



Summons to and
Agenda for a
Meeting on
**Thursday, 13th
September, 2012**
at **10.00 am**



DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
SESSIONS HOUSE
MAIDSTONE

Tuesday, 4 September 2012

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, 13 September 2012 at **10.00 am** to deal with the following business. **The meeting is scheduled to end by 4.30 pm.**

Webcasting Notice

Please note: this meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site – at the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

By entering the meeting room you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If you do not wish to have your image captured then you should make the Clerk of the meeting aware.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2012 and, if in order, to be approved as a correct record **(Pages 1 - 10)**
4. Chairman's Announcements
5. Questions
6. Report by Leader of the Council (Oral)
7. Community Safety Framework 2012-2015 **(Pages 11 - 28)**
8. The Integrated Youth Service – Youth Justice Plan 2012-13 **(Pages 29 - 54)**
9. Treasury Management Annual Review 2011-12 **(Pages 55 - 66)**
10. Petition Scheme Review **(Pages 67 - 86)**
11. Independent Person - New Standards Regime **(Pages 87 - 88)**

12. Motion for Time Limited Debate

Mr M Vye will propose and Mr T Prater will second:-

'KCC receives an increasing number of requests for 20mph limits, reflecting the findings of a DfT survey which has consistently found 80% of the public and 75% of drivers support 20 mph speed limits on residential streets (1).

Local Authorities are able to use their powers to introduce 20 mph speed schemes in residential roads in cities, towns and villages (2).

This Council agrees that Kent County Council should act on these powers without further delay and gives its authority to allow Member Highway Funds to be used to fund the creation of new 20mph schemes (zones/limits) where there is community support and where streets are being used by pedestrians and cyclists.

Notes:

- (1) Survey source – [Department for Transport \(DfT\) 'British Social Attitudes Survey: attitudes to transport'](#), conducted annually over the last ten years.
- (2) Particularly where this would be reasonable for the road environment, there is community support and where streets are being used by pedestrians and cyclists where business on foot is more important than delaying road traffic.'

13. Minutes for Approval

Governance and Audit Committee – 26 July 2012

(Pages 89 - 94)

14. Minutes for Information

Planning Applications Committee – 24 July 2012

Superannuation Fund Committee – 29 June 2012

(Pages 95 - 102)



Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services
01622 694002

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Kent County Council held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 19 July 2012.

PRESENT:

Mr R E King (Chairman)
Mr E E C Hotson (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs A D Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mr R E Brookbank, Mr J R Bullock, MBE, Mr R B Burgess, Mr C J Capon, MBE, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr I S Chittenden, Mr L Christie, Mrs P T Cole, Mr G Cooke, Mr B R Cope, Mr G Cowan, Mr H J Craske, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J M Cubitt, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr D S Daley, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mrs E Green, Mr M J Harrison, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr D A Hirst, Ms A Hohler, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr P J Homewood, Mr M J Jarvis, Mr A J King, MBE, Mr J D Kirby, Mr J A Kite, MBE, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr P W A Lake, Mrs J P Law, Mr R J Lees, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, TD, Mr S C Manion, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J M Ozog, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr T Prater, Mr K H Pugh, Mr L B Ridings, MBE, Mr M B Robertson, Mr A Sandhu, MBE, Mr J E Scholes, Mr J D Simmonds, Mr C P Smith, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P A V Stockell, Mr B J Sweetland, Mr J Tansley, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E M Tweed, Mr M J Vye, Mrs C J Waters, Mr J N Wedgbury, Mr C T Wells, Mr M J Whiting, Mrs J Whittle, Mr M A Wickham and Mr A T Willicombe

IN ATTENDANCE: Geoff Wild (Director of Governance and Law) and Peter Sass (Head of Democratic Services)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

134. Apologies for Absence

The Director of Governance and Law reported apologies for absence from the following Members:

Mr Robert Bayford
Miss Susan Carey
Mr Alan Chell
Mr Nigel Collor
Mrs Trudy Dean
Mr Keith Ferrin
Mr Tom Gates
Mr Michael Northey
Mr Kit Smith
Mrs Julie Rook

135. Declarations of Interest

(1) Mr Cowan declared an interest as a foster carer with his wife in any item on the agenda relating to Children's Services.

(2) Mr Christie declared a significant interest in Item 12 (Petition Scheme Debate: SAT Campaign – School Allocation Trouble) as his grandson was in the current reception year of one of the schools named in the petition.

(3) Mrs Whittle declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 12 (Petition Scheme Debate: SAT Campaign – School Allocation Trouble) as an affected parent of one of the schools named in the petition.

(4) Mr Koowaree declared an interest in Item 7 (Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) Annual Report 2011/12) as his grandson was a Looked After Child and his great-grandson who was having dealings with Social Services.

136. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2012 and, if in order, to be approved as a correct record

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 17 May 2012, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

137. Chairman's Announcements

(a) New Member

The Chairman welcomed Mr James Tansley, the newly elected Member for the Tunbridge Wells East Electoral Division, to the County Council.

(b) The Avenza Award - British Cartographic Society

The Chairman announced that the Council's ARCH Project team's digital habitat maps had been awarded the Avenza award for electronic mapping, presented annually by the British Cartographic Society and given for the most outstanding map presented for consideration. The ARCH Project, an EU funded project primarily focussed on updating the Kent habitat and land cover survey, sat within the Flood Risk & Natural Environment team.

The Chairman presented the award to William Moreno, the Senior Biodiversity Projects Co-ordinator for Environment and Enterprise, on behalf of the ARCH Project team.

(c) Queen's Birthday Honours List

The Chairman announced that it gave him great pleasure to inform the County Council of the following Awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours list:

Order of the British Empire: Member of the Order of the British Empire

Mr Chris Capon, Member for Hythe, for services to Local Government and the community in Hythe

Order of the British Empire: Officer of the Order of the British Empire

Ms Victoria Pomery, Director Turner Contemporary, for services to the arts

The Queen's Police Medal

Ian Learmonth, Chief Constable of Kent – the medal is awarded to officers by the Sovereign for distinguished service

The Chairman then proposed, the Vice Chairman seconded that the Council records its sincere congratulations to Mr Chris Capon, MBE, Ms Victoria Pomery, OBE and Chief Constable Learmonth, QPM for the Honours they have received.

Agreed unanimously

(d) The Queen's Awards

The Chairman announced that Kent had secured three winners of The Queen's Awards for Voluntary Service this year, with one of them being in Medway. The winners were as follows:

*Chatham Dockyard Historical Society – Chatham;
Citizens Rights for Older People – Maidstone and Canterbury Offices; and
Demelza Kent (Hospice care for children) – Sittingbourne*

The Chairman also announced P & B Metal Component – Whitstable who had won The Queen's Awards for Enterprise this year.

138. Questions

Under Procedure Rule 1.18 (4), 5 questions were asked and replies given.

139. Report by Leader of the Council (Oral)

(1) The Leader began by talking about the coming year's budget and stating the published outturn for the last financial year was thoroughly good news - good news for Kent County Council and good news for our residents, with £100m of savings successfully delivered with an underspend of £16.2m enabling the recent announcement of an additional £6m investment for the repair and maintenance of roads and pavements across Kent, and £5m being put into the economic downturn reserve to help the Council through the difficult years still to come.

(2) He stated that the current year was now into the second quarter with a further £100m of savings well on its way to being delivered sensibly and intelligently with the whole organisation pulling together to deliver. He extended his thanks to all staff.

(3) The Leader then turned to the next financial year 2013/14, and yet another £100m of savings to be made, completing the 30% plus savings out of the base budgets excluding schools. He said that the proposals for next year's budget would go out to consultation on Thursday 6 September and very much focus on the four 'P's - prevention, productivity, procurement and partnership. At the heart of this will be a fifth and the most important 'P', the people of Kent, the residents of Kent.

(4) Prevention will result in a significant shift in resource to deliver expanded preventative and support services including Adult Social Care; Children's Services

and investment in roads maintenance to avoid heavy end deterioration and high costs repairs.

(5) The Leader made reference to procurement and getting the very best value for money from the £800m on goods and services by challenging the orthodoxy, by knowing when to scale up/scale down and when to go local.

(6) He said that partnership and productivity going hand in hand, stating that 'together we can deliver so much more' as had been exemplified by the early work in the Kent Health Commission work in Dover and Shepway bringing primary care, social care and acute care closer together to deliver much better use of resource, reducing heavy end expenditure and intervention thus developing excellent community health support and preventative services that led to better patient care and improved patient outcomes.

(7) The Leader stated that integrating Children's Services with health and other voluntary organisations to deliver joined up support and preventative services to families with both young children as well as joined up adolescent support services would result in a lower number of young people being taken into care. He said that the success of the Government's Troubled Families agenda would depend on integration and partnership work to solve problems and support families radically differently with both incentives and penalties.

(8) He spoke about the multi-agency workshop he had attended that had exemplified the eagerness of agencies to come together, integrate district based teams, and operate very differently. With Health, Police, districts, counties, schools, voluntary and charitable organisations working together at reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, improving the outcomes for young people and their families, and consequently reducing the impact on victims of crime and antisocial behaviour.

(9) He went on to say that with the fifth 'P', the people of Kent, there was the need for a bold step change in how the public access our services, putting the customer at the heart of what we do whether accessing a school place, adult social care, applying for a blue badge or the process of applying for a statement of educational need for their child. The Council needed a better understanding of the customer journey and experience, building the 'user friendly services' around its customers and most importantly making sure that the Council know what good looks like.

(10) The Leader finished by saying that he was pleased with the substantial progress in the pursuit of continuously improving services to the customers of Kent with a lot less money and no increases in Council Tax.

140. Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) Annual Report 2011/12

Maggie Blyth, KSCB Independent Chair and Detective Superintendent Tim Smith from the Public Protection Unit, Kent Police were in attendance for this item.

(1) The Chairman invited Ms Blyth, KSCB Independent Chair, to introduce the Annual Report to the Council.

(2) Mrs Whittle moved, Mr Lake seconded that the Council

- (a) comment on the progress made; and
- (b) note the 2011/12 Annual Report.

(3) RESOLVED: that that the above recommendations be agreed.

141. Revision to the Accountability Protocol for the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services

(1) Mrs Whittle proposed, Mr Lake seconded, the following recommendations, that the Council:

- (a) approves the revised Accountability Protocol for the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services appended to this report; and
- (b) notes that the Accountability Protocol will be reviewed on a regular basis and that any amendments resulting from this will come back to the County Council for approval

(2) RESOLVED: that the above recommendations be agreed.

142. Possible Nuclear Waste Facility in Shepway

(1) Mr Carter proposed, Mrs Waters seconded, the following recommendations that:

- (a) the County Council totally opposes the establishment of a Nuclear Research and Development Facility in Kent; and
- (b) should Shepway District Council decide to progress this proposal further, the County Council should review whether or not to hold a Kent-wide referendum on this proposition at a future date.

(2) Following a debate, the Chairman put to the vote the recommendations as set out in (1) (a) and (b) above, when the voting was as follows:

For (58)

Mrs A Allen, Mr M Angell, Mr A Bowles, Mr R Burgess, Mr C Capon, Mr P Carter, Mr N Chard, Mr I Chittenden, Mrs P Cole, Mr G Cooke, Mr B Cope, Mr G Cowan, Mr H Craske, Mr A Crowther, Mr J Cubitt, Mrs V Dagger, Mr D Daley, Mr M Dance, Mr J Davies, Mr G Gibbens, Mr R Gough, Mr M Harrison, Mr D Hirst, Mr P Homewood, Mr E Hotson, Mr M Jarvis, Mr A King, Mr J Kirby, Mr J Kite, Mr G Koowaree, Mrs J Law, Mr R Lees, Mr R Long, Mr S Manion, Mr R Manning, Mr J Ozog, Mr R Parry, Mr T Prater, Mr K Pugh, Mr L Ridings, Mr M Robertson, Mr A Sandhu, Mr J Simmonds, Mr C Smith, Mr M Snelling, Mrs P Stockell, Mr B Sweetland, Mr J Tansley, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E Tweed, Mr M Vye, Mrs C Waters, Mr J Wedgbury, Mr C Wells, Mr M Whiting, Mrs J Whittle, Mr A Wickham, Mr A Willicombe

Abstain (5)

Mr R Brookbank, Mr L Christie, Mr C Hibberd, Ms A Hohler, Mrs S Hohler

Against (2)

Mr R Bullock, Mr J Scholes

Carried

143. Localism Act 2011 - Adoption of a New Standards Regime

(1) Mr A King proposed, Mr Carter seconded the recommendations as follows:

- (i) That the Council adopts the Kent Model Code of Conduct as set out at Appendix 1 of the report which deals with the conduct expected of members and co-opted members of this authority when they are acting in that capacity. The Code to be retrospectively effective from 1 July 2012.
- (ii) That the Council notes the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 for members to notify the Monitoring Officer of any disclosable pecuniary interests ("DPs") by 28 July 2012 and the duty of the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of members' interests.
- (iii) That the Council adopts the arrangements contained within Appendix 2 of the report, under which allegations of non-compliance with the Code can be investigated and under which decisions can be made. The arrangements shall be retrospectively effective from 1 July 2012.
- (iv) That the dispensation set out in paragraph 5(6) be endorsed.
- (v) That the existing Standards Committee be formally dissolved with retrospective effect from midnight on 30 June 2012.
- (vi) That as from 1 July 2012 a new Standards Committee be established with the Terms of Reference/Delegations set out in Appendix 3.
- (vii) That Council appoints 5 members (3:1:1) to serve on the Standards Committee and dis-applies the proportionality arrangements.
- (viii) That the Director of Governance and Law in consultation with the three Group Leaders and the Chairman of the Selection and Member Services Committee be authorised to undertake the recruitment of an independent person as set out in paragraphs 5(17)-(18) to this report and appoints an independent person to discharge the functions ascribed by section 28 of the Localism Act 2011.
- (ix) That the arrangements set out in paragraph 19 for the remuneration, expenses and insurance of the independent person and substitute be approved.
- (x) That the Scheme of Officer Delegations with regard to Council functions be amended as from 1 July 2012, so as to confer on the Monitoring Officer the delegation of functions set out in Appendix 3 of the report and incorporated in the County Council Constitution.
- (xi) That the Procedure Rules set out in Appendix 3 be adopted with effect from 1 July 2012 and incorporated in the County Council Constitution.
- (xii) That the Monitoring Officer be requested to keep the Code and Arrangements under review and to report further to the Council or Standards Committee as necessary.

(2) Following a debate, the Chairman put to the vote the recommendation as set out above, when the voting was as follows:

For (63)

Mrs A Allen, Mr M Angell, Mr A Bowles, Mr D Brazier, Mr R Brookbank, Mr R Bullock, Mr R Burgess, Mr P Carter, Mr N Chard, Mr I Chittenden, Mrs P Cole, Mr G Cooke, Mr B Cope, Mr H Craske, Mr A Crowther, Mr J Cubitt, Mrs V Dagger, Mr D Daley, Mr M Dance, Mr J Davies, Mr G Gibbens, Mr R Gough, Mr M Harrison, Mr W Hayton, Mr D Hirst, Ms A Hohler, Mrs S Hohler, Mr P Homewood, Mr E Hotson, Mr A King, Mr J Kirby, Mr J Kite, Mr G Koowaree, Mrs J Law, Mr R Lees, Mr J London, Mr R Long, Mr S Manion, Mr R Manning, Mr J Ozog, Mr R Parry, Mr T Prater, Mr K Pugh, Mr L Ridings, Mr M Robertson, Mr A Sandhu, Mr J Scholes, Mr J Simmonds, Mr C Smith, Mr M Snelling, Mrs P Stockell, Mr B Sweetland, Mr J Tansley, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E Tweed, Mr M Vye, Mrs C Waters, Mr J Wedgbury, Mr C Wells, Mr M Whiting, Mrs J Whittle, Mr A Wickham, Mr A Willicombe

Against (2)

Mr L Christie, Mr G Cowan

Carried

144. Select Committee: Kent Children's Future at Key Stage 2

(1) Mr Whiting proposed, Mr Cooke seconded, the following recommendations, that:

- (a) the Select Committee report be endorsed by the County Council;
- (b) the Select Committee be thanked for a useful, relevant and balanced report on a complex and challenging issue; and
- (c) the witnesses and others who provided evidence and made valuable contributions to the work of the Select Committee be thanked.

(2) RESOLVED: that the above recommendations be agreed.

145. Petition Scheme Debate: SAT Campaign - School Allocation Trouble

(1) The Chairman invited Ms Smith, the lead petitioner, to address the Council on the above petition. Ms Smith spoke to the petition.

(2) Mr Carter as the local Member reserved his right to speak until the end of the debate and the Chairman then opened up the debate to the floor and a number of other Members spoke on the petition.

(3) The Chairman then invited the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills, Mr Whiting, to respond to the debate and describe how he intended to take the petitioner's concerns forward.

(4) Mr Whiting congratulated the organisers of the SAT campaign for successfully triggering the debate and for ably conveying the views of the local community.

(5) He explained that the Council had recently consulted on a draft Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 that sets out how the Council interpreted and

proposed to fulfil its duties as a strategic commissioner of education provision. There were three central threads:

- ensuring sufficient high quality places exist,
- raising school standards, and
- responding to parental demand.

(6) Mr Whiting said that the debate demonstrated that this was an ongoing task, as the shape of the county's communities changed. He said that throughout the consultation process it had been clear that the Plan would evolve, as it captured more information about the wishes of communities. The SAT campaign clearly demonstrated the views of this community and the Council needed to ensure that the Commissioning Plan reflected this clear view.

(7) Mr Whiting explained that to this end, the County Council had been working with the Governing Body of St John's to commission additional school places. He said he was pleased that the Governing Body had agreed in principle to the expansion of the school from 1 to 2 forms of entry and this proposal would be subject to public consultation at the beginning of the academic year. He said that the Council would seek to ensure that an additional reception class and year 1 class would open in September 2013. He said that he recognised this would not help those families who had not secured a place at a local school in the Grove Green/Bearsted area this year, and he was sorry for this. However, it would afford parents the opportunity to consider moving their child at the end of year R if they believed that was the right thing for their child and family.

(8) Mr Whiting stated that the consultation outcome would be considered by the Governing Body, which would then determine if it wished for the school to expand. A business case would then be presented to the Education Funding Agency, which would make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for decision. Mr Whiting hoped a decision on expansion would be made by Christmas. In the meantime, the Council was proceeding with building feasibility work, with a view to developing a scheme which would enable at least two class bases to be provided for September 2013.

(9) Mr Whiting stated that the Council was committed to ensuring that if St John's expanded, it did so in quality, permanent accommodation with the central infrastructure to enable the school to continue to provide the high quality provision of which everyone was so proud.

(10) The County Council noted the Cabinet Member's response and the Chairman thanked the petitioners for attending the meeting.

146. Quarterly Report of Urgent Key Decisions - The Granting of an Agreement for Lease & 125 Year Lease to Marsh Academy, Station Rd, New Romney, Kent TN28 8BB

(1) Mr Ridings declared an interest at this point as a governor and trustee of the Marsh Academy.

(2) Mr Carter proposed, Mrs Waters seconded, that the County Council note this report.

(3) RESOLVED: that the above recommendation be agreed.

147. Minutes for Information

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 1.10(8) and 1.23(4), the minutes of the Planning Applications Committee meetings held on 8 May and 12 June 2012, the Regulation Committee meeting held on 15 May 2012 and the Superannuation Fund Committee meeting held on 18 May 2012 were noted.

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COUNTY COUNCIL**Thursday 13 September 2012****Question by Mike Harrison to****Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste**

Would Mr Sweetland, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste, be kind to enough to give me and fellow members an up date on the present position with regard to the Street Lighting situation in the county? I am sure that we have all noticed that the evenings are drawing in and the mornings are staying just that little bit darker each and every day and that the need for the street lighting will become more and more required.

I am full aware of the excellent work carried out by our lighting inspectors even though they might not yet have all of the up to date equipment they require to carry out this very difficult and at times dangerous work. In my own division (Whitstable) we have been blessed with a great deal of good work from KHL but this is being sorely undermined by the time it is taking for repair work to damaged lighting columns and directional signs. These delays I am told are due to having wait for outside contractor to complete various aspects of this work! I am told that there are only 2 (two) Connecting Teams for the entire county and this is causing as much as 6 to 8 weeks delay in completion of works.

My question Mr Sweetland is firstly is it true that there is only this small number of teams to do this particular work? If so do you have any plans to encourage our contractor to take on more staff to enable the backlog of work to be completed prior to the long dark evenings setting in?

The second part to my question is have our hard working KHL Inspectors now got all of the various up to date equipment to carry out their work such as up to date telephones and clearly marked vans?

Answer

There are around 119,000 street lights in Kent.

The target for columns being lit during the hours of darkness is 98%, in the last quarter we achieved 99%. The target for repairing street lights is 90% within 28 days. In the last quarter some 7200 faults were identified or reported. We repaired 6400 within 7 days. Around 840 needed more substantial repairs or replacement. There have been some delays in carrying these out and as a result the average percentage of repairs in 28 days for August was 84%. Repairs are now being done at an accelerated rate and will be back to normal by end of September.

Performance of the night patrols has improved significantly and the patrols will be increased to twice a month from 1st October and resources are in place to ensure potential reported faults are repaired quickly

Repair and restoration of power supply to street lights are carried out by UK Power Network (UKPN). The target for these is 75% in 28 days. Last month we achieved 78.8%.

Under UKPN's Rent-a-Jointer scheme we have the full use of two jointing teams who do this work. However, Ofgem have introduced competition on this field which will enable suitably qualified contractors, (not just UKPN crews) to carry out connections/disconnection to the power supply. We are in discussion with a number of companies which will enable connection/disconnection activities to be carried out 'in-house'. This will speed up the process significantly and a trial is planned for the Autumn, subject to approval by UKPN.

A review of vehicle requirements across H&T was completed recently and properly equipped vans for appropriate members of staff are being procured. The first batch is scheduled for delivery by the end of the calendar year. In the meanwhile the relevant staff will continue to use a mixture of leased, liveried and hired vans.

Work is being done to improve mobile working technology. New mobile working software is being developed which will further reduce the time taken from identification of defects to repairs being undertaken. The new software will enable photographs to be appended to work orders, which can be done directly in the field.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 13 September 2012

Question by Leslie Christie to

Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning & Skills

Can the Cabinet Member provide the numbers of pupils in Kent Schools who sat their GCSEs in June 2012 who had their gradings adversely affected by the change of criteria for marking between January and June 2012?

Whether or not he can provide the numbers can the Cabinet Member report what actions he has taken to give support to the schools, pupils and parents many of whom have been adversely affected for life by this grossly unfair change in the grading criteria within the one academic year?

Answer

There has been considerable concern raised by Kent secondary schools about the 2012 English GCSE results.

Officers, at my request, contacted all 100 Kent secondary schools to ask for data to ascertain the extent of the issue and 56 schools responded.

These schools gave us data on the Examination Board used, their early entry data, and predictions for the summer session of English GCSE matched to their actual results. We further requested the predictions matched to actual results in terms of those students who achieved a grade D.

From the responses it is impossible to determine the number of pupils affected, but we can say that 82% of the schools that returned the enquiry form have seen worse results than predicted. These are schools with a proven track record of accurate predictions.

There has been an almost identical increase in Grade D's with 79% of our schools seeing more D grades than predicted.

I believe this gives clear evidence of the impact of the decision to vary the grade boundary from January 2012 to the summer examinations.

The impact has been felt right across the family of Kent schools – academies and local authority schools, wide ability and grammar. There have been some well-articulated, and angry comments from headteachers.

I feel strongly for the young people disadvantaged by this change and have therefore written to the Chairman of the Government's Select Committee to provide him with the evidence of the impact in Kent, given the Committee is taking a very welcome, and vital look at how this summer's English GCSEs were marked. We are also taking evidence to Ofqual and exam boards to challenge the inequality that we perceive to

have occurred between January and June 2012. Furthermore, we will work with ADCS and other professional organisations to have a united approach.

Personally, I would support the idea of young people re-sitting their exam in November. However, re-grading the papers, as they are planning to do in Wales, would avoid asking Kent's young people to go through the stress of another exam.

Whilst we wait for the Government to come to a decision, we have been providing advice to schools and have asked school to provide support, advice and guidance to all young people irrespective of whether they are returning to the sixth form or continuing learning elsewhere.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 13 September 2012

Question by Martin Vye to

Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste

According to the World Health Organisation and research published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) lowering urban and residential speed limits to 20 mph has a direct impact on the number of road injuries with a reduction of all casualties of 40% to 60% and in the severity of road injuries – with a pedestrian survival rate of 97% compared to 1 in 5 pedestrians (or 20%) who will be killed hit at 30 mph. The 20 mph zones in London are estimated to already be saving more than £20 million annually in crash prevention.

Does the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste agree that 20 mph limits save fuel, lower emissions and pollution levels and improve traffic flow; and will he inform this council where KCC has introduced 20 mph zones/limits:-

- what has been the effect of slower traffic speed;
- what is the reduction in the number of collisions and the severity of road injuries; and
- what is the (estimated) saving in crash prevention annually?

Answer

Reducing road casualties is my highest priority and despite the difficult economic climate the County has still budgeted over £1.6million on crash remedial measures in 2012/13 which will contribute to the continuing year on year reduction in road casualties on Kent's roads.

Crash statistics recently published show the number of people killed or seriously injured in road crashes in Kent fell significantly, by 53%, over the last ten years, exceeding the governments target of a 40%, as a result of our targeted road safety improvements and publicity campaigns.

Over the last ten years the Kent County Council has supported over fifty 20mph schemes in the county with nearly 800 roads being subject to 20mph speed limit orders.

In addition all new residential developments in Kent are designed to keep traffic at 20mph although they are not necessarily signed as such to avoid unnecessary sign clutter.

The current County Council policy is to use our financial resources to target locations with the poorest crash record first and use 20mph limits or zones as one of many different tools to achieve causality reductions. This approach has been very successful as outlined in the statistics I have just mentioned.

While no formal before and after studies have been carried out on the 20mph schemes in Kent, research has been carried out in other parts of the Country.

In London & Hull studies in to 20mph zones (zones use traffic calming to reduce traffic speeds) have concluded that they reduced crashes by 42% and 56% respectively.

Research reported in the recent DfT consultation paper on changes to guidance on the setting of local speed limits conclude that the annual collision frequency may fall by around 60% in 20mph zones.

However, an analysis of the UK's first city-wide scheme - in which the limit was lowered from 30mph to 20mph on all residential streets in Portsmouth, at a cost of £500,000 - found that it has not brought any significant reduction in the number of accidents.

In Portsmouth, the new, lower speed limit applies to all vehicles, at all times, on 94 per cent of the city's streets. It is not enforced by speed cameras or road humps, but relies on drivers to obey limit signs.

The number of people killed or seriously injured on affected roads in Portsmouth actually went up, not down, after the limit was lowered.

Motorists' groups said the findings cast doubt on the case for city-wide 20mph schemes.

Paul Watters, head of public affairs at the AA (an organization that the Lib Dem group have quoted in the past), said: "By just putting up signs everywhere you are not going to change things dramatically.

The AA went on to say that they support targeted and tailored 20mph zones where they are really needed but not a blanket implementation across a whole city.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Oxford, Edinburgh and Bristol have all introduced 20mph limits in their city centres since the Portsmouth scheme began in 2007.

The analysis, carried out by the consultants Atkins on behalf of the DfT, found that prior to the reduction in the limit in Portsmouth, an average of 18.7 people per year were killed or seriously injured on the streets covered. After the reduction to 20mph this rose to 19.9 per year.

It's clear from the research and government guidance that 20mph zones, using traffic calming measures, are far more successful at reducing speeds and casualties than 20mph limits which only use signing. However, the adverse impact and cost of installing and maintaining traffic calming cannot not be discounted.

Mr Vye asks "Does the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste agree that 20mph limits save fuel, lower emissions and pollution levels and improve traffic flow." Members will also read on the Lib Dem website Mr Vye is demanding that ALL residential roads in Kent have 20mph limits.

While lower speeds on some roads maybe more fuel efficient, the use of traffic calming negates this benefit by increasing the emissions of some pollutants from

vehicles. Traffic calming does cause discomfort and increases the risk of injury to some people with conditions such as degenerative discs or weak bones.

The Highways Agency say that cutting the speed limit from 30 mph to 20 mph on the wrong roads can increase CO2 emissions by more than 10% with the result that well-intentioned safety schemes may backfire in environmental terms.

On average, petrol car fuel consumption on longer and relatively free-flowing 20mph urban streets can worsen by 5.8 miles per gallon (1.3 miles/litre). Over a year this will significantly increase CO2 emissions – burning 1 litre of unleaded petrol produces 2.36kg of CO2.

The majority of crashes in Kent occur on built up A class roads and the widespread introduction of 20mph zones on these roads would be inappropriate and have the potential of creating delays to emergency services and the travelling public.

Both the Government and the County Council are currently undertaking trials to determine the best ways of implementing safe, sensible and affordable 20mph targeted schemes which improve road safety where they are most needed and after consultation with local communities, the Police and Joint Transportation Boards.

KCC's current 20 mph policy was debated at the EHW Cabinet Committee held in July and the recommendations on a way forward were agreed by all Members (including the Lib Dem spokesman).

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 13 September 2012

Question by George Koowaree to

Jenny Whittle, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

Is the Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services aware of published research demonstrating that:

- child pedestrians can't judge vehicle approach speeds as well as adults. The "speed illusion" problem relates to children's low-level visual detection mechanisms, children's estimates of how fast a vehicle is travelling became unreliable once 20mph is exceeded (Prof. John Wann, Royal Holloway College, London University); and
- the benefits of 20mph zones are most marked in young children accident rates with deaths or serious injuries to children are reduced by half (Chris Grundy, Dept. of Public Health and Policy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine).

Armed with this knowledge will the Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services pledge her active support to the lowering of urban and residential speed limits in Kent to 20mph to the benefit of children and families health by cutting child pedestrian accidents and providing safer streets where they can walk and cycle?

Answer

Following a similar question posed to Bryan Sweetland I would like to reiterate Mr Sweetland's response and confirm the County Council's commitment to reducing road casualties in Kent as one of our highest priorities and recognising the part that 20mph schemes have to play in this. At the same time, consideration must be given to any adverse impact and cost of installing and maintaining traffic calming in 20mph zones, something that colleagues in Highways will look at in detail.

Although no formal studies have yet been carried out in Kent, I am aware of the published research on 20mph schemes carried out in other parts of the country. This research has highlighted the reduction in road casualties is greatest in younger children, particularly child pedestrian casualties and recognises that 20mph areas can unlock the potential for more physical activity such as walking and cycling, leading to better health, more social interaction and stronger communities.

The majority of crashes in Kent and elsewhere occur on built up roads and areas. There is an important link between areas of highest deprivation and the risk of being injured in road traffic accidents where research has found that children from these areas are five times more likely to be injured in accidents. It is therefore important that schemes should be prioritised to places of most need first, i.e. those with the poorest crash record, areas of social deprivation with high populations and around schools. The current County Council policy is already using its resources to target

these locations. However, we must take into consideration that the widespread introduction of 20mph zones on A class roads in Kent would be inappropriate and have the potential to cause delays. The County Council are currently undertaking trials and will be consulting with local communities, the Police and Joint Transportation Boards in order to implement cost effective and sensible 20mph schemes to improve road safety where it is most needed.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 13 September 2012

Question by Dan Daley to

Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning & Skills

Before the introduction of legislation* by the Labour Government in October 1998 there was widespread concern about the indiscriminate and uncontrolled disposal of school playing fields with an estimated 10,000 playing fields disposed of between 1979 and 1997 when the Conservatives were in power. Local authorities and schools now need to obtain the Secretary of State's written consent before they can sell, or dispose in any way, or change the use of playing fields used by schools. Between 1997 and 2009 212 applications were approved, since May 2010 approval has been given for the disposal of 21 playing fields.

After the euphoria of the Olympic Games there is once again widespread concern that Michael Gove is 'quietly' urging the selling of school playing fields. Will the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning & Skills please inform this Council:-

- How many school playing fields have been sold in Kent in the last ten years?
- What is KCC policy on the sale of school playing fields in the light of David Cameron's support for sport following unprecedented success and support for Team GB; and
- Do all the communities in Kent meet the 'Playing Space' National Standard*** of six acres per 1,000 head in the public domain (not part of private clubs) and if they do not, does he not agree that playing fields in schools should be maintained and open for general use where possible to assist in achieving the Standard?

Note:

* Legislation: Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (as amended).

** Source Dep. Of Education FOI response <https://bit.ly/PmtmBK>

*** 'Playing Space' National Standard Definition – a space which is especially designed for the playing of team or organised games or sport – therefore marked out pitches and greens etc. It differs from 'Open Space' which is not levelled or prepared in any way and which cannot safely be used for games with balls.

Answer

The Olympics have certainly inspired the next generation. In Kent, school sport is enormously important to the County Council and this has been demonstrated conclusively during our Olympic campaign, where the biannual Kent School Games engaged over 30,000 young people and 500 schools, and achieved national leadership.

Of course, to achieve our sporting ambitions, it is crucial to have suitable sporting facilities available. Since 2005, which is the earliest data we have, Kent County Council has sold four playing fields and a further two playing fields where contracts have been exchanged but not yet sold. To put this number into context, Kent has 575 schools.

Capital receipts from these six sales have underpinned the ELS capital programme over recent years enabling the Council to access funding streams which have enabled over seventeen schools to benefit from new school buildings and associated sports facilities, for example all-weather sports pitches. All of these seventeen schools have community use agreements in place, which are agreed with Sport England, so the local community is able to use the new sporting facilities.

Kent County Council adheres strictly to national legislation, regulation and guidance. When redesigning the school playing field facilities of the 6 schools, we have referred to the former Government's Building Bulletins 98 & 99, which are the guidelines giving a range of sizes based on pupil numbers, and the new facilities at least meet, and often exceed, these criteria. As a planning authority, we also consult with Sports England on all planning applications that could impact upon school playing fields in accordance with the 1998 national legislation.

Turning now to the issue of the 'Playing Space National Standard', this 'Standard', or 'Ratio', was produced by the National Playing Fields Association in the early 1970's and although it is still quoted by some people, this standard has been over taken by new planning regulations such as Development Plans and Supplementary Guidance, and now the new National Planning Policy Framework.

The responsibility for community playing fields rests with District and Borough Councils. I advise Mr Daley to redirect his third question to them, as this is not a matter for the County Council.

Finally, I note Mr Daley questions if Mr Gove is secretly urging schools to sell off their playing fields. Doing simple arithmetic using the information Mr Daley has provided, it is clear for all to see that the number of playing fields transferred each year under the Labour Government was higher than under the current Coalition.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 13 September 2012

Question by Michael Northey to

Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste

We all recognise how difficult it is for individuals and families who are struggling financially. I feel that Members will agree that we must stand up for those who commute by rail in and out of our county, including many of my constituents who use the two stations in Canterbury and also outlying villages. Does the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste agree with me and the majority of Kent MPs that the latest proposed rail fare increases are unacceptable, and what can the County Council do about it?

Answer

Yes, I do agree with the Member for Canterbury South East that the latest proposed rail fare increases are totally unacceptable.

The County Council has already made it clear that we are very concerned at the serious impact this will have on families in Kent, at a time when household budgets are very tight.

The reason given by the Government for the proposed fare rises is that it is their policy to increase the amount paid by the passenger and to decrease the subsidy paid by the taxpayer.

However the problem with the pricing formula is that some stations in Kent could see rail fares rise even higher than the 6.2% proposed for January, as the train operator is entitled to increase or decrease regulated fares by a further 5%. If this were to happen and in the worst case, some rail passengers could see increases of up to 11.2% next year.

So I have made it very clear that any further increase, on top of the proposed 6.2%, would be totally unacceptable to Kent's rail hard-pressed rail passengers.

The County Council urges Southeastern not to impose any higher increases above the national level, and we eventually want to see no increase in rail fares above the level of inflation.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 13 September 2012

Question by Tim Prater to

Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning & Skills

How many children have started this school term in Kent excluded from free home-to-school transport they would have been entitled to prior to the cut imposed by this Council on home-to-school transport provision?

Answer

It is not yet possible to report on the exact number of children who would have previously been eligible for free home to school transport, who may not qualify under the new arrangements. Applications are still being processed and there are still some appeals outstanding.

What is clear at this stage is that many parents have taken their responsibility to ensure their child can access their preferred schools seriously and have recognised that it is not the responsibility of the LA to provide transport except where there is a statutory entitlement. It is pleasing to see that the Kent Freedom Pass has provided a welcome solution for some and Kent families have secured 3000 more passes than had been provided at this time last year; bringing the current figure to almost 24,500.

I expect to have all the data held in relation to the applications received, by late October which will allow me to address Mr Prater's question at, with your permission Chairman, the November Council meeting.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 13 September 2012

Question by Trudy Dean to

Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste

In view of residents' complaints about standards of grass, hedge and shrub cutting and the lack of maintenance of public rights of way, will the Cabinet member for Environment, Highways and Waste please inform the Council:

- i) what resources have been made available for extra grass cutting of highway verges, urban alleyways and hedges and shrub maintenance in addition to the annual cut allowed for?
- ii) whether he accepts more work needs to be done to restore public safety and amenity, and if so what additional resources has he applied for?
- iii) whether he accepts that the reduction in specification to one annual cut only has resulted in a fall in the appearance of many residential streets, and a decline in access and safety for residents particularly those with mobility problems.
- iv) will he tell the council whether he will be restoring the number of highway verges, urban alleyways and hedges and shrub maintenance cuts to two or more in next year's budget?

Answer

- i) The County Council maintains highway soft landscaping as part of its duties to ensure highway safety. The published standards (urban grass cutting; 8 times/year, rural (swathe) grass cutting; once/ year and shrub beds and hedge trimming once/ year) are considered to meet, and in respect of urban highway grass exceed, the standards required.

Majority of hedges in the County are in private ownership, in cases where these protrude on to the public highway we contact the owners and in the first instance request that they trim these to a point that they do not pose a danger to highway safety, failure to act can ultimately result in the County Council undertaking the necessary works and recovering the costs. Hedges in the County Council's ownership are generally trimmed once every year, which is sufficient to maintain highway safety.

This summer has been the wettest on record and has created ideal conditions for vigorous growth of vegetation. The resulting conditions were so poor that forced much of the soft landscaping maintenance including grass cutting to be delayed. The problem was therefore caused by the very wet conditions rather than available budget. The prolonged periods of rainfall meant longer periods between certain scheduled cuts which may have given the impression that no

action was being taken. Despite this we carried out additional cuts at locations where vegetation growth potentially affected highway safety. The programme is now back on schedule. The unseasonal weather also affected weed spray, here too, the operation had to be delayed which resulted in excessive growth of weeds. At the onset of dryer weather the spraying operation began and on taking effect it was followed by a visit to manually remove and dispose of the larger dead weeds, the smaller treated weeds were removed as part of street sweeping. A further investment of £250k has been made to undertake a second spray in October/November to kill the more stubborn plants that may grow since the first spray and to restrict further weed growth next spring.

The very wet weather has also had an adverse effect PROW. The PROW team are reviewing sites on an individual basis to identify any safety works required. These will then be dealt with a programmed basis. Additionally we are due to meet with the Probation Service in the near future to explore opportunities on the use of their resources to undertake work on selected sites including PROW and urban alleyways.

- ii) Public safety is paramount; despite the economic climate vegetation is being maintained to required standards. Additional resources have been and will continue to be made available if and when a need arise.
- iii) Urban grass is cut 8 times a year, not once a year as seems to have been implied, and this frequency, exceeding that required to provide the minimum safety standards, contributes to the aesthetic appearance of the urban environment.
- iv) Despite the wet weather, the number of cuts and localised interventions has proved successful. The situation is being monitored and resources will be made available if a need is demonstrated.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 13 September 2012

Question by Ian Chittenden to

Mike Hill, Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities

I am now receiving regular complaints about 'Public Rights of Way' being severely obstructed by overgrown nettles, brambles and other obstructions. This is particularly affecting children and parents with push chairs.

I understand that the finance available to deal with these problems has been severely cut, but bearing in mind that many of these routes are regularly used as 'Safer Routes to School' and that the new school term has just restarted, would the Cabinet Member advise:

- i) what urgent action will be taken; and
- ii) for those Parish Councils who have been contacted to nominate two PROws requiring a further cut - what should Parish Councils do if they have several such paths?

Answer

The exceptional growing conditions over the last few months have caused significant problems keeping public rights of way clear. However the Customer and Communities Directorate has identified £40K additional revenue to address immediately public concerns and to clear priority routes, such as those used as safer routes to school. PROW Officers are now co-ordinating this work locally using existing contracts as a priority.

Parish Councils may identify more than two additional routes requiring an additional cut but have been asked to identify the routes in priority order where this is the case. The service aim to clear as many of the routes as they are able to within the funding available.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 13 September 2012

Question by Roger Manning to

Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste

"Whereas I am mindful of our budget challenges and also the Director of Kent Highways letter of 22 June 2011 in which he set out the policy of soft landscape maintenance, this summer KCC highways appeared to be competing with the Highways Agency and Rail Track for the most prolific displays of ragwort. Ragwort is a dangerous weed and kills horses by causing liver failure. I own horses, am a Master of a Hunt and represent a rural community, so I speak with some knowledge of the danger.

My understanding is that the Law of Weeds Act 1959 enhanced by The Ragwort Control Act 2003 and supported by a Defra 47 page Code of Practice which was published in 2007, places obligations on Highway Authorities to control the spread of injurious weeds, in particular ragwort. There is concern among the farming community that there is a lack of control by KCC that results in annual airborne seed contamination of adjoining pasture. Although not often fatal to sheep and cows it will cause debilitating symptoms.

In the light of the increasing proliferation will the Cabinet Member for EH&W explain how KCC adheres to the legislation and Code of Practice and thus how ragwort is controlled on our highways, including the use of and type of herbicide."

Answer

Responsibility for the control of Ragwort rests with the occupier of the land regardless of who the occupier is. There are no special requirements for highway authorities to control ragwort on highway land. Majority of reported cases of Ragwort are on land adjacent to public highway and in private ownership.

The 1959 Weeds Act empowers Defra to serve a notice requiring the occupier of a land to prevent the spread of ragwort. The Act does not make it illegal to have ragwort on a land or require occupiers to automatically control it.

The Ragwort Control Act 2003 exists to create a Code, "How to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort" (Defra 2004), for managing ragwort. Under the Code it is a landowner's responsibility to assess whether action should be taken to prevent the spread of ragwort by assessing the risk to livestock or to land used for feed production.

The Code does not seek to eradicate ragwort, recognising that it is important for wildlife.

The County Council follows the Code when managing roadside verges. When ragwort on highway land is assessed as high risk we control it through a combination of herbicide treatment (Glyphosate or Citronella) and traditional methods (hand

pulling or cutting) depending on the stage of growth. When we are treating high risk areas we take a proactive approach and will aim to extend the treatment to cover adjacent medium risk areas when resources allow. Treating and removing Ragwort is quite costly and we are we are due to meet the probation service shortly to explore opportunities for collaboration.

By: Mike Hill, Cabinet Member, Customer & Communities
Amanda Honey, Corporate Director, Customer & Communities

To: County Council – 13 September 2012

Subject: Community Safety Framework 2012-2015

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report seeks approval for the Kent County Council's Framework for Community Safety 2012 - 2015.

1. Introduction

This Community Safety Framework describes the contribution made by a wide range of services delivered by the County Council which make a tangible difference in preventing and deterring crime and which provide support particularly to vulnerable households in Kent, in terms of crime and disorder.

2. Financial Implications

None, all services are currently mainstreamed within existing revenue budgets.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- (1) The Community Safety Unit and many County Council services associated with community safety delivery are major contributors to ambitions two and three of the Bold Steps 'to tackle disadvantage' and 'to put the citizen in control', particularly through provision of strong partnership engagement and at an operational level through services such as the Kent Community Warden Service.
- (2) The Community Safety Framework supports many of the priorities identified in the Delivery Framework for Bold Steps for Kent (The Medium Term Plan until 2014/15).

4. Community Safety Framework

- (1) The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent amendments created a statutory duty on local authorities to work together with the Police, Fire and Rescue Services, Police Authority, Probation and Health Authorities to reduce crime and disorder. Over the subsequent 14 years, Kent County Council has been working in increasingly closer and complex partnerships with a wide range of agencies and community organisations to make communities safer. This has resulted in frontline practitioners successfully tackling a wide range of problems.
- (2) Crime, community safety and anti-social behaviour issues remain a high priority for Kent County Council and the public, and the Authority must continue to move forward to ensure we stay ahead of the game.
- (3) The framework is not a statutory document but KCC does have legal responsibilities in terms of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and the Police and

Justice Act 2006 and also a legal duty under Section 17 of the 1998 Act to consider community safety implications in all our operations.

- (4) This overarching framework illustrates Kent County Councils compliance with its legal responsibilities and its commitment to the community safety agenda, and provides a road map through the complex environment in which it sits.
- (5) The Kent County Council Framework for Community Safety document covers the period 2012 to 2015 and is intended to provide a clear roadmap of how the numerous and complex services within KCC contribute towards the Community Safety landscape in Kent through prevention, protection and intervention.

5. Conclusions

It is intended to be a handbook for County Councillors and senior and operational managers to help raise awareness of community safety issues within County Council service areas and clarifies:

- An overview of who does what in community safety;
- How all the different agencies work together;
- What has been achieved so far; and
- What the policies and plans and key issues are for the future.

This document will also be used as a key reference document during discussions with the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner after the election in November.

6. Recommendation

The County Council approves the adoption of the Community Safety Framework 2012 – 2015.

7. Background Documents

A Framework for Community Safety in Kent 2012 – 2015.

Stuart Beaumont
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Foreword



Community Safety means cutting crime and the fear of crime as well as reducing the effects of anti-social behaviour, drug misuse, fires, road accidents – all the things that cause harm to Kent people or affect their quality of life.

The County Council has a duty to promote Kent's economic, social and environmental well-being.

Community Safety is a key part of this: Kent is a safe place to live and work but people and businesses cannot flourish and prosper if they do not feel safe, or if the costs of crime place too great a burden on the local economy. With this in mind Community Safety is one of our highest priorities over the coming years. As a major provider of public services – children's services, education, trading standards, roads and transportation – we can greatly influence these matters in our day to day work: in partnership with district/borough councils, Kent Police and other statutory partners even more can be achieved.

Community Safety has to be 'mainstream' – affecting the plans and the work of many different agencies. But with so many people involved it can be difficult to know who does what, how it all works and what the plans and policies for Community Safety are.

This document describes contribution by the wide range of services delivered by Kent County Council that make a tangible difference in preventing and deterring crime and that provide support to particularly vulnerable households in Kent, in terms of crime and disorder.

It sets out to answer those questions and to provide a guide for everyone in the County Council who is involved and concerned with community safety. We hope you find it helpful and informative.

Mike Hill OBE
Cabinet member for Customer and Communities

Introduction

Kent is one of the largest shire upper tier authorities in England and Wales with a population of 1.4 million and is generally a safe place to live, work and visit. In the last 5 years, Kent has seen a 27% reduction in crime compared to 23% from the South East region.

The County Council's contribution to Community Safety is integral to addressing the community safety priorities set for Kent. As a leading authority, KCC has a duty to promote Kent's economic, social and environmental well-being. Community Safety is a key part of this and the KCC plays a vital role in safeguarding not just the vulnerable children and adults but its residents, businesses and visitors in Kent, and has been at the forefront of multi-agency working for many years. The majority of government policy requires strong partnership working between agencies, often including the public and private sector. The gross budget for KCC is around £2.2 billion annually with some £1.53 billion spent on a

wide and diverse range of frontline public services. Many of these services directly contribute to the Community Safety agenda in Kent including the Kent Drug & Alcohol Action Team, Integrated Youth Services, Community Safety Unit, Trading Standards and Supporting People. The Families and Social Care and Education, Learning and Skills directorates contribute considerably within KCC's safeguarding agendas and through their engagement with partnerships.

KCC services are numerous and complex and the aim of this framework is to offer a clear roadmap of how these services contribute to the Community Safety landscape in Kent.

Including:

- An overview of who does what in community safety;

- How all the different agencies work together;
- What has been achieved so far; and
- What the policies and plans and key issues are for the future.



Legislation



County Councils, District Councils, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Health Authorities, Police Forces, Police Authorities and Probation were designated by the 'Crime and Disorder Act 1998' as amended by the 'Police and Justice Act 2006' as 'Responsible Authorities'. These Acts place a duty on them to work together to reduce crime and disorder in their areas.

The arrangements established to comply with these Acts of law are known as Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's). Kent has 11 CSP's based on District/Borough geographical areas (with one merged CSP for Dartford and Gravesham). CSP's also work with other key agencies / organisations known as 'Cooperating Bodies' to develop and implement strategies to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safe.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities to take

account of crime and disorder in all their work. This has the effect of making Community Safety 'mainstream' for local authorities and it must influence all their policies, strategies, plans and budgets.

The Police and Justice Act 2006 also gives statutory responsibility for two tier areas such as Kent to have a County level CSP and a Crime and Disorder Committee. The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is chaired by the KCC Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities. The overall function of the KCSP is to produce a 3 yearly Community Safety Agreement to coordinate county wide priorities and partnership activities for crime and disorder in Kent and to drive forward strong partnership working across the county delivering outcomes against the key priority areas.

Community Safety Definition



Kent County Council has adopted the following definition of Community Safety –

Community Safety is an aspect of the quality of life in which individuals and communities are protected from, equipped to cope with and have increased capacity to resist crime, antisocial behaviour and those associated aspects that affect the general quality of life.

Safe communities should enable those who live, work and visit Kent to pursue and obtain fullest benefits from, their social and economic lives within a just and tolerant community free from risk factors such as criminal and anti-social, racial, fire and environmental issues.

KCC Cabinet 2001

What are we aiming to achieve?



The countywide 'Vision for Kent' (2011-21) ambitions; to grow the economy; to tackle disadvantage; and to put citizens in control cannot be achieved without the commitment and contribution of all partners through their own delivery plans and strategies as well as embracing multi-agency agreements. The Improving Community Safety, addressing crime and anti-social behaviour is one of the cross cutting themes in the Vision for Kent, with well established partnerships committed to making Kent a safer place. These ambitions are also echoed in KCC's Medium Term plan 'Bold Steps for Kent' (2012-15).

Our Overall Aims

Our overall aims for Community Safety are to:

- reduce the level of actual crime and disorder;

- reduce the adverse impact of crime and disorder on people's lives; and
- reduce the economic costs of crime.

We will pay particular attention to:

- the fear of crime
- prevention of crime
- drugs and alcohol
- youth crime
- domestic abuse

Community Safety is not just about crime: there are many other issues that affect people's safety and quality of life. They include fire safety and prevention, cutting road casualties, addressing domestic violence and reducing drug and alcohol misuse. These aims feature prominently in KCC's plans and they are reflected in targets which we have

set for ourselves or have been agreed with Government.

Roles of KCC Services



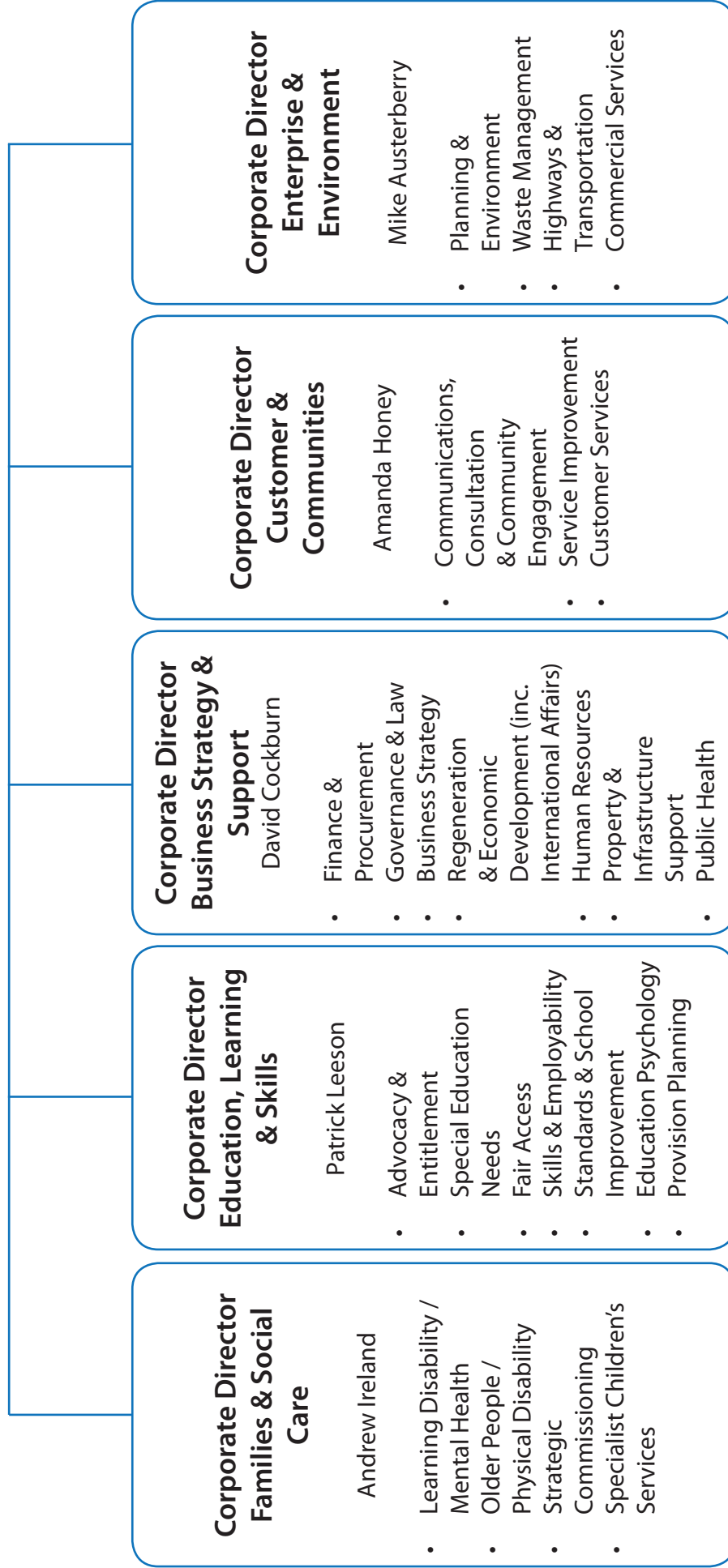
Prevention is better than cure - enforcement of the law will always play a major part in Community Safety but much can be done to prevent problems before they arise. KCC is a vital contributor to the reduction of crime with a wide range of preventative and intervention services.

A major part of crime and disorder reduction is achieved through considering and addressing the causes. The root causes include social issues of poverty, poor education attainment and training opportunities, unemployment and drug and alcohol misuse. Striving towards community cohesion, helping people become active citizens and improving personal responsibility in the community also contributes to improving Community Safety.

The County Council consists of a number of service directorates (shown below), each of these deliver services that contribute to the Community Safety agenda of reducing crime,

reducing the fear of crime and dealing with anti-social behaviour in Kent.

Cabinet Leader
Paul Carter



Contribution of KCC Services to Community Safety



In terms of service provision KCC delivers a vast range of services, most of them contributing and having an impact, either directly or indirectly, on Community Safety issues across Kent.

They include:

- Adoption and fostering
- Adult education
- Adult social care
- Apprentices
- Arts and culture
- Children's and families social services
- Community Safety
- Community Wardens
- Concessionary travel (bus passes etc)
- Coroners
- Countryside access
- Disabilities (disabled children, disabled adults)
- Early years interventions
- Education
- Highway Maintenance
- Integrated Youth Services
- Planning and land use (Secure by Design)
- Libraries and archives
- Protecting the environment
- Public health
- Public rights of way
- Public transport
- Recycling
- Road safety
- Schools and Post- 16
- Special needs
- Sports development

- Street lighting
- Trading standards
- Traffic and parking
- Transport planning and policy

The Directorates of the County Council manage these services and contribute strategic leadership in the following key areas:

The **Families and Social Care** directorate contributes to Community Safety through its services for children and families, child and adult protection and mental health services.

The **Education, Learning and Skills** directorate has a number of specialist services that work in partnership with schools to promote regular school attendance for all children and provide alternative curriculum for pupils who are not attending school.

The **Business Strategy and Support** directorate provides strategic policy, performance, planning, analysis and partnership support for the whole Council.

Public Health - from April 2013, KCC will be a Public Health Authority identifying and supporting the health and well-being of Kent residents based on Needs Assessments. This will provide the leadership and strategic framework to enable effective action to be implemented to address the public health priorities identified in Kent. These priorities include reducing health inequalities, improving children's mental health and wellbeing; improving sexual health and reducing teenage pregnancies, increasing the number of adults living healthier lives; enabling more people with chronic disease to live at home; reducing substance misuse and excessive alcohol drinking.

The **Customer and Communities** directorate is a grouping of front facing services with a range of core functions; including provisions for young people through accommodation support, drug and alcohol and integrated youth services to those groups of people often considered vulnerable or at risk. Drug and alcohol support services and Supporting People. The Community Safety and Emergency Planning function

delivers the cross directorate strategic and operational support mechanisms to ensure an effective response to these critical areas of public concern complemented by the Kent Community Warden Service that is a key partner in neighbourhood management. Trading Standards aim to make Kent a better place to live and do business in, by improving standards of trade.

The **Enterprise and Environment** directorate host the Highways and Transportation service who maintain and improves the County's roads, pavements and other assets such as streetlights and drains that support their safe use by all. They deliver a wide range of services which includes improving road safety for all users. According to published figures, fatal and serious casualties on Kent's roads have halved over the last 10 years.

Whilst this high level overview indicates how individual services under each directorate are contributing to improved Community Safety, it is evident that many of KCC's services are working together to tackle this important issue.

Community Safety Priorities



Every year levels, types and locations of crime are fully analysed by Community Safety Unit staff in conjunction with Kent Police analysts and strategic assessments are provided to local CSP's and partner agencies. The common issues and priorities are identified and form the strategic assessment priorities. The Kent Community Safety Agreement is an amalgamation of the 12 district assessments undertaken annually in Kent. The priorities are agreed by all statutory partners including KCC and are refreshed annually.

The table shows the current Community Safety priorities which have been identified as those with the potential to benefit from being supported at a county level, with the cross-cutting themes to be addressed within each priority.

These priorities and cross-cutting themes form the basis of a county wide action plan

that is delivered across partner agencies underpinned by a performance framework.

Several of the identified priorities already have existing multi-agency partnership arrangements in place, the Community Safety Agreement ensures clear linkages with business planning processes across relevant KCC services and partner agencies; therefore ensuring a coordinated approach across organisations at a strategic level

Priorities					
Anti-social behaviour including environmental	Domestic Abuse	Substance Misuse	Acquisitive crime (i.e. thefts/shoplifting)	Violent Crime	Road Safety
Cross-cutting Themes					
Early Intervention, Prevention & Education					
Priority Neighbourhoods / Geographic Focus					
Vulnerable Households & Individuals					
Safeguarding Children & Young People					
Reducing Re-Offending					

Opportunities and Challenges



Improving Community Safety, crime and anti-social behaviour is one of the cross cutting themes in the Vision for Kent 2011-21 and is echoed in KCC's Medium Term plan 'Bold Steps for Kent' (2012-15) of which Community Safety is integral to delivering these priorities. KCC is responding positively to the new legislative Acts such as the 'The Localism Act' and the 'Policing and Social Responsibility Act 2011' that introduces the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC's). All Acts will give greater power to communities and empower citizens to take more control over their communities and local services.

Opportunities

- The elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) will replace the Police Authority from November 2012 and will require a significant transition in police accountability and have significant impact upon the Community Safety landscape. KCC will establish a close and productive

- working relationship with the PCC and maintain effective communications. KCC has agreed to act as the lead authority to provide support to the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) who will scrutinise PCC activities.
- The County Council is well placed to assist the new PCC with the commissioning of services across the partnership arena in Kent utilising the wide knowledge and experience gained through commissioning models already in existence such as the Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team (KDAAT).
- Due to the County Council's increased responsibility for Public Health, there are opportunities to explore a closer working relationship to deliver the strategic framework addressing the public health priorities identified in Kent.

Challenges

- Working within an environment where public spending cuts across all agencies involved with Community Safety, challenges us to work even closer together with our partners.
- Due to forthcoming changes to the way Community Safety related funding will be allocated, there is a possibility that there will be changes to current commissioned services. KCC will work to ensure that a quality service is still being delivered to the people of Kent.
- The County Council has a Duty from the 1st April 2011 to manage with partners the delivery of Domestic Homicide Reviews. This is a very complex task closely related to serious case reviews and the timescales involved along with the resource intensive nature of each case requiring review, places significant demands upon the unit that will require careful management and review over the forthcoming months.

The Future



During these times of severe financial pressure with reductions in local government funding, KCC will strive to ensure that the services delivered continue to be of a high standard that the authority has always maintained. Therefore, KCC considers this an appropriate time to '**Review, Reflect and Redesign**' ways of working and how to do things differently but effectively.

- **Integrated Preventative Strategies** are a priority for KCC across different service areas, particularly social care and children's services.
- **The Troubled Families** programme agenda will work with individual families in a more coordinated way to keep children in school and reduce anti-social behaviour. Their parents will be able to improve their education, health and work opportunities and ultimately this will boost local neighbourhoods.

- The **Early Intervention Prevention Strategy** will provide an opportunity to find different ways of working together with our partners and help families to turn their lives around. As an example the Integrated Youth Service proposed hubs could also support the joint delivery of services such as foundation learning to support young people gaining qualifications, programmes aimed at preventing young people entering the Youth Justice System, offer information, advice and guidance, welfare rights information, housing advice and support as well as targeted work for more vulnerable young people.
- The introduction of a **Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panels** and the uncertainty associated with new commissioning arrangements and future funding will provide an impetus to review and redesign Community Safety

- services and to develop leaner and more productive partnership arrangements.
- The introduction of **new Anti-Social Behaviour powers**, together with the case management project that will be implemented during 2012 will result in a thorough review of current working arrangements in addressing anti-social behaviour and lead to more cohesive intervention arrangements being implemented across the county.
- In line with current government policy initiatives, The County Council, together with the Police and Crime Commissioner, will raise the priority for support to **Victims Services** and will provide leadership during this emphasis change.
- The Criminal Justice System and the Government are increasing the focus towards reducing re-offending and this is already a key priority for council services

and will continue in future years. The County Council's **Youth Offending Service** delivers the following key roles: the prevention of offending and re-offending by children and young people aged 10 to 17, dealing appropriately with those who do offend, including encouraging them to make amends for their crimes and supporting the victims of crime.

- The County Council is committed to maintaining and improving its successful **Restorative Justice** programmes. In the first three quarters of 2011 -2012 there was an 18.5% reduction in first time entrants to the criminal justice system compared to the previous year. **Restorative Justice** gives victims the chance to tell offenders how their crimes have affected them, to get answers to their questions and to receive an apology. It gives the offenders the chance to understand the effect of what they have done and to do something to repair the harm and has had a significant impact upon the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System.

- KCC is committed to a whole systems approach to reduce the major concern of Domestic Abuse in Kent. **Domestic Abuse** services are currently under strain following financial reductions across the not for profit sector. The County Council is fully in support of introducing

commissioning arrangements for domestic abuse support services and once again will be a lead partner with taking forward these concepts.

- The longer term management of **Domestic Homicide Reviews** and the subsequent governance related to the implementation of review recommendations will require careful management.
- Future Commissioning arrangements in terms of Public Health budgets based on Needs Assessments.

Summary



The County Council has statutory duties in relation to Community Safety. KCC Cabinet has ultimate responsibility and has appointed Members to take the lead. Much of the Community Safety work is preventative, with the majority being carried out by KCC staff in their everyday, core activities. The Community Safety Unit provides strategic leadership, information and advice and implements county wide projects in conjunction with partners.

Local Community Safety activity is currently focused on the 11 district/borough based Community Safety Partnerships where KCC is well represented by a range of officers based on local needs assessment.

As this document indicates, the way Community Safety operates in Kent is complex and involves many different agencies and people. There are many overlaps and the risk of duplication and partnership overload

is real. The future will provide a number of challenges as structures change and new legislation starts to be implemented and this will require careful management to ensure that the very successful partnership working that has developed since the introduction of the original legislation in 1998 is preserved.

The aim of this Framework is to illustrate who, what and how the numerous service delivery activities currently provided by KCC, that support Community Safety delivery are harnessed and focussed towards the priority areas; therefore avoiding duplication both in terms of KCC and partner agencies.

This will be achieved in a number of ways but will include the promotion of joint strategic assessments that highlight shared priorities and by ensuring connectivity between the business planning processes across the County Council. This will be underpinned by a strategic performance framework based on

this document that maintains communications and ensures focus on the key activities.

We hope you find this framework helpful and informative: if you have any questions or suggestions for improving it, please contact the County Council's Community Safety and Emergency Planning Group by email using communitysafetyunit@kent.gov.uk or via the KCC Contact Centre on 08458 247 247.

By: Mike Hill, Cabinet Member, Customer & Communities
Amanda Honey, Corporate Director, Customer & Communities

To: County Council – 13 September 2012

Subject: The Integrated Youth Service – Youth Justice Plan 2012/13

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This paper introduces the Youth Justice Plan 2012/13 for the Integrated Youth Service for approval by the County Council as the statutory Annual Youth Justice Plan.

FOR APPROVAL

1. Introduction

- (1) The Youth Justice Plan sets out how the Integrated Youth Service (IYS) will work during 2012/13 towards the principal aim for the youth justice system, “the prevention of offending by children and young people”.
- (2) The Plan is a statutory requirement (Section 40, Crime & Disorder Act 1998) for local authorities and has been submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England & Wales for their approval. The Plan is now being submitted to the full County Council following its consideration by the County Youth Justice Board and the Cabinet Committee for the Customer and Communities Directorate.
- (3) The key themes in the Plan include:
 - (i) the partnership arrangements within the county which are responsible for the management of youth justice services
 - (ii) the targets for the performance of the Service
 - (iii) planned new developments and the activity forecasts for the core youth justice services
 - (iv) the resources the Service has available to deliver the objectives of the Plan

2. Context for the Plan

- (1) 2012/13 is the first full year of operation of the newly formed Integrated Youth Services (IYS) following the merger of the former Youth and Youth Offending Services. As a result it will be a year of transition with a key objective being the integration of the existing provision of both services so as to strengthen both the preventative and community based statutory supervision responsibilities of youth justice services via the additional input and expertise of youth workers and the resources available to them

(2) The Service will contribute to a number of countywide and district-based partnerships including:

(i) Troubled Families which has the key objectives of:

- a. improving the education performance of the children by reducing the number of unauthorised absences to less than 3 a year
- b. reducing anti social behaviour and youth offending over a 6-month period
- c. supporting families to engage with the Department of Work and Pensions and European Social Fund Work Programmes

The role of the Integrated Youth Service will be to contribute to effective programmes that reduce re-offending rates and provide early intervention to those young people not entrenched in criminal behaviour. The Service will work as part of an integrated team ensuring compliance with the main objectives of the National Youth Justice Plan and also the local Kent objectives for Troubled Families – See Appendix 1.

(ii) Integrated Youth Support Service. Proposals are being developed for this service to be piloted from September 2012. The aim is to achieve improved outcomes for young people including educational achievement through ensuring that local services work effectively in response to the needs of young people. This will be achieved through the collaboration of the Education, Learning & Skills Directorate, the Families and Social Care Directorate and other relevant key agencies.

(iii) the Integrated Offender Management strategy managed through the Community Safety Units based in each of the Districts which will support IYS in the management of the Deter Young Offender population, the most prolific offenders amongst the youth offending population

(iv) the Kent Criminal Justice Board which has, as one of its priorities, the further development of restorative justice in the county

(v) some of the elements of the existing Youth Offending funding base, most significantly the Youth Inclusion Support Programme and Young People's Substance Misuse Services directly supporting the Youth Offending Teams will transfer to the Police and Crime Commissioner following their election in November 2012. The Integrated Youth Service is working alongside the Community Safety Unit and the Police to ensure continuity of services and that the success of existing interventions is highlighted.

(3) The performance of the Service during 2011/12 against a number of indicators, including the one used nationally with respect to first time entrants, was largely positive. The outcomes achieved compared favourably to those achieved during 2010/11 although concerns remain with respect to the findings relating to the engagement of the youth offending population in full time education, training and employment (ETE) and the access for 16/17 year olds to suitable accommodation. Section F of the Youth Justice Plan includes the performance data and the targets for 2012/13 but the key findings are:

- a significant downward shift in the numbers of children and young people entering the youth justice system for the first time
 - recorded falls in the overall youth offending population, in the number of offences for which they are responsible and in the disposals imposed by the Courts
 - reduced usage by the Courts of the Secure Estate at both the remand and sentencing stages
 - the percentages of both the statutory school age population and of the 16/17 year olds known to the youth offending teams attending ETE full time are significantly below target
 - there continue to be a number of 16/17 year olds who are assessed by their case managers as living in circumstances which are unsuitable to their needs, usually Bed & Breakfast
- (4) The Core Inspection of the Kent Youth Offending Service in April 2011 required improvement in the management, quality and timeliness of assessment and case records management. Throughout the preceding year work has focussed on improving the quality of case recording and management. In 2012/13 this will continue to be a priority, driving forward this required improvement through maintaining the commitment to routine auditing of cases to ensure the progress made with respect to the quality of practice following the Core Case Inspection is sustained and becomes the norm.

3. The IYS Business Priorities for 2012/13

- (1) The Integrated Youth Service, in support of its responsibilities to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people and to offer victims of youth crime the opportunities to engage in restorative justice, will:
- deliver services in collaboration with the Police and Children's Services that are designed to reduce the risk of children and young people becoming involved in anti social behaviour and of entering the youth justice system
 - work with the partner agencies represented at both the Criminal Justice Board and the County Youth Justice Board to deliver interventions designed to reduce the rate of re-offending by children and young people within the youth justice system
 - contribute significantly to the planned and co-ordinated work with Troubled Families which is designed, amongst other objectives, to achieve increased participation in education and reduced involvement in both anti social and offending behaviour by young people within the targeted families
 - identify and have an enhanced ability to support those children and young people who are the more vulnerable amongst the youth population, including those living in the most deprived communities in the county
 - drive forward the continued improvement in case management and recording
 - ensure services and interventions are matched to both the risks and needs associated with the offending behaviour of the population known to the youth justice services. There will be a specific focus on young people aged 16 & 17 years being in suitable accommodation and on supporting the

- engagement of both the statutory school age and post statutory school age populations in full time ETE
- extending the opportunities for those who have offended and their victims to achieve a resolution through participation in restorative processes
 - continue to support the participation and voice of children and young people through targeted consultation processes
 - prepare for the implementation of:
 - (anticipated to be April 2013) the youth justice requirements included in the Legal Aid, Sentencing & the Punishment of Offenders Act 2012
 - the Police and Crime Commissioner (November 2012) to advocate for the current usage of the funding for preventative and substance misuse services
 - continue to work with partners within:
 - the Community Safety Units in managing the Deter Young Offender population (the most prolific offenders) as an element of the Integrated Offender Management strategy
 - the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements to manage those young people assessed as presenting a risk of serious harm to the welfare and safety of others

4. Resource Implications

- (1) The youth justice element of the IYS Budget for 2012/13 is £5.8m, a reduction of £0.2m when compared to the total for 2011/12. This can, in part, be accounted for by the reduction of £99.5k in the grant funding provided by the National Youth Justice Board which totals £1.7m.
- (2) The County Council contributes £3.4m, 58.6% of the total.
- (3) The remainder of the budget total, £0.7m, is provided by the other statutory partners responsible for the management and resourcing of YOS (Health, Education, Children's Social Services, Police and Probation).

5. Recommendation

The County Council is asked to approve the statutory Annual Youth Justice Plan.

Background Documents

None

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Integrated Youth Services

The Youth Justice Plan

2012/13

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2012/13 is the first full year of operation of the newly formed Integrated Youth Services (IYS), a merger of the former Youth and Youth Offending Services. It will be a year of transition including exploration as to how the new arrangements best contribute to progress being made towards the principal aim for the youth justice system, “the prevention of offending by children and young people”.

The Integrated Youth Service will:

- drive forward the continued improvement in case management and recording
- identify and have an enhanced ability to support those children and young people who are the more vulnerable amongst the youth population, including those living in the most deprived communities in the county
- maintain the commitment to routine auditing of cases to ensure the progress made with respect to the quality of practice following the Core Case Inspection is sustained and becomes the norm
- deliver services in collaboration with the Police and Children’s Services that are designed to reduce the risk of children and young people becoming involved in anti social behaviour and of entering the youth justice system
- work with the partner agencies represented at both the Criminal Justice Board and the County Youth Justice Board to deliver interventions designed to reduce the rate of re-offending by children and young people within the youth justice system
- ensure services and interventions are matched to both the risks and needs associated with the offending behaviour of the population known to the youth justice services. There will be a specific focus on young people aged 16 & 17 years being in suitable accommodation and on supporting the engagement of both the statutory school age and post statutory school age populations in full time ETE
- extending the opportunities for those who have offended and their victims to achieve a resolution through participation in restorative processes
- continue to support the participation and voice of children and young people through targeted consultation processes
- prepare for the implementation:
 - (anticipated to be April 2013) of the youth justice requirements included in the Legal Aid, Sentencing & the Punishment of Offenders Act 2012
 - the Police and Crime Commissioner (November 2012) to advocate for the current usage of the funding for preventative and substance misuse services
- contribute alongside partners to the planned and co-ordinated work with

Troubled Families which is designed, amongst other objectives, to achieve by the children involved increased participation in education and reduced involvement in both anti social and offending behaviour

- continue to work with partners within:
 - the Community Safety Units in managing the Deter Young Offender population (the most prolific offenders) as an element of the Integrated Offender Management strategy
 - the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements to manage those young people assessed as presenting a risk of serious harm to the welfare and safety of others

Head of Service – Nigel Baker

Portfolio Holder – Mike Hill

Director – Angela Slaven

SECTION A: ROLE/PURPOSE OF FUNCTION

Integrated Youth Services (IYS) will be responsible for:

- (i) providing and commissioning targeted interventions to tackle disadvantage and to prevent children and young people from offending
- (ii) reducing the likelihood of re-offending by those receiving statutory youth justice interventions

The legislative context for the Service is provided by Sections 37 – 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Section 37 details the principal aim for the youth justice system, “the prevention of offending by children and young people”. The remaining sections detail the statutory youth justice services which must be made available at local authority level and the requirement for each Youth Offending Service to publish annually a Youth Justice Plan.

Targeted and statutory interventions, whether provided or commissioned by IYS, will focus both on the individual child/young person and on their families/carers. IYS will seek, in partnership with other agencies, to match services and interventions to identified needs and risks.

The capacity to achieve successful matching will be critical to achieving a reduction in both the numbers of first time entrants to the youth justice system and to the rate of re-offending by enabling the Service to address the factors most commonly associated with anti social and offending behaviour.

The key partners for IYS reflect the inter agency co-operation expected by Central Government. They will continue to be:

- Police, MAPPA and Integrated Offender Management – supporting diversionary (via restorative processes and referrals to the YISPs) and preventative services, the management of the high risk (of re-offending, of serious harm to others) group amongst the youth offending population and providing access for the victims of youth crime to restorative justice processes
- Education and the Connexions Service – keeping young people involved in statutory schooling, in training such as apprenticeships, and in employment
- Specialist Children’s Services – joint work with Looked After Children, Children in Need and those who are the subjects of child protection plans, with homeless 16 & 17 year olds and with the delivery of parenting programmes
- Health and Substance Misuse services – addressing the physical and mental health needs of children and young people and ensuring effective responses to any misuse of drugs and alcohol by them
- Probation – enabling the delivery of community based reparation (the Unpaid Work Requirement of the Youth Rehabilitation Order) and jointly managing, via the MAPPA, the high risk (of serious harm to others) amongst the youth offending population

The impact of the Service will be monitored using the performance framework set out in Section F.

IYS will contribute, alongside a number of partners, to the planning of the service model for the Troubled Families initiative and to its delivery. Management information held by the Service will assist the monitoring of the outcomes being achieved with the families targeted.

SECTION B: CONTRIBUTION TO *BOLD STEPS FOR KENT* OBJECTIVES

The Integrated Youth Service supports the following priorities included in the Kent Delivery Framework:

- Priority 1: IYS will be commissioning both youth (for preventative purposes) and youth justice services during 2012/13 with a clear commitment to ensuring value for money via clear targeting of resources at the priorities for IYS and having a performance framework enabling progress towards agreed objectives to be monitored and evaluated
- Priority 2: the Health Service is one of the five statutory partners responsible for the management and delivery of youth justice services in Kent. Work is being undertaken with the Directorate of Child Health, the Kent Community NHS Health Trust and CAMHS to improve both access to and outcomes from services providing for the physical and mental health needs of children and young people within the youth offending population which are known (national and local data) to be significant
- Priorities 3 & 4: the IYS is committed to enabling young people to achieve their potential. Achievement within education, training or employment (ETE) is known to be a significant protective factor with regard to involvement in youth crime. The level of engagement by those in the youth offending population in ETE is a performance indicator for the youth justice services
- Priority 14: a priority for youth justice services is to reduce the level of youth crime in the county, to assess the risk of harm that individual children and young people and to provide a level of intervention commensurate with that risk. IYS will contribute to work alongside the Police, the Probation Service and Specialist Children's Services within the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
- Priority 15: a target population for preventative work (i.e. those at risk of entering the youth justice system) in the county is those young people who are vulnerable. A significant percentage of those children and young people within the youth justice system are vulnerable and youth justice services have a statutory duty for promoting and safeguarding their welfare
- Priority 16: youth justice services are responsible for engaging the parents and carers of those children and young people either assessed as being at risk of offending or are already so involved. A significant percentage of children and young people who have offended and are receiving a statutory intervention originate from complex and damaging family situations and are often known to Specialist Children's Services and Child & Adolescent Mental Health. IYS representatives are working with the Community Budget pilots in the county and with the Margate Task Force and will contribute to the development and delivery of the strategy for Troubled Families.

SECTION C: KEY ACTIONS, PROJECTS AND MILESTONES

Key Actions	Deliverables or Outcomes planned for 2012/13	Accountable Officer	Start Date (month/year)	End Date (month/ year)
<p>Preventative Services</p> <p>Review how the new model of delivery can best support effective delivery of front line youth, targeted prevention (e.g. YISP) and youth justice services</p> <p>Review how IYS best delivers preventative and early intervention provision to young people in the county</p> <p>Contribute alongside partners to the development and delivery of the Troubled Families initiative</p>	<p>(Priorities 2,3,4, 14,15 & 16)</p> <p>A co-ordinated strategy agreed and implemented between youth and youth justice services for ensuring access to universal services and supporting the prevention of offending and of re-offending</p> <p>A new staffing model is established to maximise the benefits offered by the integrated working of youth and youth justice workers</p>	<p>Andy Moreman & Nick Wilkinson</p> <p>Charlie Beaumont</p>	<p>June 2012</p> <p>April 2012</p>	<p>January 2013</p> <p>October 2012</p>
<p>Commissioning – Youth Justice</p> <p>Review of the current contracts for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Appropriate Adult Service Victim Offender Mediation & Victim Liaison Remand Management <p>Invitations to tender published</p> <p>Contracts awarded</p>	<p>(Priority 1)</p> <p>Contracts awarded for the provision of Appropriate Adult, Remand Management and Mediation / Victim Liaison Services</p>	<p>Nick Wilkinson</p>	<p>April 2012</p>	<p>November 2012</p>
<p>Curriculum and programmes for children & young people</p> <p>Review the existing curricula (including all opportunities for accredited learning) for the users of the youth service and of the youth offending service.</p>	<p>(Priorities 3 & 4)</p> <p>A curriculum is in place which is aligned to the objectives of the IYS and to the measures included in the performance / outcomes framework</p> <p>The Duke of Edinburgh's Award</p>	<p>Charlie Beaumont & Nick Wilkinson</p>	<p>April 2012</p>	<p>March 2013</p>

Key Actions	Deliverables or Outcomes planned for 2012/13	Accountable Officer	Start Date (month/year)	End Date (month/ year)
<p>Establish a curriculum which is relevant to the needs of the users of youth work, of targeted prevention and of statutory youth justice interventions within the context of Integrated Youth Services.</p> <p>Continue the delivery of the Youth Work Apprenticeship Scheme and recruit to a further cohort (8) apprentices to start in October</p>	<p>is being used to support the delivery of youth justice services in the county</p> <p>All 10 current apprentices complete their training successfully.</p> <p>Targeted recruitment (LAC, youth justice) of the cohort of 8 apprentices</p>			
<p>Quality Assurance A new Quality Assurance Framework to be produced for Integrated Youth Services in Kent.</p> <p>The new Service will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) have an ongoing focus on the quality assurance and staff supervision responsibilities of Practice Supervisors to ensure they are effectively met (ii) maintain a routine of monthly case audits with support from partners (e.g. Probation, Police, Health) (iii) provide support for case managers from the trainer responsible for the electronic case management system (Careworks) (iv) ensure a high quality of inclusive youth work amongst commissioned and direct delivery providers (v) ensure a robust and challenging curriculum is in place to develop young people's capabilities, promote equality and challenge prejudice 	<p>(Priorities 14, 15 & 16) The Youth Justice Board review positively the performance of the youth offending arm of the IYS with respect to the objectives included in the Core Case Inspection Improvement Plan</p> <p>National Standards for Youth Justice (2009) are consistently met with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assessments • planning and review • contacts with those children and young people subject to statutory interventions <p>The findings from case audits and from the overall self inspection regime consistently indicate practice of high quality in both the</p>	Charlie Beaumont	April 2012	March 2013

Key Actions	Deliverables or Outcomes planned for 2012/13	Accountable Officer	Start Date (month/year)	End Date (month/ year)
(vi) involve young people in the design, delivery, assessment and challenge of local services	above areas and with case recording			
<p>Consultation with Service Users</p> <p>Consultation with users of Integrated Youth Services as to the accessibility and the quality of services they have received</p>	<p>A positive view from users is received</p> <p>Findings are published</p> <p>The views received evidently inform the IYS Plan for 2013/14</p>	Charlie Beaumont	July 2012	November 2012
<p>Workforce Development</p> <p>Delivery of an integrated training programme reflecting the many shared competencies required for both youth work and for youth justice – supporting the objective to integrate youth workers into the delivery of both preventative and exit strategies</p> <p>Maintaining an online curriculum for all youth organisations, including those delivering youth justice services, in Kent</p> <p>Youth Justice volunteers and selected staff from the youth offending teams receive training in the role of Restorative Conference Facilitators</p>	<p>(Management priority)</p> <p>A competency framework for staff working within the IYS has been agreed and used to inform the Workforce Development Plan for 2012/13</p> <p>Programmes (e.g. Duke of Edinburgh's Award, offending behaviour, leisure activities) are being delivered jointly by youth and youth justice workers where beneficial</p> <p>Increased capacity for youth justice volunteers to be able to deliver services for young people and for victims of youth crime</p> <p>There is evidence of the use of restorative Conferencing to enable resolutions between the youth offending population and their victims</p>	Charlie Beaumont	April 2012	March 2013

Key Actions	Deliverables or Outcomes planned for 2012/13	Accountable Officer	Start Date (month/year)	End Date (month/ year)
<p>Reducing Re-offending Development of the role of the Probation Officer within YOS</p> <p>Support the development of the Resettlement Consortium alongside South of Thames YOTs</p> <p>Support the development of the Troubled Families initiative and contribute alongside partners to its delivery</p> <p>Build on pilots with Kent Community Health Trust to support commissioning of specific initiatives (e.g. Speech and Language, Counselling, training of staff) and better access to existing universal and targeted services for the youth offending population and for those at risk</p> <p>Improve access to Tiers 2 & 3 mental health through the newly established CAMHS Access Points and the new CAMHS provider (September 2012)</p> <p>Improve capability of the service to respond to sexually harmful behaviour through partnership and possible joint commissioning with Specialist Children's Services</p> <p>Expand the use of restorative justice in partnership with Kent Police and with the commissioned mediation services</p> <p>Establish the groupwork programme for the delivery</p>	<p>(Priorities 15 & 16)</p> <p>Increased capacity to respond to the risk factors associated with the involvement of children and young people in both anti social behaviour and youth offending Reduced re-offending rates recorded for those children and young people subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Rehabilitation Orders • post custody supervision 	<p>Nick Wilkinson & Charlie Beaumont</p>	<p>April 2012</p>	<p>March 2013</p>

Key Actions	Deliverables or Outcomes planned for 2012/13	Accountable Officer	Start Date (month/year)	End Date (month/ year)
<p>of offending behaviour approaches</p> <p>Develop an increased usage of the Attendance Centres in the county – support the plans of the Probation Service in this area</p> <p>Continue to increase the numbers of young people who participate in accredited learning opportunities with a view to increasing their employability</p> <p>Improve the partnership arrangements, via the Joint Policy and Planning Board and the Locality Boards, with Specialist Children’s Services, Supporting People, Local Authority Housing and independent providers to enable access for the homeless 16 & 17 year olds known to IYS to suitable housing</p> <p>Ensure, in partnership with SCS, that the needs of the “at risk” and of the “youth offending” populations are addressed as appropriate via the SCS led CAF, child protection, Child in Need and LAC services</p>				
<p>Prevention / Tacking Disadvantage Work with Kent Police and Specialist Children’s Services to develop working practice in anticipation of the new Police & Crime Commissioner in 2013</p>	<p>(Priorities 15 & 16) A strategy for tackling disadvantage and for the prevention of youth crime agreed for 2013.14</p>	<p>Nick Wilkinson</p>	<p>September 2012</p>	<p>January 2013</p>

SECTION D: RESOURCES

Budget Profile Summary 2012-13

The youth justice element of the IYS Budget for 2012/13 is £5.8m, a reduction of £0.2m when compared to the total for 2011/12. This can, in part, be accounted for by the reduction of £99.5k in the grant funding provided by the National Youth Justice Board which totals £1.7m.

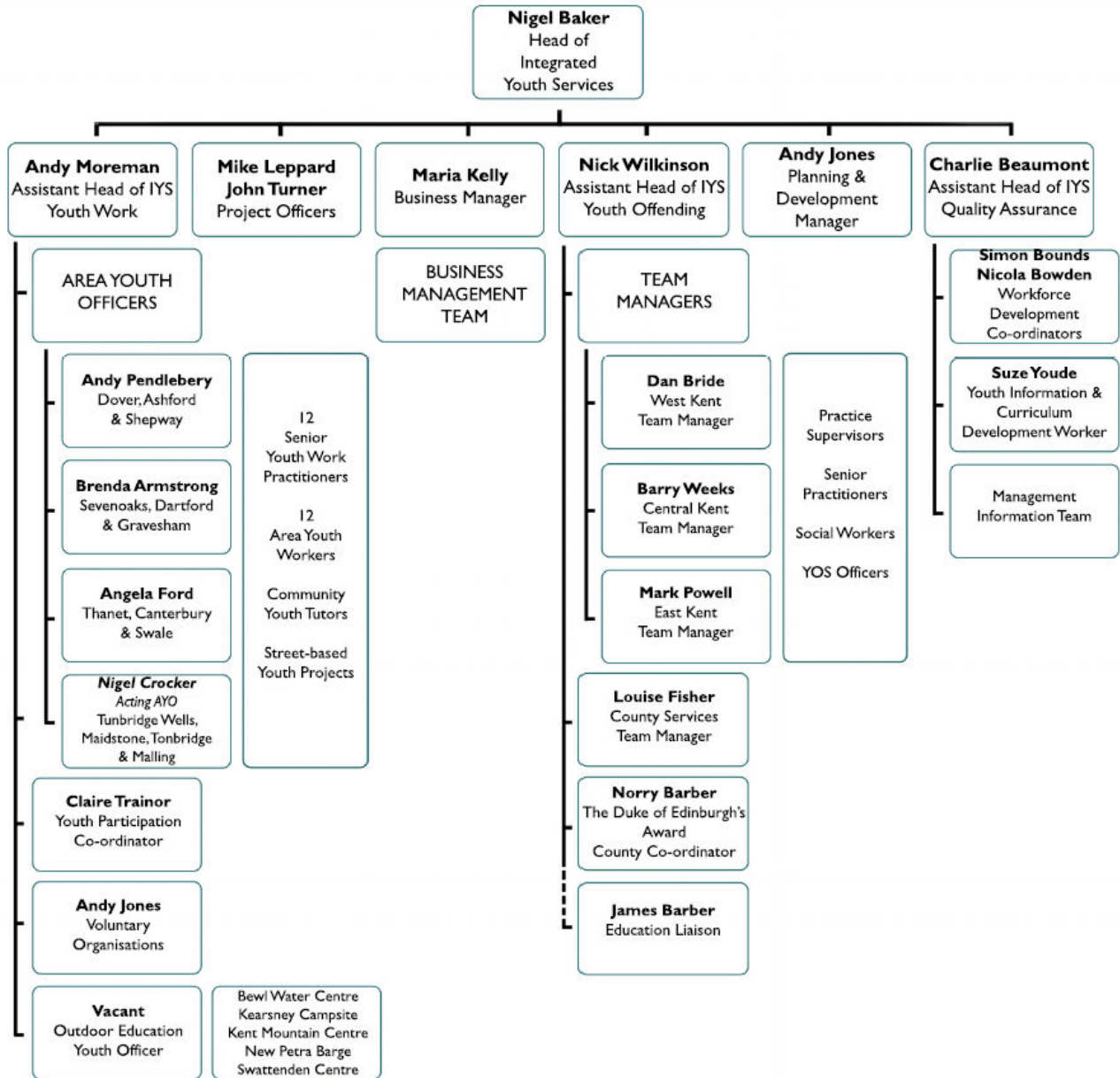
The County Council contributes £3.4m, 58.6% of the total.

The remainder of the budget total, £0.7m, is provided by the other statutory partners responsible for the management and resourcing of YOS (Health, Education, Children's Social Services, Police and Probation).

Staffing Profile – Youth Justice within IYS Structure

2011/12 (match up to 2011/12 plan)	YOS	2012/13 as at 1st April 2012
Grade KR 13 (or equivalent) and above	1.5	1.5
Grade KR 12 (or equivalent) and below	118.5	118.5
TOTAL	123.15	123.15
Of the above total, the estimated FTE which are externally funded	21.6	21.6
Number of volunteers (where known)	103	103

Integrated Youth Services Management Structure



SECTION E: RISK ANALYSIS AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY

The business objectives set out in this plan are monitored to ensure they will be delivered. Risks associated with potential non-delivery and the controls in place to mitigate those risks, have been assessed and documented as part of the Annual Operating Plan process. A risk plan has been developed as necessary.

During 2012/13, IYS must manage an effective merger of the current Youth and Youth Offending Services while needing to maintain the required improvement in the management and delivery of youth justice services. The performance framework for the Service, as set out in Section F, will enable the management team to check whether key priorities are being met.

The youth justice arm of the Service will need to ensure that the improvements, made in response to the findings of both the Core Case and the Care Quality Commission Inspections, are sustained and then endorsed by the Youth Justice Board. The YJB is responsible for monitoring progress made by the Service towards the objectives included in the CCI Improvement Plan. The plans for an integrated workforce development strategy and for maintaining routine case audits and a self inspection regime are designed to promote higher levels of competence and to enable the extent of progress being made to be monitored.

National research has indicated a correlation between a downturn in the economy and an increase in both disadvantage, in the numbers of those who become at risk of offending and in the level of, particularly acquisitive, crime. The structure, the model and the resources of the IYS provide opportunities for the IYS to counter these risks:

- (i) the establishing during the year of the multi agency District hubs which will both encourage and facilitate co-ordinated responses to both disadvantage and to both those at risk of offending and those with a history of offending
- (ii) the commissioning strategy enabling accurate targeting of the priorities for the Service with respect to both specified communities and populations
- (iii) the alignment of youth services with the current YISPs, and the opportunities to be party to the community based budget and Troubled Families initiatives should result in a strengthening of the preventative work delivered
- (iv) continuing to implement a greater diversity in the role of the volunteer to enable them to support, via for example acting as Mentors, the delivery of statutory interventions and as Conference Facilitators the greater usage of restorative processes

The Service will benefit from developments being led by partners such as:

- (i) Specialist Children's Services – early intervention, adolescent, parenting and placement commissioning strategies should assist targeted youth work, prevention and interventions designed to reduce the risk of re-offending
- (ii) Health – the new arrangements for Community CAMHS should improve access for the at risk and the offending populations to services at both Tiers 2 & 3

- (iii) Police – the ongoing commitment to the application of restorative processes to divert, where appropriate, children and young people from the youth justice system and the maintaining with the youth justice arm of the Service to joint management of the Deter Young Offender (i.e. the most prolific in terms of volume of crime committed)
- (iv) the National Offender Management Service – assisting IYS with an increase in the number of young people within the youth justice system for whom the two Attendance Centres in the county can deliver interventions
- (v) the Troubled Families initiative with its targeting of the behaviour and educational performance of the children of the families targeted

The business objectives set out in this plan will continue to be monitored quarterly to ensure they are being delivered.

Business Continuity – the youth justice services have a Business Continuity plan. The high priority areas with “no tolerable period of disruption” are the following functions:

- Sharing information with partner agencies in regards to service or person specific information
- Supporting CareWorks, the electronic case management system to enable case records to be maintained so enabling effective information sharing
- Providing administrative support to critical functions
- Supporting the Referral Order process and Court hearings, including Court Duty cover for both Kent and Medway at Occasional Courts on Saturdays and public holidays
- providing Court reports in advance of a hearing and on the day of the hearing
- providing the Remand Management Service
- managing high risk (of re-offending and of serious harm to others) children and young people:
 - engaging with partners in the scheme for Deter Young Offenders (DYO)
 - deliver interventions assessed as high risk including Intensive Supervision Surveillance
 - provide support for young people coming out of custody
- supporting access to suitable emergency accommodation for young people
- identifying the health needs of young people and to refer them to appropriate services

SECTION F: YOUTH JUSTICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & KEY ACTIVITIES

YJ Plan – Performance Framework

Performance Indicator	Actual 2010/11	Statistical Neighbour 2010-11 Outturn			Outturn 2011/12	Target 2012/13*	Floor Performance Standard in 2012/13**
		Family	Regional	National			
Re-offending:							
Number of offences per person included in the cohort	0.87	0.89	1.13	0.88	n/a	0.85	0.95
First Time Entrants:							
Number	1421		6687	42,732	1088*	1178	
FTE's per 100,000 of population	985		809	876	743	875	900
Education, Training & Employment:							
Number full time & part time ETE	724	6166	4674	36898	747		
Percentage full time & part time ETE	69.9	69.9	68.9	72.8	76.9	75.0	75.0
The numbers of NEET	312	2649	2106	13785	225		
Percentage: NEET	30.1%	30.1	31.1	27.2	23.1	25.0	25.0
Accommodation:							
% of 16 / 17 year olds in suitable accommodation	74.0	92.9	87.7	85.5	81.4	90.0	90.0
% of 16 / 17 year olds leaving custody in suitable	63.2	88.6	75.0	75.1	86.8	100	100

Performance Indicator	Actual 2010/11	Statistical Neighbour 2010-11 Outturn			Outturn 2011/12	Target 2012/13*	Floor Performance Standard in 2012/13**
		Family	Regional	National			
accommodation							
Substance Misuse:							
Number of referrals by YOS to substance misuse provider	160				247		
Number taking up treatment	155				134		
Number completing treatment	108				137		
Restorative Justice							
Victims contacted					832		
Number of victims contacted who are children					n/a		
Number of victims participating in restorative processes					n/a		

Key Activity Data & other Management Information

Service Area	2010/11 Outturn	2011/12 Outturn	2012/13 Forecast
<p>Prevention Working with the Youth Inclusion Support Panels to assist the prevention of offending by children and young people referred by either Children's Services, schools or the District based Anti Social Behaviour Teams. Staff will work either independently or as part of a Team Around the Child</p>	217	202	360
<p>The assessment of children and young people notified to the Service by both the Police and the Courts National Standards for Youth Justice (2009) require case managers to complete the Core Profile ASSET and where risk is indicated a Risk of Serious Harm ASSET – the assessment outcomes then inform the intervention planning process – including Risk & Vulnerability Management Plans</p> <p>An average of 3 assessments and planning processes are undertaken pre and post a statutory disposal being imposed and one per Final Warning (NB in many Final Warning cases YOS activity is restricted to screening)</p> <p>Between April 2011 and March 2012 the Police imposed 575 Final Warnings and the Courts 1177 disposals requiring a YOS intervention</p> <p>Total number of assessments</p>	4654	5172	4500
<p>Court Services Providing staff for duty at the scheduled 6 Youth Courts (will involve between 2 & 4 staff for any Court) (NB in 2010.11 there were 7 Youth Courts per week – in 2011.12 there have been 6 per week)</p> <p>Providing a member of staff when a young person is appearing before an Adult Court – each Team can expect to provide such cover on average once per week at each of the 6 Courts</p> <p>Occasional Courts (3 x each Saturday)</p>	364	312	312
	364	312	312
	156	156	156

Service Area	2010/11 Outturn	2011/12 Outturn	2012/13 Forecast
Total Court sessions to be attended	884	780	780
<p>Report Preparation Preparing reports based on those assessments for the Police, Youth Panels (Referral Orders) and the Courts to advise on the most appropriate response to the offending behaviour:</p> <p>Police for Final Warning purposes (estimate 120 reports prepared for Kent Police)</p> <p>Youth Offender Panels / Referral Orders (average of 2 per Order, initial and end) – 574 Referral Orders were made between April 2011 and March 2012 – the forecast is based on the current model of preparing reports at the start and end of Orders unless there is non compliance and breach proceedings are instigated</p> <p>Pre Sentence Reports – reduced forecast is based on an anticipated lower Court population</p> <p>Total number of reports per year</p>		<p>136</p> <p>1656</p> <p>672</p> <p>2464</p>	<p>120</p> <p>1000</p> <p>550</p> <p>1670</p>
<p>Remand management services (remand is the period between the first hearing at Court and sentence) These include (data used is for the period October 2009 – September 2010):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bail Support & Supervision (National Standards require a minimum of 3 contacts per week) – average length = 4 weeks • Remand to Local Authority Accommodation – placements in the community (foster / residential, with 1 contact per week) – average length = 3 weeks • Court Ordered Secure Remand (a third of the costs of the placement within a Secure Establishment and 100% of the costs of the required escorts, contacts 2 per 4 weeks) – average length = 4 weeks • Remands in Custody (contact 2 per 4 weeks) – average length = 4 weeks <p>Each of the above remand decisions requires contact between either a YOS case manager or a Catch 22 Bail Support Co-ordinator / Worker – the frequency varies between the different types of remand decision.</p>	<p>129</p> <p>10</p> <p>15</p> <p>136</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10</p> <p>23</p> <p>126</p>	<p>130</p> <p>20</p> <p>20</p> <p>110</p>

Service Area	2010/11 Outturn	2011/12 Outturn	2012/13 Forecast
Community based penalties – statutory supervision (National Standards for Youth Justice 2009) Referral Orders & Reparation Orders (First Tier)	600	640	600
Youth Rehabilitation Orders (NB includes approximately 90 young people subject to Intensive Supervision & Surveillance but not those undertaking only Unpaid Work as supervised by Kent Probation)	623	600	550
Total community based supervision requirement	1023	1240	1150
Custody – through care and resettlement	113	104	95
Appropriate Adult Service – provided by the Young Lives Foundation. The Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 requires an Appropriate Adult to be present when a young person between 10 – 16 years inclusive is interviewed by the Police. Their role is to act an impartial guardian of the procedure to ensure fairness. In most instances this role is undertaken by a parent / carer but when neither is available to attend the Young Lives Foundation provide a volunteer.	1121	1112	1100
Mediation Services x 3 (NB the current agreements with the three Mediation Services are subject to review and possibly amendment) Victim Liaison Officers x 6 – contact with victims of youth crime. Each Mediation Service is contracted to employ two VLOs. Contact is established with victims to obtain information from them about the impact of the offending behaviour on them (for Panel and Court Reports) and to offer the opportunity for their participation in restorative processes such as Youth Offender Panels and mediation.		832	
Young People’s Substance Misuse Service – KCA is commissioned by KDAAT to provide 4 Named Drugs Workers to whom case managers refer in line with assessment outcomes for further assessment and possible treatment	160	247	200

Subject: Kent Troubled Families Programme

1. Background context

(1) The Troubled Families Programme was launched by the Prime Minister on 28 March 2012 and is a continuation of the agenda to transform the lives of families with complex needs. These families are characterised by there being no adult in the family working, children not being in school and family members being involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. Locally, the scheme is known as the *Kent Troubled Families Programme*.

(2) A Multi-Agency Steering Group comprising senior representatives from KCC, Health, Probation, Police, Kent Joint Chiefs, and Jobcentre Plus provides multi-agency strategic direction for the programme.

2. Kent Troubled Families Programme Delivery

Kent confirmed its participation and commitment to the Troubled Families Programme including the DCLG Payment by Results (PbR) Financial Framework (published 28 March 2012). Kent advised the DCLG on 2 May 2012 of its intention to work with 1,082 families in the first year of the programme. This represents 42.26% of DCLG's estimated 2,560 families in Kent for the next three years.

3. Service Integration and Youth Justice

(1) The Kent Troubled Families Programme will deliver on the outcomes within the Payment by Results Framework:

- Families achieve all 3 of the education and crime/ASB measures set out below where relevant:
- Each child in the family has had fewer than 3 fixed exclusions and less than 15% of unauthorised absences in the last 3 school terms
- A 60% reduction in anti-social behaviour across the family in the last 6 months
- Offending rate by all minors (young people under the age of 18 years) in the family reduced by at least a 33% in the last 6 months

(2) The work of the Kent Youth Offending Service is integral to the delivery of services and outcomes for young people within the cohort of families identified in the Troubled Families Programme. A decision to integrate the youth offending and youth service into the Integrated Youth Service has increased the capacity of the support to young offenders and those at risk of offending ensuring swift access to specialist provision and equally swift access to universal provision that addresses and provides positive activities for young people.

(3) The programme intends to bring major changes in models of service delivery across the public services of Kent to ensure pertinent issues affecting young people

can be addressed through appropriate and timely interventions thereby, significantly reducing the risk of youth offending and/or reoffending.

(4) Additionally and most importantly, the programme will work towards a review of the impact of current services and in partnership with key partners including the Kent Police, Health, Probation, the youth offending service and children’s services, through redesign and recommissioning services change the models of service delivery. The programme will ensure that the development of evidence based preventative and rehabilitative services are supported and encouraged firstly, to bridge existing gaps in local services for young offenders in the short term and in the longer term, change the landscape of service provision.

(5) In Kent, the Youth Justice System is very well established and working effectively in preventing the majority of young offenders from committing crime. Issues such as family breakdown, educational underachievement, substance misuse, violence and mental illness continue to affect a small but significant percentage of Kent’s young people. This group of young people have been identified as meeting criteria 1 and 2 (table 1) of PbR Financial Framework and are included in the cohort of families with which Kent will work. The cost of these individuals to the statutory support services is significant and in some cases the money being spent is not providing lasting results or changing lives.

TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES IN KENT BASED ON CRITERIA 1 & 2		
District	No. of families meeting Criteria 1: (exclusions & absences)	No. of families meeting Criteria 1 and Criteria 2: (YOS/crime/ASB)
Ashford	752	82
Canterbury	976	121
Dartford	549	40
Dover	799	113
Gravesham	659	76
Maidstone	896	80
Sevenoaks	484	43
Shepway	779	95
Swale	1138	156
Thanet	1193	154
Tonbridge and Malling	631	74
Tunbridge Wells	575	48
Total	9431	1082

(6) The Integrated Youth Service will contribute to the Integrated Adolescent Support Service to be rolled out in Kent during 2012/13. This will provide another strand of support to those young people identified within the Troubled Families cohort

and also provide services to young people for whom offending is not a sustained pattern of behaviour.

(7) The Youth Offending Service, in addition to the other statutory support services, is an integral part of the Kent Troubled Families Programme. Working in close partnership with the Programme Team, the service will contribute towards delivering the outcomes defined in the Programme's Outcomes and Evaluation Framework through reviewing needs and monitoring effectiveness of the tailored support packages.

By: John Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Finance & Business Support

To: County Council – 13 September 2012

Subject: Treasury Management Annual Review 2011-12

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To report a summary of Treasury Management activities in 2011-12

FOR INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

1. The Council's treasury management activity is underpinned by CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management ("the Code"), which requires local authorities to produce annually Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement on the likely financing and investment activity. The Code also recommends that members are informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year.
2. Treasury Management is defined as: "the management of the local Council's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks".

Overall responsibility for treasury management remains with the Council. No treasury management activity is without risk; the effective identification and management of risk are integral to the Council's treasury management objectives.

3. This report:
 - Is prepared in accordance with the revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code and the revised Prudential Code;
 - Reports on the implications of treasury decisions and transactions;
 - Gives details of the outturn position on treasury management transactions in 2011-12;
 - Confirms compliance with Treasury limits and Prudential Indicators.
4. This report was agreed by Governance & Audit Committee on 26 July.

ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

5. At the time of determining the strategy in March 2011, there were tentative signs that the UK was emerging from recession with the worst of the financial crisis behind it. Recovery in growth was expected to be slow and uneven as the

austerity measures announced in the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review were implemented in order to bring down the budget deficit and government borrowing and rebalance the economy and public sector finances. Inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) had remained stubbornly above 3%; unemployment was at a 16 year high at 2.5 million and was expected to rise further as the public and private sector contracted. There was also a high degree of uncertainty surrounding Eurozone sovereign debt sustainability.

Inflation

6. During 2011-12 inflation remained high with CPI (the official measure) and RPI rising in September to 5.2% and 5.6% respectively primarily due to escalating utility prices and the January 2011 increase in VAT to 20%. Inflation eased slowly as reductions in transport costs, food prices intensifying competition amongst retailers and supermarkets and the VAT effect falling out in 2012, pushed February 2012's CPI down to 3.4% and RPI to 3.7%. This, however, was not enough to offset low wage growth and, as a result, Britons suffered the biggest drop in disposable income in more than three decades.

Growth, Employment, House Prices

7. Growth, on the other hand, remained elusive. The Bank's Quarterly Inflation Reports painted a bleak picture as the outlook was downgraded to around 1% in 2011 and 2012 alongside. The unresolved problems in the Eurozone weighed negatively on global economic prospects. UK GDP was positive in only the first and third calendar quarters of 2011; annual GDP to December 2011 registered just 0.5%. Unemployment rose to 2.68 million and, worryingly, youth unemployment broke through the 1 million barrier. House prices struggled to show sustained growth and consumer confidence remained fragile.

Monetary Policy

8. (1) It was not surprising that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee maintained the status quo on the Bank Rate which has now been held at 0.5% since March 2009, but increased asset purchases by £75bn in October 2011 and another £50bn in February 2012 taking the Quantitative Easing (QE) total to £325bn.
- (2) The policy measures announced in the March 2012 Budget Statement were judged to be neutral. The government stuck broadly to its austerity plans as the economy was rebalanced slowly. The opinion of the independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) was that the government was on track to meet its fiscal targets; the OBR identified oil price shocks and a further deterioration in Europe as the main risks to the outlook for growth and in meeting the fiscal target.

US

9. The US economy continued to show tentative, positive signs of growth alongside a gradual decline in the unemployment rate. The US Federal Reserve (the Fed) committed to keeping policy rates low until 2014, although a modest shift in the Fed's language in March, alongside an improvement in

economic activity, cast doubts about the permanence of the Fed's policy commitment.

Europe

- 10 (1) In Europe, sovereign debt problems for some peripheral countries became critical. Several policy initiatives were largely ineffectual; two bailout packages were required for Greece and one for Portugal, and the contagion spread to Spain and Italy whose sovereign bonds came under increased stress in November. Standard & Poor's downgraded nine European sovereigns and the EFSF bailout fund. The successful Greek sovereign bond swap in March 2012 shortly after its second bailout package allowed it to avoid bankruptcy later that month, but it was not a long-term solution. The ECB's €1.3 trillion Long-Term Refinancing Operations (LTROs) flooded the financial markets with ultra-cheap 3-year liquidity and relieved much of the immediate funding pressure facing European banks in 2012, but markets ultimately took the view that the LTROs simply served to delay a resolution of, rather than addressed, the fundamental issues underpinning Euroland's problems.
- (2) Market sentiment oscillated between 'risk on' / 'risk off' modes, this swing becoming the norm for much of 2011-12 as investors shifted between riskier assets and the relative safety of higher quality government bonds. Gilts, however, were a principal beneficiary of the 'risk-off' theme which helped push yields lower. There was little market reaction to or impact on gilts by the decision by Fitch and Moody's to change the outlook on the UK's triple A rating from stable to negative. Over the 12-month period from April 2011 to March 2012, 5-year gilt yields more than halved from 2.40% to 1.06%; 10-year gilt yields fell from 3.67% to 2.25%; 20-year yields fell from 4.30% to 3.20% and 50-year yields from 4.20% to 3.35%. PWLB borrowing rates fell commensurately but the cost of carry associated with borrowing longer-term loans whilst investing the monies temporarily until required for capital financing remained high, in excess of 4.1% for 20-year PWLB Maturity borrowing.

Credit

11. Europe's banking sector was inextricably linked with the sovereign sector. Sharp moves in sovereign CDS and bond yields were fairly correlated with the countries' banking sector performance. The deterioration in the prospects for real growth had implications for earnings and profit growth and banks' creditworthiness. The European Banking Council's banking stress tests of 70 EU banks undertaken in October 2011 identified a collective €106 billion shortfall to banks' Core Tier 1 ratio of 9%. The slowdown in debt and equity capital Market activity also had implications for banks' funding and liquidity. These principal factors, as well as a reassessment by the rating agencies of future sovereign support for banks, resulted in downgrades to the long-term ratings of several UK and non-UK financial institutions in autumn 2011.

BORROWING REQUIREMENT AND DEBT MANAGEMENT

12. The overall borrowing position is summarised opposite:

	Balance on 31/3/2011 £000's	Debt Maturing £000's	New Borrowing £000's	Balance on 31/3/2012 £000's	Avg Rate %
Capital Funding Requirement	1,309,517				
Short Term Borrowing	0	0	0	0	0
Long Term Borrowing	1,096,333	57,024	50,000	1,089,309	5.30
TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT	1,096,333	57,024	50,000	1,089,309	5.30

13. The PWLB remains the Council's preferred source of borrowing given the transparency and control that its facilities continue to provide.

Loans Borrowed during 2011-12	Principal £000's	Average Rate %	Average Maturity (years)
PWLB Fixed Rate Maturity Loans	0	0	0
PWLB Fixed Rate EIP Loans	0	0	0
Market Loans	50,000	3.83	46.5
Total	50,000	3.83	46.5

14. As significant cuts to local government funding have put pressure on Council finances, the strategy followed was to minimise debt interest payments without compromising the longer-term stability of the portfolio. The differential between the cost of new longer-term debt and the return generated on the Council's temporary investment returns was significant (between 2% - 4%). The use of internal resources in lieu of borrowing was judged to be the most cost effective means of funding £7.024m of maturing loans as well as £14.83m of capital expenditure. This has, for the time being, lowered overall treasury risk by reducing both external debt and temporary investments. This strategy is expected to be maintained in 2012/13.
15. No debt rescheduling was undertaken in the year.
16. Changes in the debt portfolio have increased the average life from 27.82 years to 30.13 years.

INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

17. The CLG's Investment Guidance requires local authorities to focus on security and liquidity, rather than yield.
18. Security of capital remained the Council's main investment objective. This was maintained by following the Council's counterparty policy as set out in its

Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2011-12. Investments during the year included

- Deposits with the Debt Management Office
 - Call accounts and deposits with Banks and Building Societies systemically important to the UK. These were:
 - Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) Group
 - Lloyds Banking Group
 - Barclays
 - HSBC
 - Santander UK
 - Nationwide
 - Standard Chartered
19. Counterparty credit quality was assessed and monitored with reference to credit ratings, credit default swaps, GDP of the country in which the institution operates, the country's net debt as a percentage of GDP, any potential support mechanisms and share price. The minimum long-term counterparty credit rating determined for the 2011-12 treasury strategy was A+ across rating agencies Fitch, S&P and Moody's. Downgrades in autumn 2011 of the long-term ratings of the RBS Group, the Lloyds Banking Group and Nationwide resulted in their ratings falling below the Authority's minimum threshold of A+. The downgrades were driven principally by the agencies' view of the extent of future government support (flowing from the recommendations to the government from the Independent Commission on Banking) rather than a deterioration in the institutions' creditworthiness. Further use of these counterparties was suspended until a revised criterion of A- was approved by Cabinet in February 2012. Santander UK remained suspended throughout the year.
20. In keeping with CLG's Guidance on Investments, the Council maintained a sufficient level of liquidity through the use of overnight deposits and of call accounts.
21. The Council sought to optimise returns commensurate with its objectives of security and liquidity. The UK Bank Rate was maintained at 0.5% through the year. The Council considered an appropriate risk management response to uncertain and deteriorating credit conditions in Europe was to shorten maturities for new investments.
22. The Council's investment income for the year was £1.7m compared with a budget of £2.0m. The Council held average cash balances of £307.98m during the year. These represented working cash balances / capital receipts, and the Council's reserves.

23. All investments made during the year complied with the Council's agreed Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators, Treasury Management Practices and prescribed limits. No control issues were identified when the treasury management activities were once again subject to internal audit by Deloitte.

24. Deposits as at 31 March 2012 are shown in Appendix 1.

ICELANDIC EXPOSURE

25. The Council had an exposure of £50.35m to Icelandic Banks (£15.0m Glitnir, £17.0m Landsbanki and £18.35m Heritable). In October 2011 the Icelandic Supreme Court confirmed that UK local authorities were preferred creditors in Glitnir and Landsbanki. This will result in 100% recoveries on both banks.

26. Glitnir – in March 2012 a full recovery was made – 18% of the total payment was in Icelandic Krona and this is still held in an escrow account in Iceland. UK local Council representatives continue to pursue a resolution of this issue.

27. Landsbanki – dividends to the value of 43p in the £ have now been made – only 2% was in Icelandic Krona. Regular dividend payments will now be made.

28. Heritable – the estimated recovery is 90% and to date 75% has been received.

29. Total recoveries received to date are £35.3m. The Council will comply with the CIPFA Guidance on the accounting arrangements for the deposits and dividends.

COMPLIANCE WITH PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

30. The Council can confirm that it has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2011-12, which were set as part of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement. Details can be found in Appendix 2.

TREASURY ADVISER

31. KCC currently employs Arlingclose as Treasury Advisers.

RECOMMENDATION

32. Members are asked to note the report.

Alison Mings
Treasury and Investments Manager
Ext: 7000 6294

Deposits as at 31 March 2012

Instrument Type	Counterparty	Principal Amount	End Date	Interest Rate	Territory
	Total Icelandic Bank Deposits	£21,131,926.92			
Same Day Call Deposit	Bank of Scotland	£34,000,000.00	n/a	0.75	UK Bank
Fixed Deposit	Barclays Bank	£5,000,000.00	31/05/2013	6.8	UK Bank
Fixed Deposit	Barclays Bank	£2,000,000.00	10/04/2012	1.359	UK Bank
Fixed Deposit	Barclays Bank	£5,000,000.00	08/06/2012	1.37	UK Bank
Same Day Call Deposit	Barclays Bank	£22,000,000.00	n/a	0.5	UK Bank
Fixed Deposit	Barclays Bank	£3,000,000.00	28/05/2012	0.72	UK Bank
Fixed Deposit	HSBC	£5,000,000.00	02/04/2012	0.4	UK Bank
Fixed Deposit	HSBC	£4,000,000.00	03/04/2012	0.4	UK Bank
Fixed Deposit	HSBC	£6,000,000.00	04/04/2012	0.4	UK Bank
Fixed Deposit	HSBC	£9,200,000.00	10/04/2012	0.4	UK Bank
Fixed Deposit	HSBC	£7,400,000.00	13/04/2012	0.4	UK Bank
Fixed Deposit	HSBC	£8,000,000.00	11/04/2012	0.4	UK Bank
Fixed Deposit	Lloyds TSB	£4,000,000.00	08/05/2012	2.1	UK Bank
Fixed Deposit	Lloyds TSB	£5,000,000.00	26/06/2012	1.4	UK Bank
Fixed Deposit	Lloyds TSB	£5,000,000.00	31/05/2012	0.75	UK Bank
Fixed Deposit	Lloyds TSB	£5,000,000.00	29/06/2012	1.4	UK Bank
Fixed Deposit	Lloyds TSB	£6,000,000.00	10/05/2012	0.65	UK Bank
Same Day Call Deposit	NatWest	£35,000,000.00	n/a	1.15	UK Bank
LIBOR Fixed Deposit	Royal Bank of Scotland	£5,000,000.00	18/10/2013	1.68956	UK Bank
Same Day Call Deposit	Royal Bank of Scotland	£35,000,000.00	n/a	1.25	UK Bank
	Total UK Bank Deposits	£210,600,000.00			
Fixed Deposit	Nationwide Building Society	£1,200,000.00	04/05/2012	1.17	UK Building Society
Fixed Deposit	Nationwide Building Society	£10,000,000.00	04/05/2012	0.62	UK Building Society
Fixed Deposit	Nationwide Building Society	£10,650,000.00	25/04/2012	0.55	UK Building Society
Fixed Deposit	Nationwide Building Society	£13,000,000.00	25/06/2012	0.98	UK Building Society
Fixed Deposit	Nationwide Building Society	£1,500,000.00	27/06/2012	0.98	UK Building Society
Fixed Deposit	Nationwide Building Society	£3,650,000.00	30/04/2012	0.55	UK Building Society

Fixed Deposit	Nationwide Building Society	£5,000,000.00	01/06/2012	0.74	UK Building Society
Fixed Deposit	Nationwide Building Society	£5,000,000.00	02/07/2012	1.1	UK Building Society
	Total UK Building Society Deposits	£50,000,000.00			
	Grand Total of All Deposits	£281,731,926.92			

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS**1. Estimate of capital expenditure (excluding PFI)**

Actual 2010-11	£377.147m	
Original estimate 2011-12	£305.448m	
Revised estimate 2011-12	£273.377m	(this includes the rolled forward re-phasing from 2010-11)

2. Estimate of capital financing requirement (underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose)

	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 Original Estimate	2011-12 Outturn as at 31.03.12
	£m	£m	£m
Capital Financing Requirement	1,286.518	1,308.640	1,300.801
Annual increase in underlying need to borrow	36.902	35.527	14.283

In the light of current commitments and planned expenditure, forecast net borrowing by the Council will not exceed the Capital Financing Requirement.

3. Estimate of ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream

Actual 2010-11	12.85%
Original estimate 2011-12	11.77%
Revised estimate 2011-12	13.98%

The actual 2010-11 and revised estimate 2011-12 includes PFI Finance Lease costs but these costs were not included in the original estimate calculation.

4. Operational Boundary for External Debt

The operational boundary for debt is determined having regard to actual levels of debt, borrowing anticipated in the capital plan, the requirements of treasury strategy and prudent requirements in relation to day to day cash flow management.

The operational boundary for debt will not be exceeded in 2011-12

(a) Operational boundary for debt relating to KCC assets and activities

	Prudential 2011-12 £m	Indicator Position as at 31.03.12 £m
Borrowing	1,158	1,044
Other Long Term Liabilities	0	0
	<hr/> 1,158	<hr/> 1,044

- (b) Operational boundary for total debt managed by KCC including that relating to Medway Council etc (pre Local Government Reorganisation)

	Prudential Indicator 2011-12 £m	Position as at 31.03.12 £m
Borrowing	1,204	1,089
Other Long Term Liabilities	0	0
	<hr/> 1,204	<hr/> 1,089

5. **Authorised Limit for external debt**

The authorised limit includes additional allowance, over and above the operational boundary to provide for unusual cash movements. It is a statutory limit set and revised by the County Council. The revised limits for 2011-12 are:

- a) Authorised limit for debt relating to KCC assets and activities

	£m
Borrowing	1,198
Other long term liabilities	0
	<hr/> 1,198

- (b) Authorised limit for total debt managed by KCC including that relating to Medway Council etc

	£m
Borrowing	1,204
Other long term liabilities	0
	<hr/> 1,204

The additional allowance over and above the operational boundary has not needed to be utilised and external debt, has and will be maintained well within the authorised limit.

6. **Compliance with CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services**

The Council has adopted the Code of Practice on Treasury Management and has adopted a Treasury Management Policy Statement. Compliance has been tested and validated by our independent professional treasury advisers.

7. **Upper limits of fixed interest rate and variable rate exposures**

The Council has determined the following upper limits for 2011-12

Fixed interest rate exposure	100%
Variable rate exposure	50%

These limits have been complied with in 2011-12.

8. Upper limits for maturity structure of borrowings

	Upper limit	Lower limit	As at 31.03.12
	%	%	%
Under 12 months	25	0	0
12 months and within 24 months	40	0	7.07
24 months and within 5 years	60	0	5.44
5 years and within 10 years	80	0	11.02
10 years and within 20 years	25	10	10.74
20 years and within 30 years	25	5	15.92
30 years and within 40 years	25	5	12.01
40 years and within 50 years	25	10	16.59
50 years and within 60 years	30	10	21.21

9. Upper limit for principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days

Indicator	Actual
£50m	£10m

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

To: County Council – 13 September 2012

Subject: Petition Scheme Review

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The report invites the County Council to approve a number of changes to the Council’s Petition Scheme, following a review by the Selection and Member Services Committee on 10 July 2012.

Introduction

1. (1) With effect from 1 April 2012, section 46 of the Localism Act 2011 revoked the requirements under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 for councils to make, publish and comply with a scheme for the handling of petitions, and provide a facility for e-petitions.

(2) At its meeting on 10 July 2012, the Selection and Member Services Committee 2012 considered a report from the Head of Democratic Services reviewing the Petition Scheme (see attached as an **Annex**). Members were invited to express their views and make recommendations to the County Council with regard to aspects of the scheme that could benefit from being altered in the light of experience.

(3) The Selection and Member Services Committee agreed the majority of the recommendations in the report but made the following amendments to the original recommendations as set out below:

Original recommendation	Recommendation by Selection and Member Services Committee to County Council
(a) that there be no change to the details that must be included for a petition to be valid (paragraphs 3(3) & (4) refer);	(a) (i) There be no change to the details that must be included for a petition to be valid, other than that petitions should be signed by people who live, work or study in Kent (paragraphs 3(3) & (4) of the report refer); Effect -This removes visitors to Kent from the list of those who can sign petitions
(e) the provision for a debate at County Council to be triggered by a petition that achieves 14,000 or more signatures; the provision for debates	(a) (v) Introduction of amended provisions for: • Debates for those petitions that achieve

Original recommendation	Recommendation by Selection and Member Services Committee to County Council
<p>for those petitions that achieve between 7,000 and 13,999 signatures at the appropriate Cabinet Committee; and provision for petitions that achieve up to 6,999 signatures to be referred to the appropriate Cabinet Member(s) for response.</p>	<p>10,000 or more signatures to be considered at County Council;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debates for those petitions that achieve between 2,500 and 9,999 signatures to be considered at the appropriate Cabinet Committee; • District/Borough specific petitions of 1,000 or more signatures to be considered at the most appropriate local level (usually by a Local Board, Locality Board or a Joint Transportation Board); • Petitions that achieve up to 1,000 signatures to be referred to the appropriate Cabinet Member(s) for response, which may include a discussion at a Local Board, Locality Board or Joint Transportation Board (paragraphs 3(10) and (11) of the report refer),
	<p>(b) The Petition Scheme agreed by the County Council be reviewed by the Selection & Member Services Committee after 12 months.</p>

<p>Recommendations</p> <p>2. The County Council is invited to approve the following recommendations from the Selection and Member Services Committee:</p> <p>(a) Revisions to the Petition Scheme, together with the amendments and aspects to be retained, as set out below:</p> <p>(i) There be no change to the details that must be included for a petition to be valid, other than that petitions should be signed by people who live, work or study in Kent (paragraphs 3(3) & (4) of the report refer);</p> <p>(ii) Retention of timescale for processing and responding to petitions (paragraph 3(5) of the report refers);</p> <p>(iii) Replacement of the current list of ways that the County Council will respond to petitions with the following wording (paragraphs 3(6) to (8) of the report refer):</p> <p>“Each petition that does not have the required number of signatures to trigger a debate will receive a written response from the appropriate</p>
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Cabinet Member(s), which will set out their views on the petition and what action, if any, will be taken.“

- (iv) Retention of the provision to consider petitions on matters outside the County Council's direct remit but over which it may have some influence (paragraph 3(9) of the report refers);
 - (v) Introduction of amended provisions for:
 - Debates for those petitions that achieve 10,000 or more signatures to be considered at County Council;
 - Debates for those petitions that achieve between 2,500 and 9,999 signatures to be considered at the appropriate Cabinet Committee;
 - District/Borough specific petitions of 1,000 or more signatures to be considered at the most appropriate local level (usually by a Local Board, Locality Board or a Joint Transportation Board);
 - Petitions that achieve up to 1,000 signatures to be referred to the appropriate Cabinet Member(s) for response, which may include a discussion at a Local Board, Locality Board or Joint Transportation Board (paragraphs 3(10) and (11) of the report refer),
 - (vi) Amendment of the time allocated to the lead petitioner and Cabinet Member to speak on the petition at County Council or Cabinet Committees debates to three minutes (paragraph 3(12) of the report refers);
 - (vii) Retention of the facility for e-petitions (paragraphs 3(13) and (14) of the report refer);
 - (viii) Removal of the requirement for an officer to give evidence at the Scrutiny Committee if a petition requesting this achieves a certain number of signatures (paragraph 3(15) of the report refers); and
 - (ix) Amendment of the process set out in the scheme for reviewing the way that a petition has been dealt with, to refer any requests to the Selection and Member Services Committee and the terms of reference of that Committee be amended accordingly (paragraphs 3(16) and (17) of the report refer); and
- (b) The Petition Scheme agreed by the County Council be reviewed by the Selection & Member Services Committee after 12 months.

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services

Tel: 01622 694002
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Background Information: *None*

By: Alex King – Deputy Leader
Peter Sass - Head of Democratic Services

To: Selection and Member Services Committee – 10 July 2012

Subject: Petition Scheme - Review

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report provides information on the current Petition Scheme to assist Members in their consideration of possible amendments to the scheme in the light of the revocation the legal requirements around the administration of petitions.

Introduction

1. (1) With effect from 1 April 2012, section 46 of the Localism Act 2011 revoked the requirements under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 for councils to make, publish and comply with a scheme for the handling of petitions, and provide a facility for e-petitions. This report proposes that the County Council retains a Petition Scheme but explains the options for amending the current scheme in the light of experience. A copy of the current Petition Scheme is attached (**Appendix 1**).

(2) Since the current Petition Scheme was introduced on 1 September 2010, there have been 101 Paper Petitions and 31 e-petitions submitted, of which 15 have triggered a debate at County Council. Attached as **Appendix 2** is a list of petitions received.

(3) The Petition Scheme was amended at County Council on 29 March 2012 to take account of the new governance arrangements.

Petition Scheme

2. (1) Prior to the introduction of the Petition Scheme, there were established processes in Directorates for handling petitions, but these were not consistent across KCC and there was no central record kept of petitions received and the responses given. The biggest advantage of the current Petition Scheme is that the public know that if they submit a petition they will receive a response and whether, depending on the amount of signatures, it will lead to a debate at County Council. The petition scheme sets out a transparent process which conforms with the “One Council” ethos and should be retained.

(2) Set out below are the individual elements of the current system and suggested amendments to them.

Guidelines for submitting a petition (paragraph 1 of the Petition Scheme)

(3) The current scheme states:

“(a) Petitions submitted to the County Council must include:

- (i) a clear and concise statement covering the subject of the petition. It should state what action the petitioners wish the County Council to take.*
- (ii) the name and address of the petition organiser (this is the person we will contact to explain how we will respond to the petition), and*
- (iii) the name and address and signature of any person supporting the petition. (Petitions can be signed by people who live, work, study in or visit the County Council’s area).”*

(4) Requirements (a) (i) and (ii) are administrative matters. Section (a) (iii) limits persons that can sign a petition to those who live, work or study in or visit KCC’s area. However, as it is not possible from a name and address to know if someone works or visits the area, officers have taken the view that as long as a name and an apparently valid address is used the signature is taken to be valid. Petitions are also checked for duplicate signatures if the number of signatures is near the trigger figure. Detailed checks would be very resource intensive and therefore cannot be considered at this time.

What the Council will do when it receives a petition (paragraph 2 of the Petition Scheme)

(5) The current process set out in the scheme is that an acknowledgement is sent to the petition organiser within 5 working days of receipt of the petition, confirming that they will receive a response to the petition within 20 working days of receipt, or in the case of an e-petition within 20 working days of the e-petition closing. This process mirrors the timescale for dealing with Freedom of Information requests and has worked well since it was introduced in 2010 and should continue.

How the will County Council respond to petitions (paragraph 3 of the Petition Scheme)

(6) The current Scheme sets out the following ways that the County Council may respond to a petition:

- (i) taking the action requested in the petition
- (ii) considering the petition at a Council meeting
- (iii) holding an inquiry into the matter
- (iv) undertaking research into the matter
- (v) holding a public meeting
- (vi) holding a consultation
- (vii) holding a meeting with petitioners
- (viii) referring the petition for consideration by one of the Council’s Cabinet Committees or in the case of cross cutting issues the Head of Democratic Services in consultation with the Chairmen of the relevant Cabinet Committees/appropriate Cabinet Members will determine which Cabinet Committee will consider the petition
- (ix) calling a referendum
- (x) writing to the petition organiser setting out our views about the request in the petition”

(7) In practise, any petition that does not receive the required number of signatures to trigger a debate at County Council is passed to the Directorate to ensure that a response is sent from the Cabinet Member.

(8) It is recommended that the following paragraph be added to the scheme to reflect current practise:

“Each petition that does not have the required number of signatures to trigger a debate will receive a written response from the appropriate Cabinet Member, which will set out their views about the request in the petition and what action, if any, will be taken.”

Petitions not directly related to County Council functions. (Paragraph 3(d) of the Petition Scheme)

(9) The current scheme includes provision for the County Council to consider petitions on matters outside its direct remit, but over which it may have some influence or “lobbying power”, e.g. rail services, police or NHS services. It is proposed that this provision should be retained as the County Council is an influential organisation.

Full County Council debates (paragraph 4 of the Petition Scheme)

(10) Since the introduction of the Petition Scheme, all of the petition debates at County Council have been on Executive matters, not matters on which the County Council is able to make a decision. Debates on executive functions can only inform any decision made by the Cabinet Member.

(11) Currently, the number of signatures required to trigger a debate at County Council is 12,000, or 1,000 for a County Council matter relating to a District area. As 1% of the population of the County Councils area is approximately 14,000, it is proposed that this figure be used to trigger a debate at County Council and petitions that achieve between 7,000 and 13,999 signatures be referred to the relevant Cabinet Committee for consideration and debate. As the Locality Board process matures, consideration can be given at a later date to referring some of these matters to the appropriate Board. Petitions that achieve up to 6,999 signatures would be submitted to the relevant Cabinet Member for a response.

(12) There needs to be a clear process so that petitioners know what to expect. Below are the key points of the current petition debate process:

- (a) Lead petitioner or representative(s) are given the opportunity to submit a written statement and have five minutes in total to present the petition at the meeting.
- (b) Debate of maximum of 45 minutes
- (c) Local Members are given the opportunity to speak first in the debate for up to 3 minutes each and the last speaker in the debate is the relevant Cabinet Member who may speak for up to 5 minutes.

To bring this in line with the current length of speeches for Members at County Council I propose that the lead petitioner and Cabinet Member speak on the petition

for three minutes. Members may wish to recommend amendments to the length of debates and speeches and whether a limit should be placed on the number of petition debates to be heard at any one Council or Cabinet Committee meeting.

E-Petitions (paragraph 6 of the Petition Scheme)

(13) The County Council’s e-petition scheme went live on 1 September 2010. The software that supports e-petitions is a free module within our Committee Management system. At the time of writing this report, there have been 30 e-petitions containing 27,104 signatures.

(14) This facility would appear to be popular with the public. It is cost effective to administer and is a good public engagement tool. It is therefore recommended that it be retained even though there is no longer a legal requirement to do so.

Calling an officer to give evidence at the Scrutiny Committee (Paragraph 5 of the Petition Scheme)

(15) As there have been no petitions asking a senior officer to give evidence, I do not consider that it is necessary to include this provision within the new Petition Scheme now that the legal requirement has been revoked.

What happens if a petitioner feels their petition has not been dealt with properly (Paragraph 8 of the Petition Scheme)

(16) There have been no requests from petitioners to review the way that their petition was dealt with. The previous legislation required the scheme to make provision for an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider any requests from a petitioner to review the way that their petition was dealt with (in accordance with the new governance arrangements this was amended to the Scrutiny Committee).

(17) It is proposed, therefore, that any requests to review the way that their petition was dealt with should be referred to the Selection and Member Services Committee for consideration and the terms of reference of that Committee amended accordingly.

<p>Recommendations</p> <p>3. Members are requested to consider recommending to the County Council the following amendments to the petition scheme :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) that there be no change to the details that must be included for a petition to be valid (paragraphs 3(3) & (4) refer);(b) the timescale for processing and responding to petitions be retained (paragraph 3(5) above refers);(c) the replacement of the current list of ways that the County Council will respond to petitions with the following wording:

“Each petition that does not have the required number of signatures to trigger a debate will receive a written response from the appropriate Cabinet Member(s), which will set out their views on the petition and what action, if any, will be taken.” (paragraphs 3 (6) – (8) above refer);

- (d) the retention of the provision to consider petitions on matters outside the County Council’s direct remit but over which it may have some influence (paragraph 3 (9) above refers);
- (e) the provision for a debate at County Council to be triggered by a petition that achieves 14,000 or more signatures, the provision for debates for those petitions that achieve between 7,000 and 13,999 signatures at the appropriate Cabinet Committee, and provision for petitions that achieve up to 6,999 signatures to be referred to the appropriate Cabinet Member(s) for response (paragraphs 3 (10) & (11) above refer);
- (f) the time allocated to the lead petitioner and Cabinet Member to speak on the petition at County Council or Cabinet Committees debates be amended to three minutes (paragraph 3 (12) above refers);
- (g) the retention of the facility for e-petitions (paragraphs 3 (13) & (14) above refers);
- (h) the removal of the requirement for an officer to give evidence at the Scrutiny Committee if a petition requesting this achieves a certain number of signatures (paragraph 3 (15) above refers);
- (i) the process set out in the scheme for reviewing the way that a petition has been dealt with be amended to refer any requests to the Selection and Member Services Committee and the terms of reference of that Committee be amended accordingly (paragraphs 3 (16) & (17) above refer).

Peter Sass

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Background Information: *None*

Petition Scheme

1. What are the guidelines for submitting a petition?

- (a) Petitions submitted to the County Council must include:
- (iv) a clear and concise statement covering the subject of the petition. It should state what action the petitioners wish the County Council to take.
 - (v) the name and address of the petition organiser (this is the person we will contact to explain how we will respond to the petition), and
 - (vi) the name and address and signature of any person supporting the petition. (Petitions can be signed by people who live, work, study in or visit the County Council's area).
- (b) Petitions which are considered to be vexatious*, abusive or otherwise inappropriate will not be accepted and you will be contacted to explain the reasons for this.
- (c) *In deciding if a petition is vexatious the guidance used for the Freedom of Information act the starting point will be:
- “Deciding whether a request is vexatious is a flexible balancing exercise, taking into account all the circumstances of the case. There is no rigid test or definition, and it will often be easy to recognise. The key question is whether the request is likely to cause distress, disruption or irritation, without any proper or justified cause”**
- (d) In the period immediately before an election or referendum we may need to deal with your petition differently – if this is the case we will explain the reasons and discuss the revised timescale which will apply.
- (e) Petitions for a County Council debate should be submitted to the Head of Democratic Services & Local Leadership at least 14 days before the next available meeting. The Chairman shall have discretion to accept petitions on urgent matters after that deadline following consultation with the political Group Leaders.
- (f) If a petition does not follow the guidelines set out above, the County Council may decide not to do anything further with it. In that case, we will write to you to explain the reasons.

2. What will the County Council do when it receives my petition?

- (a) An acknowledgement will be sent to the petition organiser within 5 working days of receiving the petition. It will let them know what we plan to do with the petition and when they can expect to hear from us again. It will also be published on our website.
- (b) If we can do what your petition asks for, the acknowledgement may confirm that we have already taken the action requested and the petition will be closed. If the petition has enough signatures to trigger a County Council debate, or a

senior officer giving evidence, then the acknowledgment will confirm this and tell you when and where the meeting will take place. If the petition needs more investigation, we will tell you the steps we plan to take.

- (c) If the petition applies to a [planning application](#), is a statutory petition (for example requesting a referendum on having an elected mayor), or on a matter where there is already an existing right of appeal, such as council tax banding and non-domestic rates, other procedures apply.
- (d) To ensure that people know what we are doing in response to the petitions we receive the details of all the petitions submitted to us will be published on our website, except in cases where this would be inappropriate. Whenever possible we will also publish all correspondence relating to the petition (all personal details will be removed). When you sign an e-petition you can elect to receive this information by email. We will not send you anything which is not relevant to the e-petition you have signed, unless you choose to receive other emails from us.

3. How will the County Council respond to petitions?

- (a) Our response to a petition will depend on what a petition asks for and how many people have signed it, but may include one or more of the following:
 - (xi) taking the action requested in the petition
 - (xii) considering the petition at a Council meeting
 - (xiii) holding an inquiry into the matter
 - (xiv) undertaking research into the matter
 - (xv) holding a public meeting
 - (xvi) holding a consultation
 - (xvii) holding a meeting with petitioners
 - (xviii) referring the petition for consideration by one of the Council's overview and scrutiny committees* or in the case of cross cutting issues the Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership in consultation with the Chairman and Spokesmen of the Scrutiny Board will determine which overview and scrutiny committee will consider the petition
 - (xix) calling a referendum
 - (xx) writing to the petition organiser setting out our views about the request in the petition
- (b) *Overview and scrutiny committees are committees of Elected Members who are responsible for scrutinising the work of the County Council – in other words, the overview and scrutiny committee has the power to hold the County Council's decision makers to account.
- (c) The County Council will tell you what it intends to do with the petition within 20 working days of receipt of the paper petition or the close of an e-petition.
- (d) If your petition is about something over which the County Council has no direct control (for example the local railway or hospital) we will consider making representations on behalf of the community to the relevant body. The County Council works with a large number of local partners and where possible will work with these partners to respond to your petition. If we are not able to do this

for any reason (for example if what the petition calls for conflicts with County Council policy), then we will set out the reasons for this to you. You can find more information on the [services](#) for which the County Council is responsible here.

- (e) If your petition is about something that a different Council is responsible for, or for which we have joint responsibility, we will give consideration to what the best method is for responding to it. This might consist of simply forwarding the petition to the other Council for them to respond to or comment on, but could involve other steps. In any event we will always notify you of the action we have taken.

4. Full County Council debates

- (a) If your petition relates to a county-wide matter and contains at least 12,000 signatures it will be debated by the County Council (unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting (see below)). If your petition covers a County Council matter that relates to a specific District Council area it will require at least 1,000 signatures for it to be debated by the County Council. If this matter relates to more than one District Council area then at least a 1,000 signatures per District Council area will be required for the matter to be debated by the County Council.
- (b) The County Council will endeavour to consider the petition at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting.
- (c) The lead petitioner, or their named representative will be invited to attend the meeting and to submit a written statement of no more than 500 words, which should be sent to the Democratic Services Unit (preferably by e-mail) to arrive by 5:00pm on the Monday of the week before the County Council meeting. The relevant Directorate should also submit a brief position statement/briefing note by the same deadline;
- (d) At the meeting of the County Council the petition organiser, or their named representative, will be given five minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Elected Members. The total time for a petition debate will be 45 minutes. If the lead petitioner, or their named representative, does not attend the County Council meeting then the petition will be considered in their absence.
- (e) The County Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. They may decide to take the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by the relevant Cabinet Member or committee.
- (f) Where the issue is one on which the County Council's Executive is required to make the final decision, the County Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.

- (g) The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of the Council's decision, which will also be published on our website.
- (h) The County Council will not debate a petition on the same decision/issue as one debated by the County Council within the previous six months.

5. Calling an Officer to give evidence at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- (a) Your petition may ask for a [senior council officer](#) to give evidence at a public meeting about something for which the officer is responsible as part of their job. For example, your petition may ask a senior council officer to explain progress on an issue, or to explain the advice given to elected members to enable them to make a particular decision.
- (b) If your petition contains at least 6,000 signatures for a countywide matter and 500 signatures (or multiples) for a County Council matter relating to a District area(s), the relevant senior officer, accompanied by the relevant Cabinet Member, will give evidence at a public meeting of one of the Council's overview and scrutiny committees. A list of the senior staff that can be called to give evidence can be found [here](#).
- (c) You should be aware that the overview and scrutiny committee may decide that it would be more appropriate for another officer to give evidence instead of any officer named in the petition – for instance if the named officer has changed jobs.
- (d) The lead petitioners or their named representative:
 - (i) will be invited to attend the meeting and to submit a written statement of no more than 500 words, which should be sent to the Democratic Services Unit (preferably by e-mail) to arrive by 5:00pm on the Monday of the week before the Overview & Scrutiny meeting;
 - (ii) will be allowed to address the Committee for up to 5 minutes to summarise their reviews and to amplify, but not repeat, any points in their written statement;
 - (iii) will then be allowed up to 5 minutes to ask questions of the officer (the 5 minutes does not include the time for answers to be given). These questions should be used to seek genuinely new information. Questions must not be asked to which the member of the public already knows the answer;
 - (iv) will receive written confirmation of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's decision, which will also be published on our website

6. E-petitions

- (a) The Council welcomes [e-petitions](#) which are created and submitted through our website. E-petitions must follow the same guidelines as paper petitions (as set out above). The petition organiser will need to provide us with their name, postal address and email address. You will also need to decide how long you would like your petition to be open for signatures. Most petitions remain open

for a maximum of 3 months, but a shorter or longer timescale can be agreed with the petition organiser if appropriate.

- (b) When you create an e-petition, it may take up to 10 working days before it is published online. This is because we have to check that the content of your petition is suitable before it is made available for signature. If we feel we cannot publish your petition for some reason, we will contact you within this time to explain. You will be able to change and resubmit your petition if you wish. If you do not do this within 10 working days, a summary of the petition and the reason why it has not been accepted will be published under the 'rejected petitions' section of the website. When an e-petition has closed for signature, it will automatically follow the same process as a paper petition (as set out above)
- (c) In the same way as a paper petition, you will receive an acknowledgement within 5 working days of the close of the e-petition. A petition acknowledgement and response will be emailed to everyone who has signed the e-petition and elected to receive this information. The acknowledgment and response will also be published on this website.

7. How do I 'sign' an e-petition?

You can see all the [e-petitions](#) currently available for signature here [insert link]. When you sign an e-petition you will be asked to provide your name, your postcode and a valid email address. When you have submitted this information you will be sent an email to the email address you have provided. This email will include a link which you must click on in order to confirm the email address is valid. Once this step is complete your 'signature' will be added to the petition. People visiting the e-petition will be able to see your name in the list of those who have signed it but your contact details will not be visible.

8. What can I do if I feel my petition has not been dealt with properly?

- (a) If you feel that we have not dealt with your petition properly, the petition organiser has the right to request that the steps that the County Council has taken in response to your petition are reviewed. All reviews will be considered the Scrutiny Board.
- (b) It is helpful to everyone, and can improve the prospects for a review if the petition organiser gives a short explanation of the reasons why the County Council's response is not considered to be adequate.
- (c) The Board will endeavour to consider your request at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will take place at the following meeting.
- (d) Should the Board determine that the County Council has not dealt with your petition adequately, it may use any of its powers to deal with the matter. These powers include instigating an investigation, making recommendations to the County Council's Executive and arranging for the matter to be considered at a meeting of the full County Council.

- (e) Once the appeal has been considered the petition organiser will be informed of the results within 5 working days. The results of the review will also be published on our website

Approved by the County Council on 22 July 2010
(Amended 16 December 2010)
In force from 1 September 2010

List of petitions received

E-Petitions received since 1 September 2010

Subject	No of signatures	Response	
		Written	CC Debate
E petition - number of signatures for a County Council debate	3	√	
Saltbin Criteria	1	√	
Campaign Against A Frames (Advertising Boards)	59	√	
Temporary Disabled Blue Badges	72	√	
Kent Freedom Pass	5633	√	
'Essential' User Status	785	√	
More Suitable Short Breaks for disabled Children & Their Families	39	√	
Youth Service on Romney Marsh - Phase Youth Centre New Romney	48	√	
Ashford library railway collection	276	√	
Gluten-free prescriptions	402	√	
EMA to continue or for some other financial support to take its place	718	√	
Extend the Kent Freedom pass to 16-20 year olds	12686		√
Save Our Tunbridge Wells Netball League!	99	√	
Increased pedestrian safety - St Gregory's RC Primary School & Salmestone Ward	181	√	
Teenagers from ages 12-17 should have free gym and swimming membership	95	√	
Youth Service Cuts/Restructuring	318	√	
Removal of proposed site at Lydd for mineral extraction.	21	√	
Save Ramsgate Youth Centres	68	√	
Bring Our Boulders Back - A Kentish Express Campaign	125	√	
Eco-friendly cleaning products in schools	2	√	
A Grammar School for Sevenoaks	2620		√
Fight for Richborough, Keep Our Recycling	567	√	
Arriva 155 'Late' Bus Services	66	√	
Pedestrian Crossing Hythe Road	44	√	
Pedestrian Crossing on St. Stephen's Hill, Canterbury	1143		√
SAT-School Allocation Trouble *combined with a paper petition	798		√
Reduce Number of Kent Councillors	16	√	
Public footpath to be put down Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury	2	√	

Subject	No of signatures	Response	
		Written	CC Debate
A mirror at the junction of Tenterden Way and Millmead Road	11	√	
Speed reduction to 30mph and pedestrian crossing on Bradbourne Vale Road Sevenoaks	187 to date		
Tomorrows People – Key Worker in the Parkwood and Shepway area of Maidstone	19 to date		

Paper Petitions received since 1 September 2010

Subject	No of signatures	Response	
		Written	CC debate
Manorbrooke Residential Home	1390		√
Request for the re-opening of right-turns off the A256	1001		√
Objection to Exclusion of Motorcycles	11	√	
Blackburn Lodge Care Home	1674		√
A Frames	3417		√
Boxley Parish Council - Speed limit on Boxley Rd/Beechen Bank Rd	82	√	
Stop school traffic blocking residential drives, hope to have white line markings	71	√	
Traffic Volumes - High Street East Malling	32	√	
Objection to the Prohibition of Waiting Order Amendment No 1 Order 2010 - Upper Street & Harmony Street	91	√	
Gritting West Street, Wrotham	17	√	
Dobson Road Gritting	38	√	
Condition of Road from residents of Belmont	9	√	
Snow on Crosskeys Estate	64	√	
Lack of response for Horton Kirby, South Darenth & Sutton at Home during the snow	134	√	
London Rd, Wrotham Conditions in the Snow, Review of Gritting Routes	117	√	
Request for a Zebra Crossing at Birling Rd, for Snodland COE Primary School	213	√	
Make Murston a safe place to live, Stop lorries coming in to Murston	195	√	
Highstead Lane, Highstead - 30mph Speed Limit	22	√	
Speeding Traffic in Monkton Rd	30	√	
Preston Street & Stone Street - Proposed One Way System	186	√	
Snow Clearance/Gritting, Wooton/Denton Parish	38	√	
Byways Open to all Traffic	17	√	
Congestion - Wheatsheaf Close Area, Maidstone	26	√	
Various Roads, Dover, Proposed 'at any Time' Waiting Restrictions	38	√	
Resurfacing of Lower Green Rd, Pembury Infants	139	√	

Subject	No of signatures	Response	
		Written	CC debate
School			
No Ball Games Sign to be Erected on Approach to Turning Circle Hilton Drive, Sittingbourne	11	√	
402 bus service - Weald	193	√	
Bus Times and Concessionary Fares	212	√	
Speed Limits in Sheephurst Lane, Collier Street	68	√	
Construction of a Pelican Crossing at 84-86 Hereson Rd	400	√	
Hollow Road to be made a cul-de-sac	43	√	
Catly Close - Kerb to Kerb Speed Ramp	61	√	
Bus Time/Passes	73		
Prohibition of Driving on Hollow Lane, Canterbury	15	√	
Vehicle Congestion & Pollution in Misikin Rd	91	√	
Closure of Pheasant Lane	38	√	
Proposed no waiting at any time - whole of Homersham, junction of Birch rd, Gilbert Way, Scott Ave	64	√	
Cars parking in Kent Gardens during the week, birchington. Difficulty getting out of drives	24	√	
Island Road, Sturry – Speed Limit Reduction	315	√	
Lane Running from Bower Mount Rd to Unadopted Highway to Rear of Houses, to be Re-Opened	38	√	
Speed Limit Through Bidborough Village Should be 30 mph	672	√	
Cornfields Residential Home	1816		√
Pedestrian Crossing, Coldharbour Lane/Tonbridge Road	36	√	
Sid in Seal Hollow Road	22	√	
Road calming measures in Vines Lane	42	√	
Petition for speed limit restriction on B2042 through Ide Hill and Gouthurst Common	54	√	
Sampson Court, Deal	6000		√
The Limes Proposed Closure	3372		√
Dangerous and Excessive Buses and Speeding Cars Using Postley Rd	58	√	
Fawkham School rd Safety Campaign. Speed limit to be reduced to 20 mph from 40 mph	135	√	
Continued flooding, complaints made - nothing done - damaging gardens and garages	29	√	
Request for the implementation of a 17 ton weight restriction through Yalding	569	√	
Human Trafficking	69	√	
Harmful Effects of the New Path Material on the Stanhope Estate	253	√	
20mph Speed Limits around Schools	993	√	
Parking of JCB,	18	√	
Traffic lights at the junction of Cross Lane West	101	√	

Subject	No of signatures	Response	
		Written	CC debate
& Singlewell Rd - causing speeders, forcing people			
Tunbridge Wells to Hawkhurst 267 Bus Service – Request for an extra bus service	117	√	
Rethink - EKFS	1620	√	
Bowles Lodge, Hawkhurst	1992		√
Free Travel Starting from 9am again, not 9.30am	52	√	
Parking in St Mary's Ave Margate	14	√	
The Rambers 'Dead End?' Postcard petition - Please ensure that your footpaths are protected	24	√	
Safety of Brunswick House Pupils	202	√	
Request for a Zebra Crossing - South Ave Sittingbourne	17	√	
Danedale Ave	23	√	
Stanley Ave, Queenborough	49	√	
Illegally parked vehicle in Dorset Rd	64	√	
Petition - Opposition to Thames Crossing East of Gravesend	19	√	
Hawkinge Household Waste Recycling Centre	587	√	
Ringden Avenue, Paddock wood – Request for waiting restrictions	12	√	
Oakwood Road, Maidstone – repair of the footpath	19	√	
B2017 Speed Restrictions	674	√	
Review Speed Limit Ightham Stretch of the A25	756	√	
Leysdown Road, Sheerness	240	√	
Grange Road, Ramsgate	179	√	
Westcourt Lane, Shepherdswell – Footpath Extension	36	√	
Review of Minnis Day Centre, Brichington	157	√	
Tankerton Rd, Whistable - Carriageway Conditions	93	√	
North Rd Hythe, Kent	120	√	
Station Road, Dunton Green – Removal of 'pinch points'	86	√	
Opposing the potential closure of Aylesham Youth Club and Linwood Youth Centre Deal	3,994		√
Teelin Close, St Mary's Bay – Condition of Road	19	√	
Oakwood Road Maidstone, Repair of footpath	19	√	
Whitstable Road, Zebra Crossing Petition	18	√	
London Road, Westerham – Traffic Calming Request	209	√	
Save Ramsgate Youth Clubs	1417		√
Opposing the closure of Richborough Household Waste Recycling Centre	1302		√
SAT-School Allocation Trouble *combined with an e-petition	373		√
Cedar Drive, Edenbridge – quality of recent	53	√	

Subject	No of signatures	Response	
		Written	CC debate
resurfacing			
Main Road, Sutton at Hone – Traffic Calming	21	√	
Sydney & Saddleton Roads, Whitstable – resurfacing	148	√	
Westcourt Lane, Shepherdswell – Footpath Extension	36	√	
Tonbridge Wells to Hawkhurst 267 Bus Service – Request for an extra bus service	117	√	
Petition re bus services for Maidstone Hospital	349	√	
Ringden Avenue	12	√	
Pear Tree Avenue, Aylesford - Daily School Traffic	72	√	
Cedar Drive, Edenbridge	53	√	
Island Road Sturry, Speed Limit Reduction	315	√	
Traffic Calming in Main Road, Dartford	21	√	
Chestnut Street & Danaway Traffic Calming Campaign	207	√	
Stockbury Village 20MPH Petition	63	√	

The petitions in **bold** have triggered a debate at County Council.

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From: Alex King – Deputy Leader
Geoff Wild – Director of Governance & Law

To: County Council – 13 September 2012

Subject: Independent Person - New Standards Regime

Summary: In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 the panel of Honorary Alderman has met to interview six shortlisted candidates for the Independent Person for the County Council's new Standards Regime. This report confirms that the panel is due to make a recommendation to appoint the Independent Person for the County Council's approval.

Unrestricted

Introduction

1. Following the July County Council meeting, the Leaders of the three political groups each nominated an Honorary Alderman to sit on an interview panel to select and recommend a suitable candidate as Independent Person for approval by the County Council (as required by the Localism Act 2011).

Recruitment Process

2. (1) From the 17 applications received, six candidates were shortlisted in consultation with the three Group Leaders.

(2) The nominated Honorary Alderman (Mr Newman, Mr Norman and Mrs Wainman) interviewed the six shortlisted candidates on 5 September 2012.

(3) At the time of finalising this report for inclusion with the County Council agenda, a decision had not been made as to the recommended candidate for the Council's consideration and this information will be presented to the County Council as soon as it is available prior to the meeting on 13 September.

(4) The County Council is reminded that in the event of their non-availability or a conflict of interest, the KCC Independent Person will be substituted by the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority Independent Person (and vice versa). The County Council will be advised of the name of the Independent Person for the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority as soon as it is known.

Recommendation

3. The County Council is invited to consider the recommendation of the panel of Honorary Aldermen and appoint an Independent Person for the County Council for a four year term commencing retrospectively on 1 July 2012.

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 26 July 2012.

PRESENT: Mr R L H Long, TD (Chairman), Mr M V Snelling (Vice-Chairman), Mr A R Chell, Mr B R Cope, Mr K A Ferrin, MBE, Mr C Hibberd, Mr D A Hirst, Mr R A Marsh, Mr R J Parry, Mr T Prater, Mr J Tansley, Mr R Tolputt and Mr C T Wells

ALSO PRESENT: Mr R W Gough, Mr A J King, MBE and Mr J D Simmonds

OFFICERS: Mr A Wood (Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement), Mr N Vickers (Head of Financial Services), Mrs C Head (Chief Accountant), Miss E Feakins (Directorate Accountant), Mr G Wild (Director of Governance and Law), Mrs A Beer (Corporate Director of Human Resources), Ms N Major (Interim Head of Internal Audit), Mr R Strawson (Trading Standards Manager (West)) and Mr A Tait (Democratic Services Officer)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D Wells and Ms E Olive from the Audit Commission.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

18. Membership

(Item 2)

The Committee noted the appointment of Mr J Tansley in place of Ms A Hohler.

19. Minutes

(Item 5)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2012 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman; and
- (b) the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Trading Activities Sub-Group meeting held on 4 July 2012 be noted.

20. Dates of meetings in 2013

(Item 6)

The Committee noted the following meeting dates in 2013:-

Thursday, 11 April 2013;
 Wednesday, 24 July 2013;
 Tuesday, 24 September 2013; and

Wednesday, 18 December 2013.

21. Committee Work and Member Development Programme

(Item 7)

- (1) The Interim Head of Internal Audit proposed an updated forward committee work and Member development programme. This included training for the Trading Activities Sub-Group in relation to the Local Government Act 2003 Trading Order.
- (2) RESOLVED that approval be given to the forward work programme to July 2013 and to the additional proposed training for 2012/13.

22. External Audit Governance and Audit Committee Update June 2012

(Item 8)

- (1) Ms E Olive from the Audit Commission gave an update against the 2011/12 Audit Plan together with recent updates from the Audit Commission.
- (2) Ms Olive reported in respect of the certification of claims and returns that the two local transport plan claims had been audited in June 2013 and that the school centred initial teacher training claim and the teachers' pensions return would be audited in September and October.
- (3) RESOLVED that the report be noted together with the progress against the 2011/12 Audit Plan.

23. External Audit - Annual Governance Report 2011/12

(Item 9)

- (1) Mr D Wells from the Audit Commission introduced the report. He said that he expected to issue an unqualified audit opinion in respect of the County Council's financial statements and to conclude that it had made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. He expected to complete outstanding work by the end of September 2012 and to issue his certificate by 5 October.
- (2) The Committee expressed its appreciation for the work of the Finance and Procurement Group and to everyone else who had enabled the speedy provision of a clean audit in an authority the size of Kent County Council.
- (3) RESOLVED that:-
 - (a) the adjustments to the financial statements be noted as set out in Appendices 2 and 3 of the Annual Governance Report;
 - (b) approval be given to the letter of representation (set out at Appendix 4) on behalf of the County Council before the Audit Commission issues its opinion and conclusions; and

- (c) the proposed action plan be agreed as set out on Appendix 6.

24. Draft Statement of Accounts 2011/12

(Item 10)

(1) The Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement reported the draft Statement of Accounts for 2011/12. He drew particular attention to the local authority accounting requirements which specified that the County Council retained its PFI liabilities for Academies, Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools but could not count them as an asset.

(2) RESOLVED that approval be given to the Statement of Accounts for 2011/12 and that the recommendations made in the Annual Governance Statement be noted.

25. Treasury Management Annual Review

(Item 11)

(1) This report summarised Treasury Management activities in 2011/12.

(2) RESOLVED that approval be given to the Treasury Management Annual Review 2011/12 for submission to the County Council.

26. Update on Change to Keep Succeeding

(Item 12)

(1) The Cabinet Member for Business Strategy, Performance and Health Reform and the Corporate Director Human Resources reported on the completion of appointments to the senior level of the new operating framework and the changes to staffing across the Authority since April 2011.

(2) RESOLVED that the report be noted for assurance and that future reports be provided on an ad hoc basis, as a result of either significant change in the programme or at the specific request of the Committee.

27. Debt Management

(Item 13)

(1) The Head of Financial Services gave a report on the general direction of travel of the County Council's debt position, concentrating mainly on debt over 6 months old.

(2) RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted for assurance.

28. Annual RIPA Report on Surveillance and other activities carried out by KCC between January 2011 and March 2012

(Item 14)

(1) This report outlined the work undertaken in 2011 and the first three months of 2012 by KCC Officers and other activities governed by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

(2) Approval for a change to agreed policies was sought because Environmental Crime Officers (ECOs) within the Environment, Highways and Waste Directorate had identified a need to be able to seek communications data in the course of their criminal investigations. This need arose as a result of instances when ECOs had found piles of fly tipped rubbish containing telephone numbers but not addresses. Access to details of the owners of these telephone numbers was, therefore, the only means of investigating these crimes. As ECOs were lawfully entitled to the same access to communications data as Trading Standards Officers, it was proposed that the policy should be amended accordingly.

(3) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the use of the powers under RIPA from January 2011 to March 2012 be noted for assurance; and
- (b) endorsement be given to the minor change in policy set out in paragraph (2) above.

29. Internal Audit Annual and Progress Report

(Item 15)

(1) This report summarised the output of the Internal Audit annual plan, provided the opinion on the County Council's system of internal control and provided commentary on the performance of the Internal Audit section.

(2) The Interim Head of Internal Audit proposed a revised table of five Assurance Levels: High, Substantial, Adequate, Limited, and No Assurance. This was agreed.

(3) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Internal Audit Annual be noted for assurance; and
- (b) approval be given to the amendments to assurance levels and definitions for audit and recommendation priorities as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

30. Anti-Fraud and Corruption Progress Report

(Item 16)

(1) This report provided a summary of progress of anti-fraud and corruption activity since the last meeting of the Committee in April 2012.

(2) RESOLVED that:

- (a) the self assessment against CIPFA's Red Book "Managing the Risk of Fraud" be noted as set out in Appendix A of the report; and
- (b) the summaries of concluded be noted as set out in Appendix B of the report.

31. Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy

(Item 17)

- (1) This report provided a summary of proposed amendments to the County Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy.
- (2) RESOLVED that approval be given to the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy set out Appendix A of the report.

32. Protocol relating to companies in which KCC has an interest

(Item 18)

- (1) This report invited the Committee to approve a number of proposed minor amendments to the Protocol, following an officer review and subsequent consideration by the Trading Activities Sub-Group on 4 July 2012.
- (2) In agreeing the recommendations, the Committee expressed the wish that consideration should be given to amending the Protocol to include Limited Liability Partnerships and Joint Arrangements that are Not an Entity (JANEs).
- (3) RESOLVED that approval be given to the minor amendments to the *Protocol relating to Companies in which KCC has an Interest* as set out in paragraphs 4,5,6 and 7 of the report and incorporated in the updated version of the Protocol set out at Appendix 2 of the report.

EXEMPT ITEMS

(Open access to Minutes)

The Committee resolved under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 2,5 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

33. Update on Kent Cultural Trading (oral report)

(Item 21)

- (1) The Interim Head of Internal Audit reported the ongoing investigation into the activities of Kent Cultural trading Ltd. She explained that the Committee Members

needed to be aware that this work was taking place and that a full report would be presented to the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

(2) RESOLVED that the report be noted.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Planning Applications Committee held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 24 July 2012.

PRESENT: Mr J A Davies (Chairman), Mr C P Smith (Vice-Chairman), Mr R E Brookbank, Mr A R Chell, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd, Mr J D Kirby, Mr J F London, Mr S C Manion, Mr R F Manning, Mr R J Parry, Mr M B Robertson, Mrs P A V Stockell, Mr R Tolputt (Substitute for Mr P J Homewood), Mrs E M Tweed and Mr A T Willicombe

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Thompson (Head of Planning Applications Group), Mr M Clifton (Team Leader - Waste Developments), Mr J Crossley (Team Leader - County Council Development), Mr J Dummett (Planning Case Officer), Mr R White (Development Planning Manager) and Mr A Tait (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

45. Minutes - 12 June 2012

(Item A3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2012 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

46. Site Meetings and Other Meetings

(Item A4)

(1) The Committee noted that there would be no meeting during the month of August 2012.

(2) The Committee also noted that it was due to visit the European Metals Recycling Centre at Brunswick Road, Ashford following the meeting. It agreed to hold a site visit in respect of the Benenden CE Primary School application on Thursday, 27 September 2012.

47. Application SW/12/444 (KCC/SW/0098/2012) - Retrospective application for the construction and use of a 40m long and 6m wide concrete pad and ancillary 2.4m high steel palisade fence and gates at Ridham Dock Road, Iwade, Sittingbourne; Countrystyle Recycling Ltd

(Item C1)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) permission be granted to the application subject to conditions, including conditions covering vehicle numbers being restricted to no more than 3 sealed container vehicles per day; and dust mitigation measures; and
- (b) the existing site continue to be monitored in accordance with the existing planning permission.

48. Proposal DO/11/993 (KCC/DO/0477/201) - Change of use of agricultural land to horticultural learning centre and demolition of existing buildings and erection of replacement new building at Archers Low Farm, Sandown Road, Sandwich; Governors of Stone Bay School

(Item D1)

- (1) The Head of Planning Applications Group reported correspondence from Sandwich Town Council expressing full support for the application.
- (2) The Head of Planning Applications Group agreed to discuss the possibility of upgrading the access track.
- (3) RESOLVED that permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions, including conditions covering the standard time limit condition; the development being completed in accordance with approved plans; approval of external materials; submission of a travel plan; details and provision of cycle parking; the Incorporation of flood risk mitigation methods and submission of a Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme; conditions recommended by the Environment Agency in respect of drainage and land contamination; ecological mitigation and enhancements; use being limited to that proposed and to users from Stone Bay School; parking being restricted to three vehicles; and the hours of use being restricted to those proposed.

49. Proposal CA/12/464 (KCC/CA/0100/2012) - Replacement of 16 white painted, soft wood timber vertical sash windows with pine wood clad with white powder coated aluminium facing profile at St Alphege CEI School, Oxford Street, Whitstable; KCC Property and Infrastructure

(Item D2)

RESOLVED permission be granted to the proposal subject to conditions, including conditions covering the standard time condition requiring that the development be commenced within 5 years; and the development being carried out in accordance with the approved plans.

50. Proposal SW/12/470 (KCC/SW/0155/2012) - Retrospective application for the provision of external storage space for both outdoor play equipment and maintenance equipment at Tunstall CE (Aided) School, Tunstall Road, Tunstall, Sittingbourne; Governors of Tunstall CE (Aided) School

(Item D3)

- (1) In agreeing the recommendations of the Head of Planning Applications Group, the Committee asked for the inclusion of an Informative to the School that it should take care to ensure that it followed the proper planning procedures in future.
- (2) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) permission be granted to the proposal subject to a condition requiring the removal of the units from the site in the event that they are no longer needed for storage purposes; and
- (b) the applicants be notified by Informative of the Committee's concern that they should take care to ensure that they follow proper planning procedures in future.

51. Proposal TW/12/1694 (KCC/TW/0192/2012) - Section 73 application to vary Conditions 27 and 28 of Permission TW/10/4051 to allow an alternative floodlighting specification relating to the previously permitted floodlit Multi Use Games Area on Site 1 at The Skinners Kent Academy, Blackhurst Lane, Tunbridge Wells; KCC Property and Infrastructure Support
(Item D4)

(1) The Head of Planning Applications Group tabled a set of plans and photographs showing various night time views of the vicinity of the site whilst the floodlighting was on.

(2) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) permission be granted for the alternative floodlighting specification subject to Conditions 27 and 28 of Permission TW/10/4051 being amended to read as follows: -

(i) Condition (27)

The floodlighting associated with the Multi Use Games Area (Site 1) hereby approved shall be maintained at all times as currently set up and as detailed in the application. Should it subsequently be deemed necessary the applicant shall adjust the set up of the floodlighting and/or fit cowls, hoods, shades, shields and/or louvres, in agreement with the County Planning Authority, and thereafter the lighting shall be maintained as agreed;

Reason: In the interests of protecting surrounding residential amenity and pursuant to South East Plan Policy NRM10 and Local Plan Policies EN1 and EN8;

(ii) Condition (28)

The illumination and spill levels associated with the Multi Use Games Area (Site 1) shall not exceed those specified within this planning application;

Reason: In the interests of protecting surrounding residential amenity and pursuant to South East Plan Policy NRM10 and Local Plan Policies EN1 and EN8;

- (b) all other controls placed on Permission TW/10/4051 remain unchanged, save for where they have since been updated by subsequent planning approvals; and
- (c) the applicant be required to carry out additional interspersed landscape planting consisting of a couple of heavy standard evergreen trees (at least 3.5 metres high) along the site boundary with Blackhurst Lane. The final specification of this additional tree planting shall be agreed pursuant to the terms of a site wide landscaping scheme under the main Academy redevelopment consent and shall be implemented within the first available planting season following the date of this permission.

52. Matters dealt with under delegated powers

(Item E1)

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

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

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

SUPERANNUATION FUND COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Superannuation Fund Committee held in the Medway Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Friday, 29 June 2012.

PRESENT: Mr J E Scholes (Chairman), Mr D C Carr, Mr P Clokie, Mr D S Daley, Mr J A Davies, Ms J De Rochefort, Mr N Eden Green, Mr M J Jarvis, Mr J F London, Mr R A Marsh, Mr R J Parry, Mr S Richards and Mr M V Snelling.

ALSO PRESENT: Miss S J Carey and Mr P Homewood.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr N Vickers (Head of Financial Services), Ms A Mings (Treasury & Investments Manager), Ms S Surana (Senior Accountant - Investments), Mr S Tagg (Deputy Pensions Manager) and Mr P R Luscombe (Pensions Manager) and Mr G Rudd (Assistant Democratic Services Manager).

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

A. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

25. Minutes

(Item A3)

RESOLVED that the minutes relating to unrestricted items of the meeting held on 18 May 2012 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

C. MATTERS FOR REPORT/DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE

26. Minutes

(Item C1)

RESOLVED that the minutes relating to exempt items of the meeting held on 18 May 2012 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

27. Invesco Perpetual

(Item C2)

(1) Mr H Ferrand and Mr W Deer of Invesco Perpetual were in attendance for this item in order to give a presentation and answer questions from Committee members.

28. Fund Structure

(Item C3- Report by the Chairman of the Superannuation Fund Committee and the Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement)

The Committee agreed a number of issues relating to the Fund Structure.

29. Ethical Investments

The Committee confirmed its policy regarding Ethical Investments.

D. MATTERS FOR REPORT/DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE

30. Fund Position Statement

(Item D1 - Report by the Chairman of the Superannuation Fund Committee and the Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Head of Financial Services be authorised to look at how other investment managers are performing; and
- (b) the report be noted.

31. Treasury Management

(Item D2- Report by the Chairman of the Superannuation Fund Committee and the Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the report be noted; and
- (b) authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Finance and procurement in Consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to make any arrangements deemed to be necessary to protect the Fund's cash holdings.

32. Local Government Pension Scheme 2014

(Item D3 - Report by the Chairman of the Superannuation Fund Committee and the Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

33. Pensions Administration

(Item D4 - Report by the Chairman of the Superannuation Fund Committee and the Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement. The Pension Manager Mr P Luscombe was in attendance for this item)

RESOLVED that;

- (a) the contents of the report be noted;:
- (b) agreement be given to Kent being the lead authority to the Pension Scheme administration software framework agreement and that the cost of the project be shared with the other founder members; and
- (c) agreement be given to the appointment of West Yorkshire Pension Fund to act as the appointed person in the resolution of disputes with the Kent Pension Fund.

34. Applications for Admissions to the Fund

(Item D5 - Report by the Chairman of the Superannuation Fund Committee and the Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the admission to the Kent County Council Pension Fund of Roffa Limited be agreed;
- (b) the admission to the Kent County Council Pension Fund of Innovate Services Limited be agreed;
- (c) the admission to the Kent County Council Pension Fund of the third bidder for the Oakwood House contract be agreed;
- (d) the withdrawal of Principal Catering Consultants Limited (re Upton Junior School) as a participating employer in the Pension Fund be noted; and
- (e) once legal agreements have been prepared for the matters referred to in (a) to (d) above, the Kent County Council seal can be affixed to the legal documents.

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