of the 3 year period and the subsequent restoration of the site thereafter; obscured glazing being installed and maintained on all windows facing residential properties for the duration that the units are on site; and the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details.

5. Proposal DO/08/1176 - Installation of two temporary classroom units (housing 4 classrooms) together with associated service connections

and drainage (retrospective) at Portal House School, Sea Street, St Margarets-at-Cliffe, Dover; Governors of Portal House School
(Item D3- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

RESOLVED that permission be granted to the Proposal subject to conditions, including conditions requiring the removal of the buildings and the restoration of the site within 3 years of the Permission; the submission of a landscape scheme to enhance the existing arrangements within 3 months of the Permission; and the School Travel Plan being updated within 6 months of the Permission.

6. Matters dealt with under delegated powers

(Items E1- E6 - Reports by Head of Planning Applications Group)

RESOLVED to note reports on items dealt with under delegated powers since the last meeting relating to:-

- (a) County matter applications;
- (b) consultations on applications submitted by District Councils or Government Departments (None);
- (c) County Council developments;
- (d) Screening opinions under Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999; and
- (e) Scoping opinions under Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999 (None).

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Planning Applications Committee held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 17 February 2009.

PRESENT: Mr R E King (Chairman), Mr A R Bassam (Vice-Chairman), Mr A R Chell, Mr J A Davies, Mr T Gates, Mrs E Green, Mr W A Hayton, Mr G A Horne MBE, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr J F London, Mr T A Maddison, Mr J I Muckle, Mr W V Newman, DL, Mrs P A V Stockell and Mr F Wood-Brignall

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Thompson (Head of Planning Applications Group), Mr J Crossley (Principal Planning Officer), Mr J Wooldridge (Principal Planning Officer), Mr R White (Transport and Development Business Manager) and Mr A Tait (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

7. Membership

The Committee noted the appointment of Mr A R Chell in place of Mr C Hibberd.

8. Minutes - 22 January 2009 (Item A3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2009 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

9. **Application TM/08/3715 - Variation of Condition 6 of Permission TM/06/2171 to allow additional vehicle (HGV) movements to and from the site (an increase from 110 to 182 movements per day) at Borough Green Quarry, Wrotham Road, Borough Green; Cemex UK Materials Ltd** (Item C1- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

- (1) Correspondence from Mrs V J Dagger, the local Member was tabled.
- (2) The Head of Planning Applications Group informed the Committee of two Planning Policies that should have been specifically referenced in the report. These were: Policy C3 of the emerging South East Plan and Policy EN4 of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (2006).
- (3) The Head of Planning Applications Group reported the further comments of Wrotham Parish Council and Borough Green Parish Council together with the comments of the South East England Regional Assembly. The latter raised no objection subject to the Highways Authority and Highways Agency being satisfied with the proposal and to the imposition of Air Quality

and Noise Mitigation measures. She also reported that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council had not commented on the proposal.

(4) Mr M Taylor from Borough Green Parish Council, Mr H Rayner from Wrotham Parish Council and Mr R Saunders from Keep Boroughs Green addressed the Committee in opposition to the Application. Mr A Scott from Cemex spoke in reply on behalf of the applicants.

(5) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) permission be granted to the application subject to all other conditions and informatives attached to Permission TM/06/2171 being repeated (with minor amendments as necessary) and to Conditions (5) and (6) of Permission TM/06/2171 being reworded as follows:-

“Condition 5: Unless otherwise agreed beforehand in writing by the County Planning Authority, HGVs associated with the quarry restoration, landfill and recycling operations shall not leave the site during school term time at Wrotham School between the hours of 0800 and 0845 and 1500 and 1545 Monday to Friday. In addition, the operator shall use its best endeavours to prevent HGVs arriving at the site during these periods. For the purposes of this condition “best endeavours” shall include the operator informing its customers of the above restrictions, requesting that they comply with them and only allowing HGVs to exceptionally enter the site during these hours when not to do so would lead to HGVs parking or queuing on Wrotham Road whilst waiting to enter the site.” *(The reasons for this condition are the interests of both highway safety and local amenity and the avoidance of unnecessary conflict with other road users at the start and end of the school day.)*

“Condition 6: HGV movements associated with the quarry restoration, landfill and recycling operations shall, together, not exceed 182 HGV movements per day (91 in / 91 out).” *(The reason for this Condition is to limit the total number of HGV movements associated with operations at the site in the interests of highway safety and local amenity; and pursuant to Kent and Medway Structure Plan Policies TP15, WM2 and MN2 and Kent Waste Local Plan Policies W18 and W22.); and*

- (b) the applicant be invited to submit further applications to amend the requirements of conditions attached to Permissions TM/93/305 and TM/01/1205/MR86, as amended by Permissions TM/08/2981 and TM/08/3175, to provide consistency with the restrictions set out in Condition 5 (as amended in paragraph (a) above.)

10. Proposal TH/08/1366 - First floor extension to provide accommodation at St Crispin's Primary School, St Crispin's Road, Westgate-on-Sea; Governors of St Crispin's Primary School and KCC Children, Families and Education

(Item D1- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

RESOLVED that permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions including conditions covering the standard time limit; the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details; details and samples of the external materials in accordance with those indicated in the application being submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority prior to the development being commenced, and the development subsequently being carried out using the approved materials; no trees, shrubs and hedges being lopped, topped or removed as a result of the development, and all necessary measures being undertaken to ensure their protection before, during and after construction; and control over the hours of construction.

11. Proposal MA/08/2186 - Demolition of existing school buildings, erection of new Academy, re-provision of outdoor playing pitches, new four court multi-use games area, car parking spaces, bicycle spaces, strategic landscaping works and associated circulatory access roads at Cornwallis Academy, Hubbards Lane, Maidstone; KCC Children, Families and Education

(Item D2- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

(1) Mrs P A V Stockell made a declaration of personal interest as she had previously given her views on the proposal at a meeting of Maidstone Borough Council. She gave her views as the local Member but took no part in the decision-making.

(2) Mrs S Thompson, Head of Planning Applications Group declared an interest as the Chair of the Parent Forum of Cornwallis School and as a parent of a pupil at the School. She therefore did not advise the Committee on the proposal. The Principal Planning Officer, Mr J Crossley acted as the Lead Officer for this item.

(3) Correspondence from Coxheath Parish Council, Linton Parish Council and from Mr M Stevens, Clerk to Linton Parish Council was tabled.

(4) The Transport and Development Business Manager advised that a crash remedial scheme for the A229/ Heath Road crossroad had been designed and had been proposed for construction in 2010/11. He also advised that cycling strategies were likely to be developed in the near future. These schemes and strategies were, however, independent of the proposal under discussion.

(5) In agreeing to permit the proposal, the Committee agreed to include an Informative to advise of its view that the crash remedial scheme and cycling

strategies should be progressed at the same time as the permitted development took place.

(6) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions including conditions covering the standard time limit; the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details; the submission of details of all materials to be used externally, including the submission of details of door and window reveals; details of all external lighting; rating noise level from the plant not exceeding the existing LA90 when measured at the nearest residential property; a scheme of landscaping, including hard surfacing, its implementation and maintenance; measures to protect those trees to be retained; an Arboricultural Method Statement; a bat survey being undertaken prior to demolition of the existing school buildings; a habitat/biodiversity enhancement strategy, including monitoring and management; protection of badgers from construction activities; no tree removal during the bird breeding season; the development according with the recommendations of the ecological survey; details of fencing, gates and means of enclosure, including colour finishes; archaeological works; "Secured by Design" principles being adopted; a BREEAM rating of 'Very Good' being achieved; the playing field being provided and marked out as shown on the proposed site plan; a community use agreement relating to use of the indoor and outdoor facilities, including hours of use and nature of use; the provision of car parking, cycle parking, access and turning areas; details of cycle parking design and phased implementation; promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order and a contribution of £2000 if successful; preparation, submission for approval, implementation and ongoing review of a revised School Travel Plan; provision of visibility splays, including improvements to the visibility splays at the sites exit; details of foul and surface water drainage; control of discharge of foul/contaminated drainage; survey work regarding land contamination; no floodlighting being erected on the multi-use games area, or elsewhere on the site, without the written permission of the County Planning Authority; hours of working during construction and demolition being restricted to between 0800 and 1800 Monday to Friday and between the hours of 0900 and 1300 on Saturdays, with no operations on Sundays and Bank Holidays; the development being carried out in accordance with the submitted construction management plan; and measures to prevent mud and debris being taken onto the public highway; and
- (b) the applicants be advised of the following informatives:

- (i) Sport England should be consulted by the applicant to ensure that the proposed sporting facilities are designed to satisfactory technical standards. Attention is also drawn to the relevant Sport England Guidance Notes providing technical advice on the appropriate standards for the sports facilities;
- (ii) account should be taken of the comments made by the Environment Agency relating to drainage, contamination, and storage of fuel, oil & chemicals;
- (iii) account should be taken of the Informatives made by Maidstone Borough Council; and
- (iv) the view of the Committee that the proposed crash remedial scheme and cycling strategies should be progressed at the same time as the permitted development takes place.

12. Proposal TM/08/3656 - Demolition of a conservatory and construction of a single storey extension and sun canopy at Ditton Infant School, Pear Tree Avenue, Ditton, Aylesford; Governors of Ditton Infant School and KCC Children, Families and Education
(Item D3- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

- (1) Correspondence from the local Member, Mr G Rowe in support of the proposal was tabled.
- (2) Mr P Lambert, a local resident from Pear Tree Avenue addressed the Committee in opposition to the proposal. Mrs S Stafford, Deputy Head Teacher and Early Years Co-ordinator of Ditton Infant School spoke in reply as the applicant.
- (3) RESOLVED that permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions including conditions covering the development being commenced within 3 years from the date of permission; and the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details.

13. Proposal SW/08/733 - Four classroom extension block, additional parking at the front of the school, repositioning of two temporary classrooms onto the playing field during construction works and internal remodelling and roof adaptations within the existing school building to provide pre-school facilities within the main school at Bapchild and Tonge Primary School, School Lane, Bapchild, Sittingbourne; Governors of Bapchild and Tonge Primary School and KCC Children, Families and Education
(Item D4- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

RESOLVED that permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions including conditions covering the standard time limit; the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details; a groundwater protection

condition; removal of all mobile classrooms prior to the first occupation of the development; the recommendations set out in the Tree Impact Assessment Report being adhered to; foundation design; external materials; a landscaping scheme; tree protection measures; details of car parking surface treatment and a construction method statement; details of construction access and temporary accommodation; and the preparation and submission of School Travel Plan prior to first occupation of new classroom block.

- 14. Proposal SW/08/1323 - Renewal of planning consent for existing two classroom mobile unit at Tunstall CE (Aided) Primary School, Tunstall, Sittingbourne; Rochester Diocesan Board of Education and KCC Children, Families and Education**
(Item D5- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) permission be granted to the proposal for a temporary period of 3 years from the date of permission subject to conditions including conditions covering removal of the classroom unit from site at the expiration of the 3 year period and the subsequent restoration of the site thereafter; and the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details; and
- (b) the applicants be advised by Informative that the County Planning Authority would wish to see urgent action taken to resolve the temporary classroom accommodation at Tunstall Primary School during the three-year temporary consent timescale.

- 15. County Matters dealt with under delegated powers**
(Items E1- E6- Reports by Head of Planning Applications Group)

RESOLVED to note reports on items dealt with under delegated powers since the last meeting relating to:-

- (a) County matter applications;
- (b) consultations on applications submitted by District Councils or Government Departments;
- (c) County Council developments;
- (d) Screening opinions under Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999; and
- (e) Scoping opinions under Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999.

16. Channel Tunnel Rail Link Award

- (1) The Head of Planning Applications Group reported that the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Planning Forum (a partnership of the local authorities directly affected by the rail link and Union Railways and its planning advisors) had received the Royal Town Planning Institute's national award for planning excellence for their work on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.
- (2) RESOLVED that the Planning Applications Group be congratulated on the receipt of this prestigious award.

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Planning Applications Committee held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 17 March 2009.

PRESENT: Mr R E King (Chairman), Mr A R Bassam (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A D Allen (Substitute) (Substitute for Mrs P A V Stockell), Mr A R Chell, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr J A Davies, Mr T Gates, Mrs E Green, Mr W A Hayton, Mr G A Horne MBE, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr J F London, Mr T A Maddison, Mr J I Muckle, Mr W V Newman, DL, Mr A R Poole and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr T J Birkett.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Thompson (Head of Planning Applications Group), Mr J Crossley (Principal Planning Officer), Mr J Wooldridge (Principal Planning Officer), Mr G Wild (Director of Law and Governance) and Mr A Tait (Democratic Services Officer).

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

17. Minutes - 17 February 2009
(Item A3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2009 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

18. Site Meetings and Other Meetings
(Item A4)

The Committee agreed to visit the site of the proposed Longfield Academy on Tuesday, 21 April 2009.

19. Draft amendments to Advice to Members on the Application of the Code of Member Conduct to Development Control
(Item B1-Report by Director of Law and Governance)

(1) A revised report was tabled.

(2) The Director of Law and Governance advised that the first word in Line 3 of paragraph 14 of the Draft Advice Note should read "before" rather than "during."

(3) During discussion of this item, it was agreed that the Director of Law and Governance should write to all the District and Boroughs in the area of the County Council in order to seek to standardise practice in respect of informing Planning Members of the names and addresses of objectors. This was necessary in order to enable Members to be aware of any friends or

close associates who may have objected to an application. They would then be able to make a declaration of Interest on those grounds.

(4) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the draft Advice set out in Appendix 1 of the report be endorsed (as amended in (2) above);
- (b) the Standards Committee be informed accordingly; and
- (c) the Director of Law and Governance write to the District Planning Officers with a view to standardising practice across the area of the County Council in respect of informing Committee Members of the names and addresses of objectors to each planning application under consideration.

20. Draft Member Training Programme June 2009 to March 2010

(Item B2- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the suggested training programme set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report be endorsed.

21. Application TM/08/624 - Regularisation of the gas control compound permitted under Permission TM/04/3135 and installation of a new landfill gas flare at White Ladies Gas Control Compound, Teston Road, Offham, West Malling; Infinis Ltd

(Item C1- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

(1) The Head of Planning Applications Group reported correspondence from Tonbridge and Malling BC raising no objection to the application.

(2) Correspondence from Offham PC objecting to the application was tabled.

(3) The Committee was informed of the comments of the local Member, Mrs S V Hohler supporting the objections of the Parish Council.

(4) Mrs C Inness from Offham PC and Mr D Stretton spoke in opposition to the application. Mr D Humpheson from RPS spoke in reply on behalf of the applicants.

(5) On being put to the vote, the Head of Planning Applications Group's recommendations were carried with no votes against.

(6) RESOLVED that permission be granted to the application subject to conditions including conditions covering the standard time limit; the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details; Noise controls (as prescribed under Permission TM/04/3135) being

extended to cover the additional landfill gas flare and associated equipment; the requirement to provide an annual compliance monitoring report (as prescribed under Permission TM/04/3135) being extended to include all new equipment; a landscaping scheme being fully implemented in accordance with details approved under Permission TM/04/3135; Lighting only being used when required; the removal of plant, equipment and hardstandings when no longer needed for landfill gas control; and the restoration of the land.

22. Proposal DO/08/320 - Single storey modular building for use as a Children's Centre at Hornbeam Primary School, Mongeham Road, Great Mongeham, Deal; KCC Children, Families and Education

(Item D1- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

(1) Mr T J Birkett was present for this item pursuant to Committee Procedure 2.24 and spoke.

(2) On being put to the vote, the recommendations of the Head of Planning Applications Group were carried unanimously.

(3) RESOLVED that permission be refused on the following grounds:-

- (a) The development is contrary to Policy QL1 of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan and Policy DD1 of the Dover District Local Plan in relation to inappropriate siting and consequential loss of trees and impact upon visual amenity and the street scene; and
- (b) The development is contrary to Policy EN9 of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan in relation to loss of trees.

23. County matters dealt with under delegated powers

(Items E1-E5 – Reports by Head of Planning Applications Group)

RESOLVED to note matters dealt with under delegated powers since the last meeting relating to:-

- (a) County matter applications;
- (b) consultations on applications submitted by District Councils or Government Departments;
- (c) County Council developments;
- (d) Screening opinions under Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999; and
- (e) Scoping opinions under Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999 (None).

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Regulation Committee held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 27 January 2009.

PRESENT: Mr M J Harrison (Chairman) Mr A D Crowther (Vice-Chairman)
Mr A R Bassam, Mr T J Birkett, Mr C J Capon, Mr I S Chittenden, Mr L Christie,
Mr J A Davies, Mr T Gates, Mr C Hart, Mr W A Hayton, Mr R E King (Substitute for
Mr R A Pascoe), Mr I T N Jones, DL, Mr R J Parry (Substitute for Mr A H T Bowles),
Mrs P A V Stockell and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr S Bagshaw (Head of Admissions & Transport),
Mrs A Hayward (Manager for Primary Admissions & Transport), Mr G Rudd
(Assistant Democratic Services Manager), Mr C Wade (PROW Team Manager
(definition)), Mrs S Thompson (Head of Planning Applications Group), Mr R Gregory
(Principal Planning Officer Enforcement) and Mr A Tait (Democratic Services
Officer).

ALSO PRESENT: Audit Commission.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Minutes
(Item. 3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 18 September 2008 and of the Member Panels held on 31 October 2008 and 12 November 2008 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

2. Proposed amendment to a Regulation Committee Member Panel Procedure
(Item. 4)

RESOLVED that Paragraph 7 (i) of the Marriage Premises Review Procedure be amended as set out in Paragraph 5 of the report (set out in Appendix 1 to these Minutes).

3. Transport Appeal Panels Procedures
(Item. 5)

(1) The Committee agreed to minor amendments to the draft procedure for clarification purposes and to the inclusion of a new Paragraph 4 in the "Reaching A Decision" section of the draft Procedure.

(2) In considering the report, the Committee agreed on the desirability of appointing a permanent Chairman of the Transport Appeals Panels.

(3) RESOLVED that the Procedure set out in Appendix 2 to these Minutes be adopted for future use by the Transport Appeals Panels.

4. Transport Appeal Statistics
(Item. 6)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5. Update on Village Green Issues
(Item. 7)

(1) The PROW Team Manager (Definition) gave an oral update on progress with the DEFRA Pilot Project. He informed the Committee that a seminar for District and Parish Councils was being arranged to take place in Spring 2009 and that County Councillors would also be invited. He also updated the Committee on progress on a number of PROW and Village Green cases which had been considered by the Member Panels and on the latest legal position in respect of "Deference."

(2) The Committee agreed that it wished for a Schedule of outstanding Village Green and PROW cases to be included in the agenda papers for its future meetings.

(3) RESOLVED that:-

(a) the report be noted; and

(b) a Schedule of outstanding Village Green and PROW cases be included in the agenda papers for future meetings of the Committee.

6. Update on Planning Enforcement Issues
(Item. 8)

(1) Mr W V Newman was present for this item pursuant to Committee Procedure Rule 2.24 and spoke.

(2) The views of Mr R Gough, Mr A J King and Mr R Tolputt were reported to the Committee.

(3) RESOLVED to endorse the actions taken or contemplated on the respective cases set out in paragraphs 15 to 29 of the report and those contained within the Schedules in Appendices 1 to 3 of the report.

EXEMPT ITEMS
(Open Access to Minutes)

(Members resolved that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for following business on the

grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 5 and 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act)

7. Update on Planning Enforcement issues at Deal Field Shaw, Charing
(Item. 11)

(1) The Head of Planning Applications Group reported the latest enforcement position concerning Deal Field Shaw (Shaw Grange), Charing. This included the County Council's confirmed ownership of the site.

(2) RESOLVED that the Officers of the Planning Enforcement Team and Legal Services be thanked for their efforts and achievements in relation to the site and that the enforcement strategy outlined in paragraphs 5 to 10 of the report be endorsed.

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