



DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
SESSIONS HOUSE
MAIDSTONE

Wednesday, 26 March 2008

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, 3 April 2008 at **10.00 am** to deal with the following business. **The meeting is scheduled to end by 4.30 pm.**

1. Declarations of Interest
2. Minutes for Approval
19 February 2008
13 March 2008
3. Chairman's Announcements
4. Questions (Pages 11 - 26)
5. Report by Leader of the Council (Oral)
6. 2012 Progress Report (Pages 27 - 28)
7. Item for Time-limited Debate by Mrs T Dean
The County Council notes the concern and distrust expressed by Kent businesses about the activities of KCC's arms length companies and agrees to:-
 - (a) ask its external Auditors to confirm that there is no cross subsidy from rate payers and to set out clearly the trading and financial relationship between the County Council and these companies, and
 - (b) assist in the setting up of a county-wide forum which would speak for Kent businesses, large and small, on issues affecting the viability of commerce and industry and therefore employment in Kent.
8. Presentation of Kent Invicta Award
9. Select Committee: Alcohol Misuse (Pages 29 - 56)

10. Minutes for time limited debate

Governance and Audit Committee minutes

11. Minutes for Information

Planning Applications Committee
Regulation Committee

(Pages 65 - 86)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Sass', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership
01622 694002

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Kent County Council held at County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 19 February 2008.

PRESENT:

Mr L B Ridings (Chairman)

Mr P W A Lake (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, Lord Bruce-Lockhart, Mr J R Bullock, MBE, Mr R B Burgess, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A Chell, Mr I S Chittenden, Mr L Christie, Mr B R Cope, Mr G Cowan, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mr D S Daley, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, 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, 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 E E C Hotson, Mr I T N Jones, Mr A J King, MBE; Mr R E King, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, 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 Northey, Mr R J E Parker, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Dr T R Robinson, Mrs E D Rowbotham, Mr J D Simmonds, Mr D Smyth, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P A Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mr R Truelove, Mrs E Tweed, Mr M J Vye, Mr C T Wells, and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

IN ATTENDANCE:- The Chief Executive, Mr P Gilroy, OBE and the Director of Law and Governance, Mr G Wild.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2007 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

2. Chairman's Announcements

Petition

The Chairman formally handed a petition received from members of the Resource Centre, Brent Way, Dartford against its closure, to Mr M J Angell, Lead Member for Adult Social Services.

New Year's Honours

- (1) The Chairman referred to the appointment of CBE to Mr Graham M Badman, Managing Director, Children Families and Education for services to Local Government and the appointment of MBE to Mr F Marven ex County Councillor for Gravesham.
- (2) RESOLVED that the Council do record its sincere congratulations to Mr Badman and Mr Marven on their appointments.

3. Questions

Under Procedure Rule 1.18, 8 questions were asked and replies were given. Question 9 fell as Mrs Green was not in attendance at the meeting.

4. Medium Term Budget 2008-11 (Incorporating the Budget and Council Tax Setting for 2008-09)

- (1) Mr L Ridings moved, Mr P W A Lake seconded 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 3 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.

- (3) Dr M R Eddy moved Mr D Smyth seconded the following amendment:-
 - (a) Deduct £0.591m from "Corporate Communications" (Corporate Support & External Affairs Portfolio, p39, line 3) *(removal of proposed addition to the budget and a reduction in existing budget)*
 - (b) Deduct £0.500m expenditure from "Kent Regeneration Fund" (Regeneration & Supporting Independence Portfolio p30, final line) *(removal of proposed budget provision)*
 - (c) Deduct £0.500m from "Workforce Reduction" (Finance Portfolio, p44, line 6) *(reduction in provision)*
 - (d) Deduct £0.202m from "Strategic Management..." (Environment, Highways & Waste Portfolio, p26, line 5) *(removal of contribution towards 2009-10 budget)*

- (e) Deduct £0.140m from “Strategic Management” (Operations, Resources & Skills (CFE) Portfolio, p6, line 6)
- (f) Deduct £0.125m from “Debt charges” (Finance Portfolio, p44, line 16)
- (g) Deduct £0.016m from “Economic Development Group” (Regeneration & Supporting Independence Portfolio, p30, line 2) (*removal of budget for Kent Ambassadors*)

The net effect of these amendments would be to reduce the budget requirement by £2.074m which consequentially amend the following recommendations to:

34 (b) the Revenue Budget requirement of £854,944,000

34 (h) a total requirement from Council Tax of £534,743,000 to be raised through precept to meet the 2008-09 budget requirement

34 (i) a Council Tax as set out below, for the listed property bands:

Council Tax Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	665.28	776.16	887.04	997.92	1,219.68	1,441.44	1,663.20	1,995.84

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

For - 22

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

Abstain – 2

Mr C Hibberd and Mr M J Harrison.

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 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 A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, Mr K A Ferrin, Mr C G Findlay, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr T Gates, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R Gough, Mr W A Hayton, Mr P M Hill, Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr R E King, Mr P W A Lake, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K G Lynes, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr M Northey, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R Robinson, Mr J D Simmonds, Mrs P A Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E Tweed, Mr C Wells and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

Lost

(5) Dr Eddy moved Mr D Smyth seconded as an amendment:-

- (a) Deduct £0.300m from “Kent Department of Public Health” (Public Health Portfolio, p38, line 1) (*removal of proposed Healthwatch funding*);

- (b) Add £0.300m to “Grants to Voluntary Organisations” (Children, Families & Educational Achievement Portfolio, p17, line 3).

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.

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

For – 22

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

Against – 49

Mrs A D Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr A R Bassam, Mr R Bliss, 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 B R Cope, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, Mr K A Ferrin, Mr C G Findlay, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr T Gates, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mr M J Harrison, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P M Hill, Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr A J King, Mr R E King, Mr P W A Lake, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K G Lynes, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr M Northey, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R Robinson, Mr J D Simmonds, Mrs P A V Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E Tweed, Mr C Wells and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

Lost

- (7) Mr M Vye moved, Mrs T Dean seconded, as an amendment:-

- (a) Adds £1.000m of income to “Contribution from Rolling Budget Reserve” (Finance Portfolio, p45, new line) *(from Rolling Budget Reserve through utilisation of roll forward of £1.000m from 2007-08 reported under spend on the finance portfolio)*
- (b) Adds £0.500m to “PRG and Capital Reserves” income (Finance Portfolio, p45, line 1) *(by allocating part of the as yet unallocated but expected to be received revenue PRG in 2008-09)*
- (c) Adds £0.500m to “Advisory Service Kent – Early Years” (Children, Families and Educational Achievement Portfolio, page 14, line 1) *(To advance to 2008/9 the 3 year MTP plan for the appointment of 12 Early Years staff working mainly with the 70 failing Early Years settings to address issues of child poverty and inequality and by taking preventative action now expect to reduce spending in future years - i.e. spend to save proposal.)*
- (d) Adds £0.540m to “Teenage Pregnancy” (Children Families and Education Portfolio, page 17, line 5) *(To roll out across the whole County the successful Shepway programme which has cut teenage pregnancies by 30%, addressing issues of child poverty and inequality and by taking preventative action now expect to reduce spending in future years - i.e. spend to save proposal)*

- (e) Adds £0.230 m to “Leaving care/16+” (Children, Families and Educational Achievement Portfolio, page 17, line 6) (*To address issues of child poverty by improving the living allowance for young people leaving care between the ages of 16 and 21*)
- (f) Adds £0.030m to “Environmental Group” (Environment, Highways and Waste Portfolio, p26, line 4) (*To reduce waiting time for processing changes to the definitive footpath map to 12 months as set out in the Countryside Access Improvement Plan K1*)
- (g) Adds £0.100m to “Environmental Group” (Environment, Highways and Waste Portfolio, p26, line 4) (*Investment to achieve national standard of 75% suitable surfaces on rural footpaths, and respond to growing complaints of footpath obstruction by vegetation owing to longer growing season, by one additional cut per year as set out in the Countryside Access Improvement Plan M3*)
- (h) Adds £0.100m to “Democratic Services” (Policy and Performance Portfolio, p42, line 5) (*To strengthen support to the scrutiny function including Policy Overview Committees and Topic Work by the addition of 2 FTE Resource Officers*)

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, Mr G Cowan, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr D S Daley, Mrs T Dean, Dr M R Eddy, Mr M J Fittock, 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 D Smyth, Mr R Truelove and Mr M J Vye.

Against - 50

Mrs A D Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr A R Bassam, Mr R H C 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 Chell, Mr B R Cope, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, Mr K A Ferrin, Mr C G Findlay, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr T Gates, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mr M J Harrison, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P M Hill, Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr A J King, Mr R E King, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K G Lynes, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr M Northey, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R Robinson, Mrs E D Rowbotham, Mr J D Simmonds, Mrs P A Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E Tweed, Mr C T Wells, and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

Lost

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

For – 49

Mrs A D Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr A R Bassam, Mr R H C 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 Chell, Mr B R Cope, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, Mr K A Ferrin, MBE; Mr C G Findlay, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mr M J Harrison, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P M Hill, OBE; Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr A J King, MBE; Mr R E King, Mr P W A Lake, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K G Lynes, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr M Northey, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr L B Ridings, Dr T R Robinson, Mr J D Simmonds, Mrs P A Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E Tweed, Mr C T Wells, and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

Against - 24

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

- (10) RESOLVED that the contents of the 2008-09 Budget and Medium Term Plan 2008-11 and the following proposals be approved:-
- (a) the Revenue and Capital Budget proposals for 2008-09;
 - (b) the Revenue Budget requirement of £857,018,000;
 - (c) the Capital Investment proposals of £438,466,000, 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 B of the attached Medium Term Plan;
 - (e) the Revenue and Capital Budget proposals as presented for:
 - Operation, Resources and Skills (CFE);
 - Children, Families and Educational Achievement;
 - Adult Social Services;
 - Environment, Highways and Waste;
 - Regeneration and Supporting Independence;
 - 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) to note that all of the above are predicated on satisfactory resolution of the Asylum funding issue;
 - (h) a total requirement from Council Tax of £536,817,000 to be raised through precept to meet the 2008-09 budget requirement; and

19 February 2008

(i) a Council Tax as set out below, for the listed property bands:

Council Tax Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	667.86	779.17	890.48	1001.79	1224.41	1447.03	1669.65	2003.58

2008/c&g/countycouncil/021908/minutes

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of an extraordinary Meeting of the Kent County Council held at County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 13 March 2008.

PRESENT:

Mr L B Ridings (Chairman)

Mr P W A Lake (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs A D Allen, Mrs C Angell, Mr M J Angell, Mr T J Birkett, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A Chell, Mr L Christie, Mr B R Cope, Mr G Cowan, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr D S Daley, Mr M C Dance, Mrs T Dean, Dr M R Eddy, Mr M J Fittock, Mr R W Gough, Mrs E Green, Ms A Harrison, Mr M J Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne, MBE, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr I T N Jones, Mr R E King, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr T A Maddison, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J I Muckle, Mr W V Newman, DL, Mr M Northey, Mr R J E Parker, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr A R Poole, Mrs E D Rowbotham, Mr J E Scholes, Mr J D Simmonds, Mr D Smyth, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P A Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mr R Truelove, Mrs E Tweed, Mr M J Vye, Mr C T Wells and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

IN ATTENDANCE:- The Chief Executive, Mr P Gilroy, OBE and the Director of Law and Governance, Mr G Wild.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Chairman's Announcements

(1) The Chairman announced that Mr J Fullarton was in hospital having suffered a major stroke and that he had written, on behalf of the Council, sending best wishes for a speedy recovery.

(2) Mr L Ridings moved, Mr P Lake seconded that Procedure Rule 1.30 be suspended for the period of general debate in order that speeches be limited to 3 minutes (this rule will not apply to the seconder and mover of the original motion at the end of the debate who will each be permitted 5 minutes).

This was carried without a vote

2. Flood Risk Management in Kent

(1) Mr R Gough moved Dr M R Eddy seconded the recommendations contained in the report together with the addition of the following:-

“(v) that KCC formally request the Kent and Medway Fire & Rescue Authority to pursue recommendations 14 and 25 in consultation with Kent Police and other relevant agencies and departments at local and national government as a matter of urgency.

(2) The Council received presentations from Mr Scott Wardrop, Managing Director of Ringway Group Ltd and Mr Peter Midgeley (Area Manager Kent and East Sussex) and Mr Andrew Pearce (Flood Risk Manager) from the Environment Agency. These were followed by a period of general debate.

(3) The Chairman put to the vote the motion set out in (1) above when the voting was as follows:-

For - 54

Mrs A D Allen, Mrs C Angell, Mr T Birkett, Mr A H T Bowles, Miss S J Carey, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A R Chell, Mr L Christie, Mr B R Cope, Mr G Cowan, 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 M J Fittock, Mr R W Gough, Ms E Green, Ms A Harrison, Mr M J Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr I T N Jones, Mr R E King, Mr P W A Lake, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr T Maddison, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J I Muckle, Mr W V Newman, Mr M Northey, Mr R J E Parker, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr A R Poole, Mr L B Ridings, Mrs E Rowbotham, Mr J E Scholes, Mr J D Simmonds, Mr R Tolputt, Mr R Truelove, Mrs E Tweed, Mr M J Vye, Mr C J Wells, and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

Carried unanimously

(4) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) in order to improve the protection and preparedness of Kent and its property from flooding, a Task Force be set up of relevant agencies and utilities to draw together and implement an Action Plan for Kent based on the findings of the Select Committee Report, the Pitt Review and the Environment Agency Report of 2007 Floods;
- (b) Members be invited to regular seminars with the relevant agencies and utilities to be informed of the progress of the Action Plan;
- (c) existing KCC protocols be used to monitor the flood risk situation in Kent;
- (d) KCC welcomes the additional funding which will be available in the future from Government for flood defence work but, given Kent's high vulnerability to flooding, efforts be made to secure extra funding to support improved flood risk management; and
- (e) KCC formally request the Kent and Medway Fire & Rescue Authority to pursue recommendations 14 and 25 in consultation with Kent Police and other relevant agencies and departments at local and national government as a matter of urgency.

Question No. 1

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

3 April 2008

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

At present Kent County Council is contracted to one company, ie EDF, for all repairs, maintenance and new lighting columns within the County both on the streets and highways. I am given to understand that the present time quoted by EDF is anywhere from 80 to 85 days to put right or reconnect a lighting column!

“Why cannot Kent County Council come to an agreement with EDF very much along the lines of the one which I am given to understand is working well in Sussex. For example, fixed times for replacement of column/dome and other contracted times for other works. At present we as elected Members are faced with constant enquiries as to why work is not carried out and when it is why work starts and then remains dormant for weeks on end”.

Answer

The County Council employs Ringway Infrastructure Services in the Highway Alliance to carry out all maintenance and improvements to the street lighting stock in Kent. Faults dealt with by Ringway take an average of 5 days to repair. EDF is the sole supplier of power to Kent Highway Services and where responsibility lies with them, faults can take up to 50 days to repair.

Kent Highway Services is now closely involved with EDF in improving service levels including the Statement of Intent agreed between EDF and the three Sussex highway authorities. The KHS target for 2008/09 for EDF repairs is 10 days and this fits very well with the Ofgem Service Level Agreement of 75% of multiple faults repaired in 10 days and 60% of single faults.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

3 April 2008

**Question by Mr J F London to the
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste**

Would the Cabinet Member for Highways, Environment and Waste please say what the present position is with the proposals for a new highways depot in West Kent?

Answer

Following the referral for Judicial review the Wrotham Highways Depot project is on hold pending the anticipated successful defence to the challenge.

Whilst the legal challenge remains, KHS are quite properly suspending construction work. The project is designed and a contractor selected with a potential start on site within weeks of the approval to proceed.

In order to mitigate the potential lengthy delay to the provision of the necessary facilities, KHS has begun, in parallel to the legal defence, to research other avenues for provision.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

3 April 2008

**Question by Mrs E Green to the
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services**

Will the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services inform this Council of the total number of adults placed in care homes in Kent in general, and Thanet in particular, clarifying in both cases how many of these placements are made by Kent County Council and how many by other authorities?

ANSWER

It is not possible to give definitive answers to all of the questions above for two reasons:

- other Local Authorities do not have to notify KCC or the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) when they place people in Kent
- no organisation collates the total number of placements in Kent.

However, it is possible to give the following information.

According to figures available on the CSCI website, there are:

- 14,506 registered residential and nursing beds in Kent, of which
- 2,010 are registered residential and nursing beds in Thanet.

These beds will be occupied by:

1. Kent County Council placements (6304 in Kent of which 993 are in Thanet)
2. Self-funders
3. Placements by other local authorities, and
4. Some will also be vacant.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

3 April 2008

**Question by Mr M J Fittock to the
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services**

At the full Council meeting of 19 February 2008 a petition was received by the Chairman signed by over 3,000 people concerned about Kent County Council's proposals to close the Queen Elizabeth Day Centre at Dartford.

Would the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services explain what notice he has taken of the petition? Further, at the Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee of 29 January 2008, it was explained to Members that the agreed protocol for consultation on closure of facilities would not be followed as the Day Centre is not directly managed by Kent County Council.

In view of the cross-party concerns over the closure, would the Cabinet Member explain how Members will be consulted on this issue?

Answer

The views stated in the petition have been acknowledged. The design of the new services will fully take in to account the wishes for disabled people to develop their skills and help to maintain health and fitness through a range of activities. Every service user has been offered an individual assessment of their needs and an opportunity for a one to one discussion around their aspirations

The aim of KASS, as stated in the Active Lives Policy (recently refreshed), is to maximise peoples independence, choice and control of their own lives in their local community. The majority of the services currently provided from the QEF Resource Centre can and will be provided in the community. The intention is not to replicate the current single service. The individual assessments currently analysed have indicated that 50% of service users go to the centre for the social aspect and for outings, swimming, bowling and bingo for example - these are services that can be accessed by groups of people, without going through a centre. Other activities can be accessed via Adult Education, (for example jewellery making, craft and computer courses) and the existing arrangement with Sportlink is to be extended with specialist gym equipment being relocated in a local leisure centre. Social networking opportunities will be established locally.

Although we are not bound to follow the KCC protocol for consultation on service closure (as this is a commissioned service not a directly managed one and thus are working with the service provider on modernising the service), we have followed the principles of the protocol. Briefings with Local Members have taken place since March 2007 as well as a number of meetings. Briefings will continue and a meeting has been planned for the end of April (further information to be provided shortly). The initial briefing which was issued on 6th March 2007 clearly

identified that the Brent Way site is to be redeveloped, set out the purpose of the project and emphasised the commitment to involve service users throughout.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

3 April 2008

**Question by Mr R J E Parker to the
Chairman of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee**

Would the Chairman of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee inform the Council whether he is satisfied with the process for getting items onto the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee agenda?

Answer

The process for placing items on to the agenda of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee, or indeed on to any of this council's Policy Overview Committees, is enshrined in the Local Government Act 2000 which allows any Member of a Scrutiny or Policy Overview Committee to place any item on the agenda, provided that item is relevant to the business of the committee. However, the Public Involvement in Local Government Health Act, Section 119 will extend this facility to any Member, but this is not in force at the moment. An item would be any decision or action by a Cabinet Member or an officer. This is different to the process for a formal call-in of an item for scrutiny.

A formal call-in to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee is determined at a meeting of the Chairman of the Committee and the other two group spokespeople. The meeting is held after the publication of the Cabinet papers and the meeting of the Cabinet. A final meeting, usually informal, is held after the Cabinet meeting to confirm the agenda in the light of the comments of Cabinet Members.

The legal basis for placing an item on the agenda of Scrutiny and Overview Committees is quite clear. I am concerned, however, that elected members do not use the option of placing items on the agendas of such committees as frequently as they could, and perhaps should.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

3 April 2008

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

What evidence is there regarding Highways that traffic calming is more cost effective than maintenance of good road surfaces and signage for the safe and efficient use of our roads?

Answer

There is no direct evidence to suggest that traffic calming is more or less cost effective than highway maintenance.

I see the two as being very closely linked. The total spent on highway maintenance related work in 2007/08 is £38m and this has safety as its one of its key criteria through the repair of roads and pavements providing a safer environment for all users. Where specific speed and crash problems are identified, traffic calming can be employed either through physical measures or the introduction of additional signs, lines and where appropriate - cameras. The County Council will spend around £1 m in the current year on crash remedial works at sites where a lack of maintenance is not the principle cause of road crashes. These are particular black spots which need remedial works to reduce crashes with a measurable benefit in the saving of lives.

So overall, we look to balance maintenance and safety issues ensuring the two are closely linked. The relatively modest £1m we currently spend on crash remedial work is proven to save lives at identified black spots.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

3 April 2008

**Question by Mr J Simmonds to the
Cabinet Member for Community Services**

There are major projects going on in Canterbury which involve the KCC. Would the Cabinet Member for Community Services speak to us on the negotiations and discussions taking place in regard to The Beaney and The Marlowe, the nature of KCC commitments and the chances of success in the bid for funds?

Answer

The Beaney

This is a partnership project with Canterbury City Council to redevelop and extend the Beaney Institute building in Canterbury to provide a modern library, museum and gallery in the city centre. The partnership has already made a successful stage 1 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for £6.5m. The project is being managed by Canterbury City Council and is estimated at a total cost £11.125m. The cost includes all the adaptations to the existing building, the purchase of the neighbouring buildings to facilitate the extension, the cost of the building the extension and all fitting out costs and professional fees. This is funded as follows:

- KCC Communities £2.150m
- KCC Adult Social Services £0.300m
- CCC £1.2m
- HLF £6.5m
- SEEDA £0.975m

KCC has spent £517k to date on fees associated with developing the proposals. The architects are currently finalising the RIBA stage E designs. The next stage of the HLF bid requires detailed plans to be submitted by the end of June 2008. Once HLF funds have been secured the contract can be awarded. There will be no further KCC contribution until the HLF stage 2 funds have been approved. We are planning that KCC Communities will contribute a further £1.633m in 2008/09 and 2009/10.

The Marlowe Theatre project is being developed by Canterbury City Council. The total project is likely to cost in the region of £24m. The City Council approached KCC to support the project as part of its application for funds from other public agencies (SEEDA). At this stage KCC has identified £2m within the capital programme for 2008/09 and 2009/10 but will not make any contractual commitments until Canterbury City Council has secured the necessary funds for the development to proceed.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

3 April 2008

**Question by Mrs S Hohler to the
Cabinet Member for CFE Operations, Resources and Skills**

Would the Cabinet Member for CFE Operations, Resources and Skills tell me whether he has a policy in place to ensure the fruit delivered to schools under the Government's five-a-day scheme is sourced locally whenever possible (especially top fruit from Kent fruit growers)?

Answer

The Five a Day Fruit Scheme in Schools is organised by Central Government through the Department of Health. Contracts to supply schools with fruit and vegetables are arranged through their purchasing agency and suppliers are required to supply local produce wherever possible. Because of the nature of the school's requirements the suppliers will be competing with other sectors of the commercial market to secure top quality, small fruit, for example, apples and pears, of which there is not an infinite supply. Many of the items supplied to schools are also not grown locally in sufficient quantity to give a sustainable source.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

3 April 2008

**Question by Mr M Northey to the
Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Educational Standards**

Would the Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources and Skills explain what measures KCC has in place for monitoring the number of cyber-bullying episodes, against children and teachers, reporting facilities and how KCC is helping to reduce this problem?

Answer

Cyber-bullying is being tackled, in conjunction with KCC's partners, through the Kent Anti-Bullying Strategy and through the Kent E-Safety Strategy. Rates of cyber-bullying are monitored through the annual online pupil survey on bullying. Rates for the 2006 survey showed low levels of cyber-bullying when compared with other forms of bullying; just 4% of respondents reported having been cyber-bullied. The 2007 data is currently being analysed. In September 2007 the Government released new guidance on Cyber-bullying and this has been promoted to all schools in Kent. Teaching Unions are active in supporting school staff who may be victims of cyber-bullying and Kent County Council supports these efforts. Seminars, workshops, peer mentoring and training events are being used across Kent to raise awareness of cyber-bullying. Kent County Council is committed to working with its partners to ensure it stays up-to-date with new developments in technology and that professionals and young people have the tools to prevent and tackle this behaviour.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

3 April 2008

**Question by Miss S Carey to the
Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Supporting Independence**

Some people have condemned the new high speed domestic rail services that are due to begin in December 2009 as “financially exclusive”. Would the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste tell us how he thinks these services will benefit Kent?

Answer

One of the main reasons the County Council has supported the Channel Tunnel Rail Link is the opportunity it gives to significantly reduce journey times from the Growth Areas and areas in need of regeneration in Kent to London. This will encourage people to live in these areas and work in the capital and also attract businesses which require ready access to London, but wish to pay lower rental charges.

However, there is a concern that rising fares on the railway in general and the additional premium fares which will be charged on the CTRL Domestic Services may reduce the attraction of these services and constrain their regenerative effects. The level of these premium fares has not yet been finalised but earlier consultation documents suggested fares:

- from Ebbsfleet could be some 35% above the fare from Gravesend (ie the cheapest off peak return from Ebbsfleet would be about £11.90 instead of £8.80 from Gravesend at present day prices, (fares are due to rise by around RPI +3% next January before CTRL services actually start). Car parking charges at Ebbsfleet are also likely to be very high;
- for CTRL services via Ashford, there would be a supplement of some 20% on top of the London – Ashford fare by the classic (existing) route (ie at today's prices a cheap day return from Ashford would be £20.15 via CTRL compared to £16.80 by existing routes; and
- for services joining the CTRL at Ebbsfleet there would be an additional 30% on top of the London – Gravesend fare by the classic (existing) route added to the ticket price (ie at today's prices a cheap day return from Gravesend would be £11.45 via CTRL compared to £8.80 by existing routes

I will continue to raise this matter with Southeastern and press that they are reduced so that they do not inhibit the regeneration of our towns and cities.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

3 April 2008

**Question by Mr R Parry to the
Cabinet Member for Community Services**

The Turner Contemporary is a key part of the redevelopment of East Kent and the 2010 programme. What is the latest situation on design and budgeting as well as delivery of this project?

Answer

Turner Contemporary will establish a visual arts gallery of international standing playing a significant role in the regeneration of Margate and in improving Kent's cultural offer.

David Chipperfield Architects has produced an outstanding design for the gallery which is expected to be clad in opaque white glass, reflecting light on the duller days and forming a major new landmark building for Margate. Visitors to Turner Contemporary will have an outstanding experience as they move through the five galleries, one of which is dedicated to young people. There is a comprehensive range of facilities including a cafe, a retail outlet, an artist's studio and a multi-function space for films, lectures, community and commercial use.

The project remains within its planned budget of £17.4m for the design, construction and fitting out of the gallery building. Every effort is being made to ensure the balance of achieving an exceptional quality building and remaining within budget and delivering the project on time. It is also encouraging that the project has recently attracted £850,000 of European funding to bring forward development and contribute towards improvement of the public realm around the gallery, Fort Hill and Harbour View.

The delivery of the project remains on track. Planning permission was received from Thanet District Council on 20 February. The procurement of a contractor is underway and expressions of interest received from 8 contractors, 6 of whom have been shortlisted. The main building contract is expected to be let in August with a planned start date on site in October 2008. Enabling works on reducing Fort Hill to a single lane commences on 7 April. The gallery is expected to be completed and ready for occupation in the autumn of 2010. It is anticipated the formal launch will occur in early 2011.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

3 April 2008

**Question by Mr R Pascoe to the
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services**

The health of the people is dependent on both expertise as well as money; what steps are being taken to best protect our ageing population and their right to complete care within Kent and their local area by the overseeing centres of excellence?

Answer

The County Council is committed to supporting our ageing population and we are taking steps to ensure that the support we provide serve people well. A guiding principle underpinning our commitment is the collective effort of all sections of KCC.

KASS is taking a number of steps in relation to this, for example:

- Transformation through the ALFA modernisation programme;
- Securing 'Developer Contribution' to ensure adequate community infrastructure in new development areas;
- Calling for accessible public transport in rural areas and new development locations;
- Leading the Supporting People services;
- Commitment to supporting unpaid carers in the light of the KCC Select Committee recommendations;
- Taking part in the Ageing Population and the Economy Conference on 2 May 2008;
- Developing the 'Active Ageing Kent's Strategy for Later Life'.

KASS is at the same time influencing national and local partners to improve the outcomes for our ageing population through a variety of means such as:

- Contributing to:
 - the Green Paper on long term funding,
 - the National Dementia Strategy,
 - the review of the National Carers Strategy,
 - the review of the Fair Access to Care Services eligibility criteria;
- Influencing the National Performance Framework;
- Helping to shape the Kent Agreement 2 and the work of the Local Strategic Partnerships.

There are a number of gaps which are well known to the Government and Local Authorities, including:

- Provision of an adequate scheme to release equity;
- Adequate clarity on the responsibilities regarding who pays for what in Continuing Care needs;
- Sufficient advice and information on Care Pathways for self-funders.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

3 April 2008

**Question by Mrs E Tweed to the
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste**

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste tell me:

“Is the redevelopment of Ashford Ring Road, including the ‘pocket park’ at West Street, on schedule to be finished by the end of October this year and if not, to whom are the delays attributable?”

Answer

The project is working towards a substantial completion date of 31st October 2008 and at present is on target for this date including construction of the West Street shared space area and central reserve.

Delays to the project so far have been:-

The timing of the approval of additional funding from Growth Area Fund 3 (GAF3) which required the suspension of the works between New Street and Apsley Street until approval was given.

The County Square redevelopment works running alongside the highway works have caused significant delays to parts of the build programme especially in Elwick Road to the south of County Square and the southern end of Bank Street. The co ordination of the works has been extremely difficult with much of the emphasis given to accommodating the County Square development over the highway works.

Securing land to the south of Elwick Road and Godinton Road has taken longer than expected and has added to delays in the original programme.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

3 April 2008

**Question by Mrs T Dean to the
Leader of the Conservative Group
and the Leader of the Labour Group**

Will the Leader of the Conservative Group and the Leader of the Opposition Labour Group join the Liberal Democrats in supporting the Bill in the House of Lords to give Ghurkha soldiers serving before 1995 rights to stay in this country and pensions equal to those of British soldiers?

Answer by the Leader of the Conservative Group

I wrote to the Prime Minister last week on behalf of KCC's Cabinet pleading with him to urgently rethink his Government's policy to exclude Ghurkha servicemen who retired from service prior to 1997 from applying for British citizenship.

Kent is proud of its association with the Ghurkhas and is proud to be the home for the Brigade following relocation from its main base in Hong Kong in 1997. KCC values and takes pride in their contribution both at home and abroad.

The imposition of the quite arbitrary 1997 cut-off date defies rational justification and it is hard to see how the integrity of immigration policy could be threatened or undermined by such a specific exemption in favour of a small – and dwindling – number of Ghurkha ex-servicemen.

The Ghurkhas occupy a unique and highly-regarded position in British military and social history and I struggle to see how such an exemption from the rules would create any sort of precedent, either for the Armed Forces or the generality of British citizenship.

Continued/...

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

3 April 2008

Question by Mrs T Dean to the Leader of the Conservative Group and the Leader of the Labour Group

Will the Leader of the Conservative Group and the Leader of the Opposition Labour Group join the Liberal Democrats in supporting the Bill in the House of Lords to give Gurkha soldiers serving before 1995 rights to stay in this country and pensions equal to those of British soldiers?

Answer by the Leader of the Labour Group

We are all grateful to the Gurkhas for what they have done and what they are doing for the defence of this country and that is why the Government has ensured the following for Gurkhas and ex-Gurkhas:

1. Equality of take-home pay with the wider British Army since 1997
2. A change in the immigration rules in 2004 to include post 1 July 1997 retired Gurkhas
3. Married accompanied service after 3 years with the Brigade (previously only *one* married accompanied tour in the whole service) since 2006
4. The opportunity to transfer to one of the 2 Armed Forces Pension Schemes since 2007
5. The opportunity to serve longer for those transferring to the Armed Forces Pension schemes (22 years rather than the previous 15 years)
6. The opportunity to transfer to the wider Army after 5 years service with the Brigade allowing for increased opportunities at the end of their service
7. Opportunities to obtain settlement/naturalisation whilst serving in the wider Army since 2007.
8. Gurkha pensions were reviewed and substantially increased in 2000 and are also updated annually for inflation in Nepal (by 7.3% in 2007)
9. In 2007 other ranks not on a British Armed Forces Pension Scheme were awarded a 19% rise to reflect changes made in the Indian Army scheme to which the Gurkha Pension Scheme is linked.

Some 2232 retired Gurkhas who were serving on 1 July 1997 or later have been offered the same terms and conditions as the wider Army. Nearly 70% so far have chosen to transfer to an Armed Forces Pension Scheme.

It has been a long-standing policy of governments of all colours not to make retrospective adjustments to pensions. To make a special case for Gurkhas would have far reaching implications for other serving and former servicemen.

By: Mike Hill, Cabinet Member, Community Services
Amanda Honey, Managing Director, Communities

To: County Council, 3 April 2008

Subject: Kent 2012 Progress Report on 2007

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The attached report is presented for information and summarises progress during 2007 on the Kent Campaign for the 2012 Games.

Introduction

1. The Kent Campaign for the 2012 Games was established and is managed by Kent County Council via its Sport, Leisure and Olympics service within the Communities Directorate. The Campaign seeks to ensure that the County derives maximum benefit and long-term legacy from the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

2. The Campaign is a partnership of a wide range of organisations in Kent working together under a Coordinating Group. There are nine sectoral task groups who aim to 'ensure delivery' within the areas of sport, the arts, tourism, economic development and regeneration, volunteering, transport, skills and training, schools and young people, and communications and media.

3. The Campaign has a strategy, which was publicly launched in May 2007 by Dame Kelly Holmes, who is the patron of the Kent Campaign. To date, the work on the Campaign has entailed:

- (a) raising awareness of the opportunities for Kent's companies, schools, sports clubs, arts organisations and individuals to take advantage of the Games and be inspired to strive for excellence in all that they do
- (b) establishing robust structures to take the work forward
- (c) producing a strategy
- (d) delivering against the strategy, whilst planning for the long-term benefit for the County.

4. Although led by the Communities Directorate, Kent 2012 cuts across the work of all Kent County Council Directorates. The Cross-Directorate Olympic Committee, involving Cabinet Members and senior officers with key roles on 2012 was established. The Kent Olympics Advisory Board was also established, this includes the two Kent Members of Parliament who have an Olympics remit (Hugh Robertson and Derek Wyatt). There is also an all-party Kent County Council Sport, Olympic and Paralympic Group.

Resource Implications

5. The Progress Report on 2007 activity contains no additional resource implications for Kent County Council.

Recommendations

County Council are asked to note the contents of the Progress Report on 2007.

Background Documents:

Attached: Kent Campaign for the 2012 Games: Progress Report on 2007.

Kent Strategy for the 2012 Campaign (see www.kentsport.org/london2012 for full document or request a copy of the summary of key actions contained within the Strategy)

Chris Hesse
Head of Sport, Leisure and Olympics
KCC Sport, Leisure and Olympics
Communities Directorate
(01622) 605002

Stephanie Holt
Kent Manager for the 2012 Games
KCC Sport, Leisure and Olympics
Communities Directorate
(01622) 605051

Item 8

By: Mr G K Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Public Health
To: County Council – 3 April 2008
Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEE: ALCOHOL MISUSE**

Summary: To comment on and endorse the report of the Select Committee on Alcohol Misuse

Introduction

1. The need for a piece of work looking into the issues surrounding alcohol misuse was identified some time ago, and has been supported by Members of all parties. It was agreed by the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee at its meeting in February 2007 that a Select Committee be convened to look into this issue, with an emphasis on the public health impacts of alcohol misuse.

Select Committee Process*Membership*

2. (1) The Select Committee commenced its evidence-gathering sessions in June 2007, and finally completed its report in February 2008. The Chairman of the Select Committee for the evidence gathering was Mr J B O Fullarton, with Mr D A Hirst taking over as Chairman for the later stages of the evidence gathering and for agreeing the final report and recommendations and sharing them informally with stakeholders. Mrs T Dean served as Vice-Chairman. The other Members were Mrs A D Allen, Mr D L Brazier, Mr W V Newman, Mrs E D Rowbotham and Mrs P A V Stockell.

Terms of Reference

(2) The Terms of Reference for the review were around the public health aspect of alcohol misuse. The Terms of Reference for the review are set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

Evidence

(3) The Select Committee received oral and written evidence from a wide range of stakeholders, including the Kent Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (KDAAT), Health and Education colleagues, the Police, the Kent Youth County Council, service users and ex-service users, representatives of the alcohol industry and private and voluntary service providers. In addition to this, local authority and NHS colleagues from around the country, health professionals and academics were invited to submit written evidence. The Select Committee also visited two centres in Kent which support and care for former alcohol misusers. A full list of the witnesses who

contributed to the Select Committee's work is attached to this report at Appendix 2, together with a list of the visits undertaken. It also visited a school to observe a facilitated discussion between sixth form students of their experiences of, and attitudes to, alcohol misuse, which Members found immensely helpful.

Innovation in the Select Committee process

(4) In response to the broad and complex subject matter it was asked to look into, the Select Committee pioneered a number of innovative work methods which have not been tried before. As part of the process of formulating its recommendations, it convened two very useful informal discussion sessions with a number of stakeholders and partners from the various disciplines listed above, with whom the KCC will need to work closely to deliver the Select Committee's recommendations. Having attended the second of these sub meetings, I am confident that the stakeholders and partners who contributed to this Select Committee are determined to take forward these recommendations. I welcome this excellent report on what is a complex, challenging and emotive issue. I would also like to congratulate the Select Committee.

Timescale

(5) The Select Committee met with me and the Cabinet Member for Communities, and Officers from the Adult Social Services, Communities and Children, Families and Education Directorates on 19 December to receive our comments on the Select Committee report before it was finalised. A copy of the executive summary is attached at Appendix 3. Whilst all the recommendations are important, I would wish to draw the Council's special attention to the following:-

Recommendation 3

The Select Committee recommends that:

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.

Recommendation 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.

Recommendation 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.

Recommendation 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.

Recommendation 14

The Alcohol Misuse Select Committee recommends that:

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 certificates for both teachers and nurses should be widely supported. The organisation and promotion of this training should be carried out through Local Children's Trusts. The Kent PSHE Advisory Group should pay particular attention to this recommendation when investigating young people's personal health and wellbeing in the County.

Recommendation 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.

Recommendation 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.

Action Plan

(6) Through the facilitated discussions, the Select Committee and I are pleased with the response there has been to the draft report from the key stakeholders. Working in partnership, I am confident that this important issue will be addressed in an innovative and positive manner to address sensitively the issue across Kent.

(7) The Select Committee report is an excellent strategy to deal with the issue of alcohol misuse in the county. Colleagues from the Kent Drugs and Alcohol Action Team have prepared an action plan based on the Select Committee's recommendations. A first draft of this action plan is attached at Appendix 4.

Conclusion

3. (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 attached report was presented to the Cabinet on 17 March by the Select Chairman, Mr D A Hirst, with Mrs T Dean and Mr W V Newman. At this meeting, the report's content and recommendations were enthusiastically received and praised. The Cabinet resolved that a countywide event be arranged to launch the report, and an event involving young people via the Kent Youth County Council be also arranged.

4. Recommendations

I recommend that:-

- (a) the report, its recommendations and the action plan for taking forward the Select Committee's 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;
- (d) those partners and stakeholders who took part in the informal roundtable discussions be thanked for their professional commitment and support; and
- (e) the Council support the Cabinet's resolution to hold a countywide event to launch this very important report, together with an event involving young people via the Kent Youth County Council.

Mr G K Gibbens
Cabinet Member for Public Health

Background Information: *None*

Please contact Angela Evans on 01622 221876 or email angela.evans@kent.gov.uk if you require a full copy of the report.

SELECT COMMITTEE – ALCOHOL MISUSE

Terms of Reference

The Select Committee's Terms of Reference were to:-

- map out, in respect of the administrative County of Kent, on the basis of available evidence, the extent of alcohol misuse and the public health implications of the issue.
- consider what public health initiatives might be undertaken to address alcohol misuse in Kent, having regards to national/government policies, and existing national and local best practice.
- explore the possible role of collaborative working (with the 12 district authorities in Kent, local NHS Bodies, schools and other partners) in delivering initiatives on this issue.
- explore programmes currently addressing the issue of alcohol misuse in primary and secondary schools in Kent.
- take account of the work of the Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team (KDAAT), and consider innovative ways of delivering alcohol related services.
- consider the impact of alcohol misuse on NHS Accident and Emergency departments – with reference to pressure on services and assaults on NHS staff.
- identify vulnerable groups where alcohol misuse is most prevalent and focus on action that KCC could take to reach those groups.
- explore funding streams to support the implementation of initiatives on this issue.
- make specific recommendations on this issue for Kent County Council and partner organisations.

SELECT COMMITTEE – ALCOHOL MISUSE

Evidence

Oral Evidence

Thursday, 14 June 2007

- **Angela Slaven**, Director of Young Offenders' Services and KDAAT
- **Hud Manuel**, Finance Manager, KDAAT
- **Karen Sharp**, Commissioning Manager for Young Persons' Services, KDAAT
- **Lola Triumph**, Strategic Head of Commissioning (Adults), KDAAT

Tuesday, 19 June 2007

- **Jonathan Neame**, Chief Executive, Shepherd Neame
- **Martin Rawlings**, Director of Pub and Leisure, British Beer and Pub Association
- **Stuart Moore**, General Manager, South East, J D Wetherspoon plc

Wednesday, 27 June 2007

- **Nick Moon**, Social Inclusion Officer, Supporting Independence Team, KCC, and **Richard Jacklin**, researcher into alcohol and drug service provision in Kent
- **Simon Southworth**, Team Leader, Substance Misuse Team, KCC
- **Meradin Peachey**, Director of Public Health for Kent (a joint appointment by KCC and Primary Care Trusts)

Thursday, 28 June 2007

- **Inspector Jerry Prodger**, Substance Misuse Team, Kent Police
- **Caroline Davis**, Head of Strategic Partnerships, Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT

- **Godfrey Featherstone**, Director, Kenward Trust

Monday, 2 July 2007

- **Kent Youth County Council (KYCC) representatives**

Tuesday, 10 July 2007

- **Dr Mark Rake**, Founder of Kent Council on Addiction (now KCA) and **Neil Hunt**, Director of Research, KCA
- **Claire Goulding**, Operations Manager, Sunlight Centre, KCA
- **Allan Foster**, Lead Curriculum Advisor, and Subject Advisor for PSHE, KCC, **Carol Tomlinson**, Joint Commissioning Officer, KCC, and **Kate Craib**, School Drug Education Advisor, KCC

Monday, 16 July 2007

- **Bill Reading**, Manager, East Kent Community Alcohol Service
- **Peter Gates**, Service Users' Team, Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team, with **Nick Collier**, ex Service User

Monday, 10 September 2007

- **Roger Vick**, Commercial Health Manager, Canterbury City Council
- **Clive Bainbridge**, Director of Community Safety and Regulatory Services, Kent County Council

Written Evidence

- **Clive Bainbridge**, Director of Community Safety and Regulatory Services, Kent County Council
- **Sajda Banaras**, Scrutiny Support Officer, Corporate Strategy, Hartlepool Borough Council
- **Kate Bearder**, Researcher, Overview & Scrutiny Team, City of Wakefield
- **Dr Marie Beckett**, Acting Medical Director, Clinical Director Acute & Emergency Medicine, East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust
- **Paul Blackmore**, Budget Officer, KDAAT, Kent County Council

- **Caroline Davis**, Head of Strategic Partnerships, Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT
- **Allan Foster**, Lead Curriculum Adviser, Adviser for PSHE, Advisory Service Kent, Kent County Council
- **Prof Nick Heather** , Emeritus Professor of Alcohol & Other Drug Studies
- **Caroline Highwood**, Director of Resources, Kent Adult Social Services, Kent County Council
- **Stephie Lavis**, Senior Place Officer, Place Directorate, GOSE
- **Dr Mark Rake**, Founder of Kent Council on Addiction (now KCA)
- **Bill Reading**, Manager, East Kent Community Alcohol Service
- **Phil Sadler**, Alcohol Strategy Coordinator, Public Health Department, Liverpool PCT
- **Don Shenker**, Director of Policy and Services, Alcohol Concern
- **Sarah Spencer**, Senior Public Health Information Analyst, Kent & Medway Health Informatics Service
- **Michael Thompson**, Head of Communications and External Affairs, The Portman Group
- **Gillian Vass**, European Institute of Social Services (EISS), University of Kent.
- **Jackie Wardle**, Chief Executives, Derbyshire County Council

Visits

- Wednesday 18 July 2007, Visit to **Mt Zeehan Centre**, East Kent Community Alcohol Service Canterbury
- Friday 20 July 2007, visit to the **Kenward Trust**, Yalding
- Friday 20 July 2007, visit to the **Pilsdon Community**, West Malling
- Tuesday 5 February 2008, visit to the **Marlowe Academy**, Ramsgate.

Executive Summary

1.1. Committee Membership

1.1.1. The Committee 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
Wilmington



Mr David Brazier
Conservative
Sevenoaks North
East



Mrs Trudy Dean
Liberal Democrat
Malling Central



Mr John Fullarton
Conservative
Broadstairs & Sir
Moses Montefiore



Mr David Hirst
Conservative
Herne Bay
Chairman



Mr Bill Newman
Labour
Dover Town



Mrs Eileen
Rowbotham
Labour
Dover North



Mrs Paulina
Stockell
Conservative
Maidstone Rural
West

1.2. Scene Setting

1.2.1. It is widely accepted that excessive consumption of alcohol is a growing social and public-health problem in the UK, with a marked increase in the numbers drinking regularly and to excess.

1.2.2. This is partly attributable to the fact that alcohol has become cheaper and more readily available. Also, patterns of drinking have changed – with alcohol misuse

becoming more socially acceptable, and increasing numbers of women (particularly younger women) drinking excessive levels of alcohol.

1.2.3. Health problems that are known to be associated with excessive alcohol consumption include:

- brain damage;
- alcohol poisoning;
- cancer;
- liver disease (cirrhosis);
- circulatory disease;
- high blood-pressure;
- damage to the nervous system;
- mental-health problems;
- impaired reproductive health;
- elevated risk of sexually-transmitted infections (associated with more risky sexual behaviour); and
- trauma (associated with accidents and violence).

1.2.4. Drinking to excess is one of the leading causes of disease, injury, disability and premature death. The annual number of alcohol-related deaths in the UK more than doubled between 1991 and 2005 (when the figure was 8,386). It is estimated that some 17 million working days, costing £6.4 billion, are lost in the UK each year due to alcohol-related sickness absence. Alcohol misuse also contributes to health inequalities.

1.2.5. Some public-health interventions (such as breath-testing of drivers and legal restrictions on the sale of alcohol) are known to be effective in reducing alcohol-related harm.

1.3. Terms of reference

- To map out, in respect of the administrative County of Kent, on the basis of available evidence, the extent of alcohol misuse and the public-health implications of the issue.
- To consider what public health initiatives¹ might be undertaken to address alcohol misuse in Kent, having regard to national/government policies, and existing national and local best practice.
- To explore the possible role of collaborative working (with the 12 district authorities in Kent, local NHS Bodies, schools and other partners) in delivering initiatives on this issue.
- To explore programmes currently addressing the issue of alcohol misuse in primary and secondary schools in Kent.

¹ The standard typology of public-health interventions is as follows: health protection; preventive medicine; health education; healthy public policy; community empowerment.

- To take account of the work of the Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team (KDAAT), and consider innovative ways of delivering alcohol related services.
- To consider the impact of alcohol misuse on NHS Accident and Emergency departments – with reference to pressure on services and assaults on NHS staff.
- To identify vulnerable groups where alcohol misuse is most prevalent and focus on action that KCC could take to reach those groups.
- To explore funding streams to support the implementation of initiatives on this issue.
- To make specific recommendations on this issue for Kent County Council and partner organisations.

1.4. Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Alcohol Misuse Select Committee recommends that:

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)

Recommendation 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)

Recommendation 3

The Select Committee recommends that:

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)

Recommendation 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)

Recommendation 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)

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that:

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)

Recommendation 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)

Recommendation 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)

Recommendation 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 Services should ensure that support is provided to ascertain that the children are properly cared for. (Section 5.3)

Recommendation 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)

Recommendation 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)

Recommendation 12

In order to help those seeking support, the Select Committee recommends that:

1. A logo, which facilitates the identification of all alcohol services in the County, is adopted. (Section 6.2)
2. The "alcohol" section in the KDAAT website is developed and expanded. (Section 6.2)

Recommendation 13

KCC should produce a directory 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)

Recommendation 14

The Alcohol Misuse Select Committee recommends that:

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 certificates for both teachers and nurses should be widely supported. The organisation and promotion of this training should be carried out through Local

Children's Trusts. 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)

Recommendation 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 Trusts. (Section 7.2)

Recommendation 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)

Recommendation 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)

Recommendation 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)

Recommendation 19

The Select Committee urges that:

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)

Recommendation 20

The Committee strongly recommends that the Kent-based alcohol misuse conference, including representatives of local authorities, CDRPs and KDAAT, is established. (Section 8.2)

Recommendation 21

The Alcohol Misuse Select Committee urges that:

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)

Recommendation 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)

Recommendation 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)

Recommendation 24

The Committee recommends that:

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)

Recommendation 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 Parish Councils as consultees in license applications. (Sections 9.2 and 9.3)

Recommendation 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)

Recommendation 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)

Recommendation 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)

Kent Drugs and Alcohol Action Team

FIRST DRAFT

KCC ALCOHOL SELECT COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

KDAAT will develop the Strategy for Kent to deliver on the recommendations of the KCC Alcohol Select Committee. The strategy will set out the key principals and core values for achieving the outcomes of the report. This will include working on issues that influence society, communities and individuals attitudes to and behaviours leading from alcohol consumption. The strategy will be broad reaching aiming to capture the work that will reduce the harm from the misuse of alcohol, recognise the disproportionate impact that this has on some communities and seek to achieve a partnership approach to services, support mechanisms and information. The key partners within this strategy are the Kent County Council including the breadth of services from education and children's service to trading standards and community safety, the Public Health and Primary Care services, the Voluntary Sector, the Police and other criminal justice agencies.

This Action Plan sets out the first steps towards meeting the recommendations flowing from the Select Committee Report. It therefore highlights immediate actions that need to be taken and should not be regarded as a final document. A further operation plan will follow with the alcohol strategy.

Safe Sensible Social is the national strategy for tackling alcohol misuse. The Alcohol Select Committee has in principal adopted the key themes within the national strategy but clearly wishes to build on local knowledge and best practice and improve opportunities where gaps either in service provision have been identified or failings have been identified such as with the area of alcohol education.

1. Building Effective Partnerships

Lead Cabinet Member	Mr. Mike Hill
Key Themes	Information sharing and strategic partnerships
Lead Agency	KCC
Recommendation	1,2,19, 20

To make our partnership arrangements with the interest groups, NHS, District Council, Criminal Justice Services, Housing, Educational Institutions and voluntary organisations more effective, we will:

Objective	Priority Actions	Next Steps	Lead agency
To achieve improved partnership working across all agencies that is led by timely and accurate information and improved outcomes for those who come into contact with services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve data sharing between organisations dealing with alcohol related crime, such as Kent Police, Accident and Emergency Departments (A&E) and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) • Write a multi agency alcohol strategy for Kent and produce an annual updating report • Restore the Kent based alcohol misuse conference and encourage participation from the District Authorities, CDRPs and KDAAT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish data sources and the opportunities for sharing information and developing protocols where necessary • To coordinate a working group to support the consultation for the Kent Alcohol Strategy 	KDAAT

2. Co-ordinated Response to Service Delivery

Lead Cabinet Member	Mr. Mike Hill
Key Themes	Needs led service development
Lead Agency	KCC/ District Councils
Recommendation	1,2,519, 20

<i>To enable a coordinated needs led response to services we will:</i>			
Objective	Priority Actions	Next Steps	Lead agency

<p>To ensure that service development reflects the needs of local communities addressing issues of access, treatment support and aftercare facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a comprehensive needs assessment which will be led by the Kent Primary Care Trusts and coordinated by KDAAT • Ensure that services are needs led and available when required • Listen to views of parents, carers and service users • Review the contributions that partners make towards the delivery of alcohol services in Kent through the Local Area Agreement (LAA) structures • Work with European Institute of Social Studies (EISS) to attract European funding and encourage participation of both the alcohol industry and Kent based agencies dealing with alcohol misuse in the EU Alcohol and Health forum • Prioritise the allocation of resources for alcohol services given the impact across so many other aspects of life • Work with District Councils to ensure adequate provision of temporary sheltered housing for individuals recovering from alcohol addiction, particularly those discharged from hospital, prisons and residential alcohol treatment in order to prevent relapse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify key individuals within the PCT and KDAAT to commence a county-wide needs analysis • Establish links with treatment providers, parent and carer groups and other service users to develop a network for consultation 	<p>PCTs and KDAAT</p>
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3. Promoting Safe and Sensible Drinking

Lead Cabinet Member	Mr. Mike Hill
Key Theme	Addressing the harmful effects of alcohol within communities
Lead Agency	KCC
Recommendation	6,11, 17,25

<i>To make sure everyone understands the harmful effects of alcohol, we will:</i>			
Objective	Priority Actions	Next Steps	Lead agency
To increase the public awareness and understanding of the impact of alcohol misuse and the responsibility of public agencies to address the problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a hard hitting campaign targeted at young people to increase their awareness and so reduce the damaging effects of alcohol • Promote and maximise the use of Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team (KDAAT) website and local media platforms such as Kent TV • Establish closer links with University of Kent and other higher educational institutions to tackle alcohol misuse among Kent student population • Improve public knowledge of rights to object to licence applications for the sale of alcohol and to call license reviews if problems of public nuisance occur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collate and coordinate current information relating to the licensing trade • Commence planning for a hard hitting campaign • Commence work with Trading Standards, Licensees and the drinks industry to identify “quick wins” 	<i>KDAAT and Community Safety</i>

4. Providing timely support

Lead Cabinet Member	Graham Gibbens
Key Theme	Access to support and services
Lead Agency	Kent Primary Care Trusts/KDAAT
Recommendation	2,7,8,9,10,12

<i>In order to help those seeking support, we will:</i>			
Objective	Priority Actions	Next Steps	Lead agency
To ensure swift and easy access to services for individuals seeking information, guidance and treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a logo that will facilitate the identification of all alcohol services in the County • Work with NHS, voluntary organisations and local interest groups to support and provide timely intervention to individuals or families affected by alcohol misuse • Promote the website directory of all alcohol related services available in Kent • Improve the effectiveness of GPs and primary care staff by offering a rolling training programme in early identification and referral of alcohol misusers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with Treatment Providers, PCTs and Adult and Children's Services to ascertain the current level knowledge, skills and expertise in respect of alcohol misuse • To catalogue existing services • To assess the resource implications of improving access to services access 	PCTs
<i>Develop the Hidden Harm Strategy and disseminate and improve early identification</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand and build on interventions available to young carers of alcohol misusers and children of alcohol misusing parents • Address the practices of drinking outside licensed premises and discourage discounting of alcoholic drinks, overcharging for soft drinks and other strategies designed to promote irresponsible drinking by all retail outlets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KDAAT Young Persons Services to work with the KCC Safeguarding Board to highlight issues and increase knowledge and understanding 	KDAAT YP

5. Reducing the Impact of Alcohol in our Communities

Lead Cabinet Member	Mike Hill
Key Theme	Improving the health of our Communities
Lead Agency	Kent Police/ Kent Primary Care Trusts
Recommendation	18, 21, 22,23,24,

The impact of alcohol on the health and well being of our communities cannot be understated, we will:

Objective	Priority Actions	Next Steps	Lead agency
To improve the knowledge and understanding of the residents of Kent of the impact of alcohol misuse and enable them to make informed choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Kent Police to tackle alcohol related crime and domestic abuse in Kent • Identify practical ways of collecting Accident and Emergency (A &E) data on injuries resulting in alcohol related violence • Provide Magistrate will training that would enable them to deal effectively with alcohol related crime • Work with off licence, pubs and club owners to reduce alcohol fuelled crime and disorder and anti social behaviour • Work in partnership with Kent Police, District Councils to establish alcohol free areas in identifies alcohol disorder zones • Penalise retailers who supply alcohol to under age persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To quantify the level and extent of alcohol related crime across the county • To work across agencies to assess the extent of domestic abuse that is alcohol related and identify existing services to meet this need • To consider the opportunities within the Anti Social Behaviour and Crime Disorder Act 2005 to implement measures to limit the impact of disorder arising from alcohol misuse – work with District Councils and the Police 	KDAAT and Kent Police

6. Alcohol Education in All Schools

<i>Lead Cabinet Member</i>	
Key Theme	Working with Schools and improving alcohol education via PSHE
Lead Agency	KCC
Recommendations	14,15,16

<i>Working with schools, parents and teachers, we will:</i>			
Objective	Priority Actions	Next Steps	Lead agency
To improve the knowledge and understanding amongst young people of the potential harm of alcohol misuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a more consistent Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) which includes the delivery of alcohol education to be delivered in both primary and secondary schools. • Ensure that each school cluster has a PSHE lead and each secondary school in Kent has at least one PSHE certified teacher • Encourage the Kent PSHE Advisory Group to pay particular attention to the delivery of alcohol education in schools when investigating young people's personal health and wellbeing in the County 	KDAAT to identify and coordinate a working group to assess current practice and activity across the county.	KDAAT

<p><i>Investigate the opportunity to develop the role of parents and carers in the alcohol education processes</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards Healthy Schools validation by March 2009, through a process which is inclusive to parents and governors • Ensure that a strong and consistent sex and relationships education is delivered within PSHE framework is delivered. • Ensure that sex relationships and education is taught appropriately from primary school and by specialist teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KDAAT to enter discussions with providers of alcohol treatment services 	KDAAT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the use of personal experience of recovering from alcohol addiction in the delivery of alcohol education in schools in Kent • Encourage parents to help Kent based primary and secondary schools in the delivery of alcohol education and in promoting responsible drinking i 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KDAAT to work with CFE and school governor networks to consider opportunities 	KDAAT

7. Proactive Leadership

Lead Cabinet Member	
Key Theme	Leadership and Champions to support the agenda
Lead Agency	KCC
Recommendation	26,27,28

<i>In order to ensure that proactive and effective leadership is in place we will:</i>			
Objective	Priority Actions	Next Steps	Lead agency

<p>To highlight and publicise the harm caused by alcohol misuse and engage communities in combating the issue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage the lobby of Kent Association of Parish Councils to lobby Government to reinstate Parish Councils as consultees in license applications • Engage central government to ensure that the rate of taxation of drinks increase proportional with the alcoholic strength and that revenue accrued from taxation are re-invested in prevention and treatment alcohol services • Support central government in engaging supermarkets chains to review their alcohol marketing strategies, including “loss leader” discounting practices and selling to under age customers • Engage central government to make Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) , a statutory subject with inspection by Ofsted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To draft a Communication Plan • To establish a network for the coordination of responses to support lobby to Central Government 	<p>KDAAT</p>
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GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held at County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 4 December 2007.

PRESENT: Mr C G Findlay (Chairman), Mr R L H Long, TD (Vice-Chairman), Mr D L Brazier, Mrs T Dean, Mr C Hibberd (substitute for Mr M V Snelling), Mr C J Law, Mr T A Maddison (substitute for Mrs M Newell), Mr W V Newman, Mr R J Parry, Mr D Smyth, and Mr R Tolputt.

OFFICERS: The Acting Director of Finance, Mr N Vickers, the Head of Audit and Risk, Mrs J Dawson (with Mrs J Armstrong and Mr S Rooney); the Director of Personnel and Development, Mrs A Beer (with Mrs J Turner); the Performance Manager, Mrs J Hill; the Director of Commissioning and Provision West Kent, Mrs M Howard (with Mr A Coveney, Mr T Colbran and Ms D Watson); and the Democratic Services Manager, Mrs M Cooper.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr G Brown of the Audit Commission.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

37. Minutes
(Item 2)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2007 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

38. Audit Commission Progress Report
(Item 4 – Report by Audit Commission)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

39. Strategic Risk Update
(Item 5 – Report by Head of Audit and Risk)

RESOLVED that:-

(a) the approach to the streamlining of the current risk management and business planning cycles set out in the report be agreed; and

(b) a risk workshop be held in February 2008.

40. Internal Audit Plan
(Item 6 – Report by Head of Audit and Risk)

RESOLVED that approval be given to the Internal Audit Plan appended to the report for the 6 months up to 31 March 2008.

41. Internal Audit Reporting
(Item 7 – Report by Head of Audit and Risk)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

42. Internal Audit Reporting - Irregularities
(Item 8 – Report by Head of Audit and Risk)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

43. Governance of Partnerships
(Item 9 – Report by Head of Audit and Risk)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

44. Annual Governance Statement
(Item 10 – Report by Head of Audit and Risk)

(1) The Committee that the word “office” in paragraph 11 of the report should read “Officer.”

(2) RESOLVED that the report be noted and that a further report be submitted to the next meeting on “Good Governance for the Governance and Audit Committee.”

45. Value for Money Review of Day Care for People with a Learning Disability
(Item 11 – Report by Acting Director of Finance)

RESOLVED that:-

(a) the key findings of the VfM review of Day Care Centres for Learning Disability be noted; and

(b) the report be submitted for information to the Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee.

46. Corporate Governance Performance Indicators
(Item 12 – Report by Director of Law and Governance)

RESOLVED that:-

(a) the contents of the report be noted; and

(b) the corporate governance performance indicators continue to be monitored annually by the Committee and reviewed in 2009.

47. Ombudsman Complaints
(Item 13 –Report by Chief Executive)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

2007/ c&g/g&a/120408/minutes

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held at County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday, 5 March 2008.

PRESENT: Mr C G Findlay (Chairman), Mr R L H Long (Vice-Chairman), Mr M J Angell (substitute for Mr M V Snelling), Mr D L Brazier, Mrs T Dean, Mr M J Fittock (substitute for Mrs M Newell), Mr C Hibberd (substitute for Mr R Tolputt), Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr W V Newman, Mr R J Parry and Mr D Smyth.

OFFICERS: The Director of Finance, Mrs L McMullan; the Head of Financial Services, Mr N Vickers; the Director – Resources (Children, Families and Education) Mr G Ward; the Director of Law and Governance, Mr G Wild; the Head of Audit and Risk, Mrs J Dawson (with Mrs J Armstrong and Mr S Rooney); the Head of Corporate Performance, Mrs S Garton (with Mr R Fitzgerald and Mrs J Hill); and the Democratic Services Officer, Mr A Tait.

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

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Minutes – 4 December 2007
(Item 2)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2007 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

2. Internal Audit Progress Report
(Item 4 – Report by Head of Audit and Risk)

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the proposed changes to the format of future progress reports be approved.

3. External Audit – Update
(Item 5 – Report by Audit Commission)

(Mr M J Fittock made a declaration of Personal Interest as his wife was a beneficiary of the Kent Superannuation Fund. Mr J F London made a declaration of Personal Interest as a Member of the Kent Police Authority.)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the report be noted; and
- (b) a report be presented to the next meeting of the Committee concerning stand-alone companies and the risk of cross-subsidisation as well as the issues around Commercial Services' role as master/ vendor and supplier.

4. Governance and Audit Committee Assessment and Action Plan

(Item 6 – Report by Head of Audit and Risk)

RESOLVED that the approach to self-assessment set out in the report be approved.

5. Building Schools for the Future

(Item 7 – Report by Managing Director – Children, Families and Education)

(Mr D L Brazier and Mr R J Parry each made a declaration of Personal Interest as Members of the Project Approval Board)

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that a further report be presented to the next meeting of the Committee on the financial aspects of the project.

6. Debt Management

(Item 8 – Report by Acting Director of Finance)

(Mr C Hibberd made a declaration of Prejudicial Interest as a shareholder of Transco. He left the meeting and took no part in the discussion of this item).

- (1) A confidential note relating to a debt write-off greater than £10k was circulated to Members of the Committee for information.
- (2) RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7. Internal Audit Reporting – Irregularities

(Item 9 – Report by Head of Audit and Risk)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

8. Risk Management

(Item 10 – Report by Head of Audit and Risk)

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the Risk Register be referred to the relevant Policy Overview Committees for approval/amendment.

9. KCC Annual Plan 2008/09

(Item 11 – Report by Director of Business Solutions and Policy)

RESOLVED that approval be given to the Director of Business Solutions and Policy (in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Labour and Liberal Democrat Spokesmen of the Committee) to discharge the County Council's responsibility to check the compliance of the KCC Annual Plan with statutory reporting requirements prior to its publication by 30 June 2008.

10. Internal Audit Plan

(Item 12 – Report by Head of Audit and Risk)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) approval be given to the proposed Internal Audit Plan set out in the Appendix to the report; and
- (b) the constituent sections of the Plan be referred to the Members of the relevant Policy Overview Committees for information.

11. Data Quality Policy
(Item 13 – Report by Director of Law and Governance)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) approval be given to the Data Quality Policy set out in the Appendix to the report; and
- (b) a further report be submitted to the Committee in September 2008.

08/c&g/auditcommittee/030508/Minutes

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Planning Applications Committee held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 11 December 2007.

PRESENT: Mr R E King (Chairman), Mr A R Bassam (Vice-Chairman), Mr T J Birkett (substitute for Mr W V Newman), Mrs V J Dagger, Mr J A Davies, Mr C G Findlay (substitute for Mr T Gates), Mr J B O Fullarton, Mrs E Green, Mr C Hibberd, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne, MBE, Mr J F London, Mr T A Maddison, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J I Muckle, Mr A R Poole and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

OFFICERS: The Head of Planning Applications Group, Mrs S Thompson (with Mr J Crossley); and the Democratic Services Officer, Mr A Tait.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

98. Minutes
(Item A3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2007 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

99. Site Meetings and Other Meetings
(Item A5)

The Committee agreed that site visits would take place on Tuesday, 12 February 2008; Wednesday, 27 February 2008; Tuesday, 11 March 2008; and Tuesday, 18 March 2008.

100. Proposal MA/07/1191 – Two storey teaching block, assembly hall and entrance foyer at The Astor Of Hever School, Oakwood Park, Maidstone; Governors of The Astor of Hever 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 the standard time limit; the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details; details of external materials; tree protection measures; completion of the landscape scheme proposed within the first planting season following first occupation of the development; ongoing maintenance and protection of the landscape scheme; car parking area being provided prior commencement of use; details of final slab levels; details of external lighting; the safeguarding of any bats on site; hours of working during construction being restricted to 0800 to 1800 Mondays to Fridays and 0900 to 1300 on Saturdays; and removal of temporary mobile classrooms on first occupation of the buildings hereby permitted.

101. Proposal SE/07/2744 – Refurbishment and extension of existing nursery and office space to create a Children’s Centre including erection of a canopy, buggy and toy store, and creation of an external impact absorbent play area at The Willows, Hilda May Avenue, Swanley; KCC Children, Families and Education

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

- (1) The Head of Planning Applications Group reported the views of Swanley Town Council in full support of the proposal.
- (2) RESOLVED that permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions including the standard time limit; the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details; surface water drainage scheme being submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority prior to any development commencing on site; and details of materials of the canopy being submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority prior to any development commencing on site.

102. Proposal AS/07/1712 – Replacement of wooden palisade fencing with metal bow top railings at Rolvenden Primary School, Hastings Road, Rolvenden; Governors of Rolvenden Primary School and KCC Children, Families and Education

(Item D3 – Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

- (1) The views of Mr P M Hill, the Local Member, were reported supporting the recommendations of the Head of Planning Applications Group.
- (2) RESOLVED that permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions, including the standard time condition; and the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted plans.

103. 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) detailed submissions under Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act 1996 (None);
- (e) screening opinions under Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999; and
- (f) scoping opinions under Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999 (None).

15 January 2008

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Planning Applications Committee held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 15 January 2008.

PRESENT: Mr R E King (Chairman), Mr A R Bassam (Vice-Chairman), Mrs V J Dagger, Mr J A Davies, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr T Gates, Mrs E Green, Mr C Hibberd, Mr G A Horne, MBE, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr J F London, Mr T A Maddison, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J I Muckle, Mr W V Newman and Mr A R Poole.

OFFICERS: The Head of Planning Applications Group, Mrs S Thompson (with Mr M Clifton and Mr J Crossley); and the Democratic Services Officer, Mr A Tait.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Minutes
(Item A3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2007 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

2. Application TH/07/1441 – Concrete plinth and kiosk to house the motor control centre, including electrical equipment used to control a wastewater pumping station on public open space to the north of Cliff Terrace, Margate; Southern Water Services Ltd.
(Item C1 – Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

RESOLVED to defer determination of this application to the next meeting of the Committee to enable further consideration by the applicants of the external appearance of the proposed facility.

3. Application AS/07/1973 – Variation of Condition (iii) of Permission AS/87/802 and Condition (i) of Permission AS/02/645 to allow the continued operation of the existing rail aggregate terminal for a further temporary period of up to 3 years and subsequent delay in restoring the site pending the conclusion of matters to allow granting of a separate permission for a permanent facility at the site under Permissions AS/06/4 and 5 at Sevington Railhead, Waterbrook Park, Ashford; Bretts Ltd.
(Item C2 – Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

(1) The Head of Planning Applications Group tabled revised recommendations which were agreed.

(2) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) permission be granted for the variation Condition (i) of Permission AS/02/645 for the retention and operation of the existing rail aggregate importation facility at Sevington Railhead, Waterbrook Park, Sevington for a period of 3 years from the date of this Permission or 3 years from the date of a Permission granted under Applications AS/06/4 and AS/06/5 for the development of a permanent rail aggregate and associated Waste Transfer/Recycling facility at the site, whichever is the later, or on completion of the development proposed under Applications AS/06/4 and AS/06/5 whichever is the earlier of the dates, subject to a condition requiring that no additional development affecting the route of Public Right of Way AE350 shall take place until such time as it has been formally diverted;
- (b) permission be granted for the variation of Condition (iii) of Permission AS/87/802 for the variation of the Condition which shall now read: 'In the event that the development proposed under Applications AS/06/4 & AS/06/5 have either not been consented or have not been implemented, the site shall be restored within 6 months of the development hereby granted'; and
- (c) the applicants be notified by Informative that:-
 - (i) measures to secure the formal diversion of Public Right of Way AE350 shall be undertaken expeditiously;
 - (ii) the minimum width of any diverted path crossing the site shall be 4 metres and that its surface shall either remain as grass where it falls outside the immediate development area, or surfaced with a Type 1 material and finished with a limestone topping or similar where it falls within it; and
 - (iii) all other Conditions imposed under Permission AS/02/645 remain in effect.

4. Proposal SW/07/1032 – Construction of a roundabout with single carriageway approach roads at Junction of Swale Way and Ridham Avenue, Kemsley, Sittingbourne; KCC Highways Services
(Item D1 – Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

- (1) The Head of Planning Applications Group tabled late representations from PFA Consulting, on behalf of affected landowners.
- (2) RESOLVED that permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions, including conditions covering the development being commenced by 14 September 2009 (to accord with the main consent); the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details; and the development being carried out in strict accordance with the conditions of consent for Permission SW/04/1453.

5. Proposal DA/07/1120 – Formation of two pedestrian entrances, pupil waiting area and car parking modifications (including extension of existing car park) at the north west corner of the Grange School site associated with School Travel Plan at The Grammar School for Girls Wilmington, Dartford; Governors of The Grammar School for Girls Wilmington and KCC Children, Families and Education

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

- (1) In agreeing the Head of Planning Applications Group's recommendations, the Committee requested an additional informative that it would expect local residents to be consulted on the content of the School Travel Plan.
- (2) RESOLVED that:-
 - (a) permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions including conditions covering the standard time limit; and the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details; and
 - (b) the applicants be informed of the Committee's view that it would, in future expect local residents to be consulted on the content of the School Travel Plan.

6. 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) detailed submissions under Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act 1996 (None);
- (e) screening opinions under Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999; and
- (f) 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 at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 12 February 2008.

PRESENT: Mr R E King (Chairman), Mr A R Bassam (Vice-Chairman), Mr T J Birkett (substitute for Mr A R Poole), Mrs V J Dagger, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr T Gates, Mr C Hibberd, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne, MBE, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr J F London, Mr T A Maddison, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J I Muckle, Mr W V Newman and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr A D Crowther

OFFICERS: The Head of Planning Applications Group, Mrs S Thompson (with Mr J Crossley and Mr J Wooldridge); the Development Planning Manager, Mr A Ash; and the Democratic Services Officer, Mr A Tait.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

7. Minutes

(Item A3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2008 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

8. Site Meetings and Other Meetings

The Committee noted that the site visits scheduled for 27 February 2008 and 11 March 2008 had been cancelled.

9. Applications TM/07/4014, TM/07/3920 and TM/03/3946/R27 – (i) new compound area comprising leachate storage tanks, portable cabin, compressor, fencing, gates and associated planting; (ii) variation of Conditions 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 28, 30 and 31 of Permission TM/03/3946; and variation of Condition 27 of Permission TM/03/3946 to allow movement and placement of soils between November 2007 and March 2008 at Offham Landfill Site, Teston Road, Offham, West Malling; Waste Recycling Group Ltd. *(Item C1 – Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)*

(1) The Head of Planning Applications Group reported in respect of Application TM/07/3920 that the proposal to vary Condition 7 of Permission TM/03/3946 had been withdrawn. This would necessitate consequential amendments to Condition 4.

(2) Ms C Innes (from Offham PC) and Mr M Balfour (local resident) addressed the Committee in opposition to the application. Mr P Green (WRG) spoke in reply.

(3) Mr A R Bassam moved, seconded by Mr J I Muckle that the recommendations of the Head of Planning Applications Group be agreed.

(4) Mrs S V Hohler moved, seconded by Mr G A Horne that there be no variation of Condition 10 of Permission TM/03/3946.

Amendment carried 13 votes to 2

(5) During discussion of this item the Committee agreed to an additional condition that should an emergency gas flare prove to be necessary it could only be installed with the permission of the Head of Planning Group in consultation with the Chairman. It also agreed an Informative that it would wish to see improved measures, to prevent mud from the site getting on to the public highway.

(6) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) permission be granted to Application TM/07/4014 (new environmental compound comprising leachate storage tanks, portable cabins, compressor, fencing, gates and associated planting, subject to conditions including conditions covering potential noise emissions (including at night); a landscaping scheme being submitted for the prior written approval of the County Planning Authority prior to commencement of operations on site (to include details of under-storey planting along the site boundary with Teston Road); except in the case of emergencies, leachate tankers only being permitted to enter and leave the site and being filled between the hours of 08:00 to 18:00 hours Monday to Friday, and 08:00 to 13:00 on Saturday, with no working on Sundays and Bank Holidays; removal of compound site when final restoration, gas and leachate activities cease on site; restoration of land to suitable afteruse consistent with the main planning permission; removal of structures and hardstandings within the site; materials and colour of site office (green), structures and closeboarded fencing; and measures to protect groundwater (eg., suitable containment for leachate tanks);
- (b) permission be granted to Application TM/07/3920 for the variation of conditions 2, 3, 4, 28, 30 and 31 of Permission TM/03/3946 subject to conditions including conditions covering the extent of the internal access haul road being agreed in writing with the County Planning Authority; and Landscaping works; together with an Informative advising that the location of any emergency gas flare that may be required to control landgas on the site shall only be located in a position that has been approved by the County Planning Authority;
- (c) permission be refused for that part of Application TM/07/3920 for the variation of Condition 10 (type of waste deposited at the site to allow "clean water sludge" as well as compost) on the grounds of the likely unacceptable odour impact on amenity, contrary to Policy W18 of the Kent Waste Local Plan and Policy NR5 of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan;
- (d) approval be given pursuant to condition 27 of Permission TM/03/3946 to allow the movement, placement and handling of soils between the months of November 2007 to April 2008 (inclusive) subject to conditions including conditions covering soil movement; placement and handling operations on site ceasing if weather and ground conditions become inappropriate; and imported materials, or those used from within the site, being uncompacted and of a type that would provide a suitable drainage medium above the cap; and
- (d) the applicants be informed by Informative that the Committee would wish to see improved measures to prevent mud from the site getting on to the public highway.

10. Application TH/07/1441 – Concrete plinth and kiosk to house the motor control centre, including electrical equipment used to control a wastewater pumping station on Public Open Space to the north of Cliff Terrace, Margate; Southern Water Services Ltd.

(Item C2 – Report by Head of Planning Group)

(1) The recommendations of the Head of Planning Applications Group had previously been circulated to all Members of the Committee.

(2) RESOLVED that permission be granted to the application subject to conditions, including conditions covering the standard time condition; no part of the building opening or encroaching onto or overhanging the public highway; the materials used in the new high level wall matching the materials in the low level wall; and the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details.

11. Proposal CA/07/836 – Outline application for new 1 form entry Primary School (capable of being converted to 2 form entry at a later date), children’s centre, Vocational Training Centre, multi-use games area and student residential accommodation at The Canterbury Campus, Knights Avenue, Canterbury; Governors of the Canterbury Campus and KCC Children, Families and Education.

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

(1) The Head of Planning Applications Group informed the Committee that the word “layout” should be substituted for “design” in the second bullet point of the recommendations.

(2) RESOLVED that outline planning permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions covering the standard time limit for outline permissions; the submission of details relating to the reserved matters of layout, external appearance of the proposed buildings and landscaping and boundary treatment of the site; hours of working during construction and demolition; detailed ecological surveys assessing the potential of the site to house protected species, namely Great Crested Newts and Invertebrates; the submission of mitigation and enhancement measures for Reptiles, including a survey of the receptor site; submission of ecological enhancement measures for the whole site; tree protection and clearance of the site outside of bird breeding seasons; submission of updated Travel Plans; implementation of a programme of archaeological work; submission and approval of details of foul sewerage and surface water disposal; no occupation of the development until Southern Water are satisfied that the necessary infrastructure is in place; submission of a desktop study regarding land contamination; and submission of a scheme for the disposal of foul and surface waters.

12. Proposal SW/07/1360 – Single storey modular building for use as a community children’s centre, including the installation of fencing, pathways, hard play area and staff car parking at Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School, Brecon Chase, Minster-on-Sea, Sheppey; KCC Children, Families and Education.

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

(1) Mr A D Crowther was present for this item pursuant to Committee Procedure Rule 2.24 and spoke.

(2) RESOLVED that permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions covering the standard time limit; the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details; submission of a Travel Plan for the Children’s Centre prior to commencement of the use of the Centre, and its implementation and ongoing review;

details of external materials being submitted; details of a scheme of landscaping being submitted; details of cycle parking being submitted; details of foul and surface water drainage; replacement car parking being provided prior to commencement of use of the Centre; hours of use for the Children's Centre being restricted to 0800 to 1800 Monday to Friday; and the use of the building being restricted specifically to use as a Children's Centre only.

13. Proposal TW/07/2426 – Replacement 5 classroom primary school with nursery, external hard landscaping and car parking for Sissinghurst Primary School at Common Road, Sissinghurst; Canterbury Diocesan Board of Education and KCC Children, Families and Education.

(Item D3 – Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

(1) The Committee welcomed the applicants' intention to achieve the highest standard of design possible.

(2) RESOLVED that the application be referred to the Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities as a departure from the Development Plan and that subject to her giving no direction to the contrary, 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 of external materials being submitted, including solar panels; details of external lighting; community use; details of all fencing, means of enclosure and gates, including exact positioning; a scheme of hard and soft landscaping, its implementation and maintenance including details of the transplanting of trees and the surfacing of the Public Right of Way; tree protection; details of the footpath between the school and Cleavers with regard to levels and tree protection; protection of nesting birds; protection of bats during tree removal; mitigation for badgers; detailed mitigation for dormice; detailed mitigation for reptiles; recommendations of ecological Surveys/Reports; biodiversity enhancement measures, management plan and monitoring programme; programme of archaeological work; provision and retention of car parking; provision and retention of pathway; availability of the pick up/drop off facility; bound surfacing of the access/car park; provision of cycle parking; extension of 30 mph speed limit and traffic calming methods; the provision and retention or visibility splays; no gates being erected within 5.5m of the highway; the provision of 'school keep clear' markings; details of parking for site personnel; preparation, implementation and ongoing review of a revised School Travel Plan; hours of working during construction; measures to prevent dust; and measures to prevent mud and debris on the highway.

14. 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) detailed submissions under Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act 1996 (None);

Tuesday, 12 February 2008

- (e) screening opinions under Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999; and
- (f) 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 at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 18 March 2008.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mr N J D Chard.

OFFICERS: The Head of Planning Applications Group, Mrs S Thompson (with Mr J Crossley); the Development Manager, Mr R White (with Mr A Ash); and the Democratic Services Officer, Mr A Tait.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

15. Mr Fullarton

The Chairman agreed to write to Mr Fullarton on behalf of the Committee to wish him a speedy recovery.

16. Minutes

(Item A3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2008 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

17. New Validation requirements for planning applications

(Item B1 – Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

(1) The Committee agreed to the inclusion of Public Art in the list of Local Requirements that were likely to apply to County Matter and Regulation 3 developments.

(2) RESOLVED that the introduction of the new planning application forms on 6 April 2008 be noted and that approval be given to:-

(a) the draft local list of validation requirements (including Public Art) for the planning applications that the County Planning Authority is responsible for determining; and

(b) the carrying out of consultations on the draft local list of validation requirements with relevant stakeholders.

18. Application TM/07/4535 – Removal of Condition 14 of Permission TM/06/762 at Blaise Farm Quarry Composting Facility, Kings Hill, West Malling; New Earth Solution Ltd.

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

(1) The comments of Mrs T Dean, the local Member were circulated to Members of the Committee.

(2) RESOLVED that (for the reasons set out in paragraph 47 of the report) permission be granted to the rewording of Condition 14 of Permission TM/06/762 to read as follows:-

“14. No more than 100,000 tonnes of waste shall be imported to the site for composting in any calendar year.”

19. Application SH/07/1655 – Temporary use of the site (weekends only) to provide an area for the stationing of a refuse freighter and an open-back collection vehicle for the purpose of accepting bulky household waste, and the placing of recycling containers outside the boundary fence for collection by Shepway DC at Land at former goods yard, Station Road, Lydd; KCC Waste Management.

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

(1) In agreeing to the recommendations of the Head of Planning Applications Group, the Committee agreed to include a condition requiring the applicants to ensure that any waste that was fly tipped outside the site was removed.

(2) RESOLVED that permission be granted to the application subject to conditions, including conditions covering use of the site ceasing within a year of the date of the permission; details of site restoration upon vacating the site; the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details; hours of operation; the installation and maintenance of temporary signage and a traffic island; the installation of permanent signage and a traffic island should a second application be submitted for further retention of the site; the securing of the site and ensuring that the site is cleared of all equipment, vehicles or waste outside of operating hours; and the removal of any waste fly-tipped outside the site.

20. Proposal SH/07/1496 – Single storey modular building with a flat roof for use as a Children’s Centre, including installation of a canopy, storage units, fencing and external impact absorbent play area plus replacement of toilet facilities connected to existing nursery at St Nicholas Primary School, Fairfield Road, New Romney, Romney Marsh; 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 of all external materials, fencing and safety surfacing being submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority prior to any development commencing on site; a School Travel Plan being produced and implemented within 3 months of the date of first occupation of the Centre; hours of use 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday; a full landscaping scheme (including replacement trees and boundary

hedge planting) being submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority prior to any development commencing on site; a surface water drainage scheme being submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority prior to any development commencing on site; removal of further permitted development rights in association with the Centre unless otherwise agreed in writing by the County Planning Authority; and a programme of archaeological works.

21. Proposal CA/08/78 – Single storey modular building for Children’s Centre at Swalecliffe Community Primary School, Bridgefield Road, Whitstable; KCC Children, Families and Education.

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

RESOLVED that permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions, including conditions covering the standard time restriction for hours of operation; protection of existing trees and hedges; the fencing being finished in powder coated green to blend in with the landscaped setting; a Travel Plan being submitted for approval, or the existing School Travel Plan being revised to include the Centre; details of cycle parking being submitted for approval, in accordance with Kent Vehicle Parking Standards; all spaces within the existing school car park being made available to the Centre users outside of operational school hours; hours of use for the Children’s Centre being restricted to 8.00 to 18.00 Monday to Friday; hours of use for the nursery being restricted to 9.00 to 15.00 Monday to Friday term time; and the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details.

22. Proposal TW/07/4011 – Floodlit synthetic turf hockey pitch, including fencing at Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School, Southfield Road, Tunbridge Wells; KCC Children, Families and Education.

(Item D3 – Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

(1) The comments of Mr J Edwards, a local resident in opposition to the proposal were circulated and read out to the meeting.

(2) Mr J A Davies moved, seconded by Mr C Hibberd that the recommendations of the Head of Planning Applications Committee be agreed subject to the hours of use being limited to a finishing time of 7.30 pm on Monday to Saturday.

Motion Lost 3 votes to 12.

(3) Mr A R Bassam moved, seconded by Mr J I Muckle that the recommendations of the Head of Planning Applications Committee be agreed.

Carried Unanimously

(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; details of the fencing colour finish; timber kick boards being covered in artificial grass; an amended scheme of landscaping, its implementation and maintenance; tree protection; protection of nesting birds; recommendations of ecological Surveys/Reports; pre-commencement survey of the site for badgers; biodiversity enhancement measures; hours of use including limit on number of weekends per year; no commercial community use of the pitch; level of use of the pitch to accord with submitted details; lighting to be installed in accordance with approved details and checked on site; lighting levels not exceeding those specified within the application; extinguishing of lighting when pitch not in use; hours of working during construction; measures to prevent mud and debris on the highway; and no vehicles associated

with construction entering or leaving the site between 8.30 and 9.30 am and 3.30 and 4.30 pm.

23. Proposal SE/07/3859 – Single storey extension and improvements to access in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act at Leigh Primary School, The Green, Leigh, Tonbridge; Governors of Leigh Community 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 condition for implementation; samples of materials to be used externally being submitted for prior approval; detailed 1:20 section drawings of the windows being submitted; and the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details.

24. Proposal TM/08/211 – Two storey extension to St Peter’s Lodge to provide additional learning space on both floors at St Peter’s CE Primary School, Mount Pleasant, Aylesford; Governors of St Peter’s CE Primary School and KCC Children, Families and Education.

(Item D5 – Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

RESOLVED that permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions, including conditions covering the standard time condition for implementation; the external materials including brick type, roof slate, windows and eaves matching the adjacent building; an archaeological watching brief being secured; and the development being carried out in accordance with the permitted details.

25. Proposal SE/08/132 – Front lobby extension at Seal Primary School, Zambra Way, Seal, Sevenoaks; Governors of Seal Primary School and KCC Children, Families and Education.

(Item D6 – Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)

(1) Mr N J D Chard was present for this item pursuant to Committee Procedure Rule 2.24 and spoke. He said that Sevenoaks District Council had responded to the consultation on the proposal without consulting the local Members in accordance with its protocols.

(2) 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; and details of handrails and external materials of the DDA access ramp being submitted to and approved in writing by the County Planning Authority prior to any operations on site.

26. 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) Detailed submissions under Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act 1996 (None);

Tuesday, 18 March 2008

- (e) Screening opinions under Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999; and
- (f) 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 at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 22 January 2008.

PRESENT: Mr M J Harrison (Chairman), Mr A D Crowther (Vice-Chairman), Mrs C Angell (substitute for Mr L Christie), Mr C J Capon, Mr A R Chell (substitute for Mr A H T Bowles), Mr I S Chittenden, Mr J Curwood, Mr J A Davies, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr T Gates, Mr C Hart, Mrs M Newell, Mr R A Pascoe and Mrs P A V Stockell.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr A J King.

IN ATTENDANCE: The Head of Planning Applications Group, Mrs S Thompson (with Mr R Gregory); the Head of Admissions and Transportation, Mr S Bagshaw (with Mrs A Hayward); the Principal Case Officer – Public Rights of Way, Mr C Wade; the Assistant Democratic Services Manager, Mr G Rudd; and the Democratic Services Officer, Mr A Tait.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 18 September 2007 and of the Member Panel held on 29 November 2007 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

2. Application to register Public Rights of Way on the former Bayham Estate, Lamberhurst and Pembury

(Item 5 – Report by Director – Environment and Waste)

(Mr A J King was present for this item pursuant to Committee Procedure Rule 2.24 and spoke)

(1) This item was brought forward with the concurrence of the Chairman and the Committee.

(2) RESOLVED that:-

(a) the report be noted; and

(b) Counsel's opinion be sought as to the stance the County Council should take in the event that it receives a direction from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to make a Definitive Map Modification Order to add Public Rights of Way across the former Bayham Estate.

3. Presentation on Home to School Transport (including Home to School Transport Statistics)

(Item 4 – Report by Head of Democratic Services)

(1) Members of the Committee requested further information as set out in paragraph (2)(b) and (c) below.

(2) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) Members of the Council be written to inviting them to identify Home to School routes that may be incorrectly defined as hazardous or non-hazardous; and
- (c) a report to be sent to all Members of the Committee and the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment, Highways and Waste clarifying the relationship between Home to School Transport and the Kent Freedom Pass.

4. Update on Village Green issues

(Item 6 – Report by Director – Environmental Waste)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5. Application made by Oxfordshire County Council under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980

(Item 7 – Report by Director – Environment and Waste)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6. Update on Planning Enforcement issues

(Item 8)

RESOLVED to:-

- (a) endorse the actions taken or contemplated on the respective cases set out in paragraphs 10 to 42 and 59 to 61 of the report and those contained within Schedule 1 to 3 of Appendices 1 to 3 on pages 8:13 to 8:28 of the report;
- (b) note with approval the guiding principle that the County Council will not hesitate from taking any necessary formal action;
- (c) note the progress made in implementation of the chargeable monitoring regulations that allow the County Council to charge for monitoring of minerals and landfill permissions at a prescribed fee; and
- (d) support the development of the chargeable monitoring scheme in accordance with the provisional programme set out in paragraphs 53 to 58 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 the 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 Woodgers Wharf, Upchurch *(Item 11 – Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)*

(1) The Head of Planning Applications Group reported the latest enforcement position concerning the Woodgers Wharf site, Upchurch.

(2) RESOLVED to endorse the strategy outlined in paragraphs 4 to 11 of the report.

8. Update on Planning Enforcement Issues at Deal Field Shaw, Charing *(Item 12- Report by Head of Planning Applications Group)*

(1) The Head of Planning Applications Group reported the latest enforcement position concerning Deal Field Shaw (Shaw Grange), Charing.

(2) RESOLVED to:-

(a) endorse the enforcement strategy outlined in paragraphs 3 to 8 of the report; and

(b) convene a meeting of the Committee's Member Panel to consider in detail how to further progress the County Council's Enforcement Strategy in relation to this site.

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