



AGENDA

COMMUNITIES POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 9 May 2007, at 10.00 am
Droit House, The Stone Pier, Margate, Kent

Ask for: **Christine Singh**
Telephone **01622 694334**

Membership (14)

- Conservative (9): Mr P W A Lake (Chairman), Mr A R Chell, Mrs V J Dagger,
Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr R E King, Mr C J Law,
Mr M J Northey and Mrs E M Tweed
- Labour (2): Mrs C Angell (Vice-Chairman) and Mr T A Maddison
- Liberal Democrat (1): Mr G Rowe
- Independent (1) Mr B P Wood

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

A. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- A1 Substitutes
- A2 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2007 (Pages 1 - 6)

B. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- B1 Portfolio Holder and Managing Director's Update
- B2 Turner Contemporary - Presentation
(During this item Members will walk to the Rendezvous Car Park to view the site of the Turner Contemporary.)
- B3 Equality Strategy (Pages 7 - 10)
- B4 Positive About Our Future - Kent Children's and Young People's Plan (CYPP)
(Pages 11 - 14)

C. SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

- C1 Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme 2007/08 - update (Pages 15 - 16)

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Stuart Ballard
Head of Democratic Services
(01622) 694002

Tuesday, 1 May 2007

Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers maybe inspected by arrangement with the officer responsible for preparing the relevant report.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Communities Policy Overview Committee held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, on Friday, 26 January 2007.

PRESENT: Mr P W A Lake (Chairman), Mrs C Angell, (Vice Chairman), Mr A R Chell, Mrs V J Dagger, Mrs T Dean (substitute for Mr G Rowe), Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S Hohler Mr M J Northey, Mrs E M Tweed and Mr B P Wood.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr P M Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms J Edwards, Director of Policy and Resources; Mr C Bainbridge, Director of Community Safety and Regulatory Services; Mr D Crilley, Director of Community Cultural Services; Mr D Shipton, Head of Finance and Asset Management; Mr C Hespe, Head of Sports Leisure and Olympics and Mrs C Singh, Democratic Services Officer

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

25. Minutes
(Item A2)

- (1) Members highlighted some amendments that needed to be made to the Minutes before they were signed by the Chairman.
- (2) Mrs Angell sought an explanation on how enhanced 2 tier working would affect Museums.
- (3) Mr Hill agreed to bring a progress report to a future meeting.
- (4) RESOLVED that:-
 - (a) the Minutes on 17 November 2006 be agreed and signed by the Chairman subject to the amendments being made; and
 - (b) a progress report on how enhanced 2 tier working would affect Museums be made to a future meeting of this Committee.

26. Portfolio Holder and Managing Director's Update
(Item B1 – Oral report by Mr M Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services)

- (1) Mr Hill advised the Committee Members that Ms Honey, Managing Director was absent from the meeting as she was unwell. The Committee wished Ms Honey a speedy recovery.
- (2) Mr Hill updated Members on the progress of Turner Contemporary, Kent Libraries and the Youth Service including a visit to Finland to sign a Protocol of understanding and Bewl Water Outdoor Education Centre.

Turner Contemporary

(3) Members were made aware that agreement had been given to the siting of the Art Gallery on the Rendezvous Car Park in Margate. An initial concept for the building would be presented on 15 February when Mr David Chipperfield, the appointed architect, would give a presentation.

(4) In response to the concerns raised that a one day public consultation, on an invitation only basis, was insufficient. Mr Hill advised that there would be a public exhibition of the proposals in the Winter Gardens on 16th and 17th February. Staff from the Turner Contemporary and from David Chipperfield Associates would be present to answer questions.

(5) Mr Hill agreed to consider the idea of recording the presentation by Mr Chipperfield.

(6) He assured Members of the Committee that he would continue to update them on the various stages of the development and stressed that the discussions taking place at present were at the concept stage and would evolve.

Libraries

The Beaney Project

(7) Mr Hill advised that Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council are expecting to receive approval for £6.5m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) imminently. This funding would be used to deliver the new vision for this Victorian Grade II listed building in Canterbury High Street. The building would be closed for two years to allow extensive internal and external work to be carried out.

(8) Mr Crilley confirmed that alternative facilities would be made available during that period. Mr Hill agreed to look into the suggestion of approaching Christ Church University, as a possible example of co-ordinated use of facilities, to provide adequate cover whilst the refurbishments were being carried out.

Kaleidoscope Project

(9) Mr Hill advised that the Kaleidoscope Project, Sevenoaks, would be formally opened on 16 February 2007 by the Local Member of Parliament, Mr Michael Fallon.

Library Closures

(10) Mr Hill confirmed the decision had been made by Cabinet to close three Libraries; Whitfield, Horsemonden and Dymchurch. He was confident the communities concerned would be better served by a mobile library service.

Youth Service

Farewell

(11) Mr Hill announced that Mr M Price, Head of Youth Service would be leaving Kent to join the London Borough of Greenwich. It was hoped that his replacement would be appointed in early February. Mr Price was thanked for his committed service to the young people of the county.

Visit to Finland

(12) Mr Hill advised that he and Ms Honey had recently returned from Finland where they signed a renewed Protocol of Co-operation with the Governor of Southern Finland on Youth Education and Libraries. This alliance would encourage further opportunities for young people from Kent and Finland to exchange ideas and visits.

Bewl Water Outdoor Education Centre

(13) Mr Hill announced that the Centre would be opened in time for the summer season this year. He felt this was a good, well designed residential facility.

New Appointment

(14) Mr Hill advised that Ms Angela Slaven had been appointed Director of Youth Offending and Substance Misuse. Ms Slaven would be in post after Easter.

(15) RESOLVED that the update be noted.

27. Draft Budget 2007/08 and Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2007/08 to 2009/10

(Item B2 – Report by Mr Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services)

- (1) The Committee considered the Communities' draft budget proposals set out in the draft Budget 2007/08 and the draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2007/08 to 2009/10.
- (2) Officers and the Cabinet Member answered questions asked by Members of the Committee. The comments and questions asked are set out in detail in the Annex to these Minutes.
- (3) RESOLVED that the comments made by Members be noted and submitted to the Cabinet meeting on 8 February 2007, to aid their deliberations.

28. Update on Kent 2012 Campaign

(Item B3 – Report by Mr Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services and Ms A Honey, Managing Director for Communities)

(Mr C Hespe, Head of Leisure Services Sport, Leisure and Olympics was present for this item)

- (1) Members received a report, 'Kent 2012', setting out a cross-sectoral campaign led by Kent County Council. The report gave a snapshot of the benefits Kent could reap from the Olympics and Paralympic Games through sport, inward investment, economic development, tourism, the arts, volunteering, education, skills and training.
- (2) Mr Hespe gave a detailed account of the work being undertaken to prepare Kent for the opportunities the Olympics could bring including the production of a Kent Strategy for the 2010 Games that had been produced for submission to the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) on 31 January 2007. (This draft can be viewed on www.kentsport.org/london2012). Mr Hespe advised the

Committee that the Strategy would be revised as 2012 approached and national programmes, such as transport and volunteering, were being finalised as these will influence the work carried out in Kent.

- (3) Members thanked Mr Hespe for his excellent presentation and raised the following points and suggestions:
- That there was a need to ensure that the transport infrastructure was in place to cope with the predicted number of visitors to Kent.
 - That there was a need to ensure volunteers had the appropriate training and those who agreed to volunteer, did so.
 - That publicity/information could be extended to small sports organisations.
 - That a Call Centre for sport/Olympics be set up – where questions such as “where are the venues for the Olympic events being held” and “how is it going to happen” etc, can be answered.
 - There was concern that as the Olympics was just 5 years away any major construction would not be completed in time. If this was the case, we would have no choice but to use what we had with some modifications.
 - There were concerns regarding the quality of accommodation available to visitors in Kent.
- (4) RESOLVED that:-
- (a) the comments made by Members of the Committee be noted by the drafting Officers; and
 - (b) the progress made on the Kent 2012 work, be noted.

29. Draft Vision for the Communities Directorate

(Item B4 – Report by Mr Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services and Ms A Honey, Managing Director for Communities)

- (1) The Committee received a report that set out a vision for the services within the Communities Directorate in line with the aims and aspirations set out in the Kent Partnership’s Vision for Kent and the County Council’s Strategic direction as outlined in “Towards 2010”, the Medium Term Plan and the Children and Young People’s Plan.
- (2) Members were given the opportunity to make comments and suggestions on the document. The comments included:-
- It was suggested that the introduction needed to be preceded by a paragraph on the work of the volunteers, District Councils etc and how the Directorate was working with them.
 - It was important that “The Overall Vision” on pg B4.4 was aspirational

- It was suggested that the first bullet point under the heading “The Overall Vision” was too specific, and needed to refer to services followed by a sentence beginning “The outcomes include.....”
- It was considered imperative to have this document, although it was suggested that in some parts the document was strategic and others specific, the example referred to was set out on page B4.5, 2nd paragraph.
- Referring to the bottom of page B4.8, it was felt that the line reading “*Healthy eating in schools and sports programmes*” was unclear.

(3) RESOLVED that the comments in paragraph (2) above be considered by the drafting officers and a revised draft of the “Vision” for the Communities Directorate be submitted to a future meeting.

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By: Judy Edwards, Director, Policy & Resources
To: Communities Policy Overview Committee, 9 May 2007
Subject: Equality Strategy
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report presents Kent County Council's Equality Strategy, which was approved by Cabinet on 16 April 2007.

The Strategy sets out how the Council will promote equality and community cohesion and tackle unfair discrimination in Kent.

The Strategy is the product of extensive data analysis and consultation. Work will be ongoing over the next six months to undertake further engagement work on the Strategy with Members (through POCs), service users and employees, to explore issues highlighted through consultation, identify appropriate responses and take forward key actions. This will inform a review at the end of the year.

Introduction

1. The Council has a statutory obligation to produce Disability and Race equality schemes, which it already has in place. From 30 April this year, it was also required to publish a Gender Equality Scheme. Following discussion at the Strategic Equalities Group in November last year, it was agreed to amalgamate these three documents, to:
 - Address multiple issues more effectively
 - Ensure that the Council's approach to equality is consistent and integrated across the organisation
 - Make sure that we are not duplicating information.
2. The Strategy aims to support continuous improvement in service delivery across all areas of the Council, with a greater focus on meeting the needs of diverse service users. It is underpinned by a commitment to achieving best value for available resources, working in partnership and encouraging more people to have their say locally to influence decisions which affect them and their community.

About the Strategy

3. The Equality Strategy brings together the Council's disability, gender and race equality schemes, and focuses primarily on these three areas. It spells out what disability, gender and race equality mean for those who live, work in and visit

Kent, and the priorities to be tackled in each area. It also deals with community cohesion, poverty, deprivation, and the cross-cutting issues of age, faith, and sexual orientation. In doing so it summarises specific initiatives being delivered across the Council to tackle these issues, such as reducing teenage pregnancy, migration, and work on the Equality Standard for Local Government.

4. The Disability priorities and actions remain identical to those contained in the Disability Equality Scheme 2006/09, which was the product of extensive involvement work with disabled people last year. Similarly, the priorities and actions identified in relation to Race reflect those set out in Year Three of the current Race Equality Scheme 2005/08.

The five priority outcomes

5. The Strategy identifies five priority outcomes, which support the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy Statement:
 - Equal and inclusive services and information for all, regardless of age, disability, gender, faith, race or sexual orientation.
 - Creative opportunities for participation and involvement in service planning and decision-making.
 - Work with our partners to ensure the county's most vulnerable groups feel safe and free from harassment, and can report incidents in the knowledge that issues will be handled sensitively and effectively.
 - Enhance the quality of our intelligence and monitoring systems, to ensure we can target disadvantage in the county where action is most needed and best reflects effective use of resources.
 - Maintain our reputation as an excellent employer, promoting a culture where the Council recruits on merit, diversity is valued, and where employees are proactive in anticipating the needs of service users.
6. The five priority outcomes are underpinned by a range of priorities that relate specifically to age, disability, gender, faith, race and sexual orientation. These have been identified to address specific need within the county and the Council, and gaps in understanding or service provision. They are supported by a series of robust action plans, which set out a phased approach to achieving the five outcomes. The Council's Strategic Equalities Group will monitor performance against the action plans.

How the Strategy was developed

7. The Council's agreed Disability and Race Equality Schemes form the basis of the Equality Strategy, together with supplementary statistical information. This includes:
 - Census data
 - National research

- Directorate Management Data.
8. The Strategy also draws upon a wide range of recent consultation data with both service users and employees, including:
- Consultation on the existing Race Equality Scheme 2005/08
 - Engagement with over 400 disabled people on the Disability Equality Scheme 2006/09
 - Residents satisfaction and Best Value survey data
 - Two gender focus groups and two mini depth interview days with a number of men and women from across the county, reflecting a range of different life stages and demographics
 - An employee questionnaire made available on KNet.

The relevance of the Strategy to the Communities Directorate

9. Given the public-facing nature of our services, and the breadth and diversity of the people we serve, it is particularly important that Communities has an effective, people-focused response to the legislation, so that we ensure the services we provide reflect the needs of all Kent residents.
10. In line with other directorates, Communities has established a Directorate Equalities Group (DEG), whose members cover the whole scope of the Directorate. DEG members facilitate a flow of information between the corporate/directorate level equality agenda and the directorate's services. Many members are 'champions' of a particular diversity strand, again concentrating on how our services can best relate to the relevant group.
11. DEG reports to Communities SMT regularly through the Director of Policy & Resources, who also represents the Directorate on the Strategic Equalities Group. The Chair of DEG sits on the Equalities Lead Officer Group, thereby ensuring full interaction with the corporate equalities agenda and decision-making processes.

Next steps

12. The Strategy is currently being considered by all Policy and Overview Committees. In addition, further engagement work is taking place over the next six months on the document with service users and employees, to explore issues in greater detail and reflect ongoing work in Directorates on equality impact assessments. This work will feed into a formal review of the Strategy at the end of the year.
13. Although the Strategy is already shorter in length than the existing Race Equality Scheme, a summary version will be produced and made available for ease of access.

For consideration

Members views are sought on the following:

- (a) Does the Strategy have a clear direction of travel?
- (b) Does the Equality Strategy capture the main issues?
- (c) What are its strengths/weaknesses?
- (d) What other issues might inform development work over the next six months and the end of year review?
- (e) How can the Strategy maximise its impact to improve quality of life for everyone in Kent?

Jo Richardson

Inclusive Services Policy Manager
01622 221851

Background documents: KCC's Disability Equality Scheme 2006/09
KCC's Race Equality Scheme 2005/08

To: Communities Policy Overview Committee – 9 May 2007

From: Mike Hill, portfolio holder, Amanda Honey, Managing Director, Communities

Subject: Positive About Our Future - Kent Children's and Young People's Plan (CYPP)

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report gives an overview of the Children and Young People's Plan, notes the contribution that services within Communities makes towards its goals, and highlights forthcoming inspections of Children and Young People's services.

FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

The Children Act 2004 requires Local Authorities to take the lead in developing a Multi Agency Children and Young Person's Plan (CYPP) to commence in 2006-07. This Plan replaces most of the previous statutory plans required by Government including the Education Development Plan, Behaviour Support Plan and Early Years and Childcare Plan. The Plan is intended to be a high level strategic document which includes the activities of all publicly funded agencies which deliver services to Children and Young People and covers a period of 3 years, it outlines:

- the key priorities for improving the outcomes for Children and Young People (under the outcomes framework from Every Child Matters)
- the underpinning rationale or needs analysis
- the action to be taken to achieve these improvements
- the impact these actions are expected to have.

As an Excellent authority KCC is not required to produce a CYPP, but agreement was reached with partners that it would be a useful process to undertake to help in implementing the Children Act, to further develop joint working and to prepare for the next Annual Performance Assessment and a Joint Area Review (in January 2008). The CYPP was approved by County Council in May 2006 and oversight of its delivery lies with the Kent Children's Trust, a subgroup of the Kent Partnership.

The plan is attached at Appendix One.

The contribution of the Communities Directorate to the CYPP

The ways in which services in the Communities Directorate engage with children's and young people's lives has been the subject of previous reports to this Committee. Priorities and activity for the coming year are identified in detail in the Unit Business Plans approved by Cabinet on 16 April 2007 and every unit plays a role to a greater or lesser extent.

For example Youth Services, Sport Development, Youth Offending and Drug and Alcohol Action are experts in working with young people, promoting a protective approach to the most vulnerable, and promoting positive activities and raising self-esteem among young people in general. Libraries provide a wide range of services for children and young people of all ages, and Adult Education provides opportunities for children and young people to learn in a family context, promoting strong intergenerational bonds. Trading Standards and Kent Scientific Services help children learn about food safety, through the Healthy Schools Programme, as well as protecting against unhealthy food in schools, and many Community Wardens provide invaluable support to young people in their local areas.

This wide range of activity supports the general principles of the CYPP and Communities also has specific accountabilities as shown below:

Leading on:

- Priority 9: Ensure children & young people are safe and feel safe in the communities where they live, go to school, play, work and travel.
- Priority 16: Reduce youth offending numbers and anti-social behaviour.

Supporting:

- Priority 2 – (Strengthen the role of the Voluntary and Community Sector).
- Priority 5 – (Improve drug & alcohol cessation and other early intervention).
- Priority 6 – (Improve CAMHS referrals timescales for YOS).
- Priority 8 – (Research feasibility of services for CYP who pose a risk of sexual or physical harm).
- Priority 15 – (Implement Youth Matters and District Youth Strategies – ref to LAA 7).
- Priority 18 – (Increase parental engagement in school and learning).

Future inspections

A Joint Area Review (JAR) of Children and Young People's Services, led by OfSTED, will be carried out in January 2008 at the same time as the Audit Commission's Corporate Inspection of the Authority Progress against the CYPP priorities will be an important dimension of OfSTED's report.

Prior to the JAR there will be a specific inspection of the Youth Offending Service by the HMIP; and a specific Youth Service review by OfSTED.

Recommendations

Members are asked to NOTE the Kent Children's and Young People's Plan, the role Communities plays in achieving its goals, and forthcoming inspections relating to services for Children and Young People.

Judy Edwards
Director, Policy and Resources, Communities Directorate

Attachments: Positive About Our Future - Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009

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By: Overview and Scrutiny Manager
To: Communities Policy Overview Committee - 9 May 2007
Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME - UPDATE**
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates Members on the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme.

Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee: Select Committee Work Programme

- (1) The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee met on 15 February 2007 to consider the next phase of the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme.
- (2) At this meeting, the Committee agreed that the Work Programme for Spring 2007 to the end of Autumn 2007 would be:-
 - Carers in Kent
 - Abuse of Alcohol

Abuse of Alcohol

- (3) Preparatory work for the Topic Review on the "Abuse of Alcohol" is already being undertaken including the preparation of the draft Terms of Reference, development of the Project Plan and a suggested witness list.
- (4) Abuse of Alcohol is a very broad cross-cutting subject in which a number of the Policy Overview Committees and the NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee have a legitimate interest. The membership of the Select Committee reflects these diverse interests.
- (5) Some initial discussions have taken place on the terms of reference for the review which it is proposed should focus on the public health aspects of the subject matter. The outcome of the review may well be that other focused pieces of work on other aspects of the "Abuse of Alcohol" will need to be put forward for inclusion in the future Topic Review Work Programme. It is my intention that the Terms of Reference will be shared informally with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Liberal Democrat spokesmen of this Committee, the Corporate Policy Overview Committee and the NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee and I seek the Committees delegated authority to do this.

- (6) The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee will be meeting again on 7 June 2007 to consider an update report on previously suggested topics for Select Committee reviews and this will include the topic put forward by this Committee, "*Provision of the Activities for Young People*".
- (7) A further update report on the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme will be submitted to the next meeting of this Policy Overview Committee.

Recommendations

- (8) The Committee are asked to:-
- (a) Authorise the Overview and Scrutiny Manager to liaise with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Liberal Democrat spokesman of this Committee on the draft Terms of Reference for the Topic Review on the Abuse of Alcohol;
 - (b) Note the update on the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme; and
 - (c) a further report on the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme will be submitted to the next meeting of this Policy Overview Committee.

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Background Information: *None*