

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 8th March, 2016**

**10.00 am**

**Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall,  
Maidstone**







## AGENDA

### SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, 8th March, 2016, at 10.00 am**

Ask for: **Joel Cook/Anna Taylor**

**Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall,  
Maidstone**

Telephone: **03000 416892/416478**

#### **Membership**

Conservative (6): Mr R J Parry (Chairman), Mr J E Scholes (Vice-Chairman), Mr E E C Hotson, Mr A J King, MBE, Mr L B Ridings, MBE and Mrs P A V Stockell

UKIP (2) Mr H Birkby and Mr R A Latchford, OBE

Labour (2) Mr G Cowan and Mr R Truelove

Liberal Democrat (1): Mrs T Dean, MBE

Church Mr D Brunning, Mr Q Roper and Mr A Tear

Representatives (3):

Parent Governor (2): Mr P Garten and Mr G Lawrie

*Tea/coffee will be available 15 minutes before the start of the meeting*

*County Councillors who are not Members of the Committee but who wish to ask questions at the meeting are asked to notify the Chairman of their questions in advance.*

#### **Webcasting Notice**

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## **UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**

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

### **A - Committee Business**

- A1 Introduction/Webcast Announcement
- A2 Substitutes
- A3 Declarations of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this Meeting
- A4 Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2016 (Pages 5 - 10)
- A5 Corporate Parenting Select Committee - Implementation Plan (3 months on from County Council) (Pages 11 - 18)
- A6 Progress report on Grammar Schools and Social Mobility Select Committee (Pages 19 - 20)
- A7 Progress Report on Energy Security Select Committee (Pages 21 - 22)

## **EXEMPT ITEMS**

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

Peter Sass  
Head of Democratic Services  
03000 416647

**Monday, 29 February 2016**

*Timing of items as shown above is approximate and subject to change.*

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL****SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 19 January 2016.

PRESENT: Mr R J Parry (Chairman), Mr J E Scholes (Vice-Chairman), Mr H Birkby, Mr G Cowan, Mrs T Dean, MBE, Mr M J Harrison (Substitute for Mr E E C Hotson), Mr A J King, MBE, Mr R A Latchford, OBE, Mr L B Ridings, MBE, Mrs P A V Stockell and Mr R Truelove

ALSO PRESENT: Mr J D Simmonds, MBE and Miss S J Carey

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Wood (Corporate Director Finance and Procurement), Mr D Shipton (Head of Financial Strategy) and Mrs A Taylor (Scrutiny Research Officer)

**UNRESTRICTED ITEMS****91. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2015**  
*(Item A4)*

1. The Scrutiny Research Officer read a note from the Corporate Director – Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, updating Members on the developments concerning Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) and the letter, asked for by the Scrutiny Committee, to all Kent MPs. Since the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee central government had included, in the Immigration Bill, new powers to set up a national dispersal scheme for UASC. KCC was continuing to liaise closely with central government with regards to when such powers might be used. Additionally the Leader had met the Kent MPs and the current issues surrounding UASC were raised. Consequently the position had moved forward since the last committee meeting and Kent MPs had been updated, and thus a letter had not been required.

RESOLVED that, subject to the correction of a typographical error in paragraph 14, the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December were an accurate record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

**92. Draft 2016/17 Budget and the Medium Term Financial Plan**  
*(Item A5)*

1. The Chairman welcomed the witnesses and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to scrutinise the draft budget proposals; to ensure they were achievable and realistic and also to review the level of risk associated with the budget. Members were also invited to challenge the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), the assumptions made within it and the associated risks. Members were informed that written answers would be provided to any specific questions which the witnesses were unable to answer during the meeting.

2. Mr Simmonds introduced his 7<sup>th</sup> draft budget. Mr Wood, reminding the meeting of the complications and lateness of the Government settlement, gave a brief presentation on the key issues (attached as a [supplement](#) to the Agenda pack) which included:
  - Adjusted 2015-18 MTFP – basis of consultation
  - KCC projection for consultation
  - Consultation – Council Tax
  - Published Spending Power/Real Spending Power
  - KCC latest projection
  - Budget and Spending Pressures
  - Revenue Support Grant Cut, Redistribution and Impact
  - Reserves
  - Impact on 2017/18
3. In response to a query Mr Wood explained that the term ‘flat cash’ referred to the funding figures available now which would still be broadly the same amount in 4 years’ time, based on a number of key assumptions.
4. A Member queried the use of reserves and capital receipts; commenting that they should be considered a short term solution and was not sustainable. Mr Wood and Mr Simmonds agreed that it was necessary to find a permanent solution.
5. In response to a query about the 2% social care levy, it was stated that this was a permission to levy and was given for the next four years. There would be a Government audit to ensure that the money raised was used on adult social care services.
6. It was asked why, for the New Homes Bonus, was there a dip in the funding? Mr Shipton explained that 2016/17 was the final year of the six year roll-out, however there had been a government consultation which would change the grant to a four year scheme and the grant would be re-distributed and received by the Council through other streams. The draft Budget had not focussed on this matter because it was subject to a consultation which would close in March 2016.
7. A Member queried the current overspend which was forecast to be £1-£2million. There were concerns over the impact of winter in the NHS and in Social Care. Officers were confident that the overspend would be eliminated in 2015/16, however there were continuing concerns for 2016/17.
8. The last reported overspend was around £4million, a Member asked where the additional money had come from to reduce the overspend to £1-£2million. The biggest single thing was a one off grant of approximately £3.5million to help with the introduction of the Care Act and the implications of the Act, which had previously been assumed, could in some way be ‘recovered’ by Government.
9. Mr Simmonds was asked whether there were plans to examine the Council’s property portfolio to identify streams of revenue or to reduce borrowing. Mr Simmonds explained that there was an extensive programme of realignment of offices etc. This work included a detailed stock take of every property that the Council owns. It was identified that if opportunities arose to acquire as well as dispose it would make sense to do so and money had been reserved. Mr

Simmonds was asked whether he would be prepared to employ more staff to accelerate the process. The Council operated a spend to save policy and thus the Council would be prepared to invest in staff providing it could be shown to be effective. Ms Carey referred to the Property Sub-Group, highlighting the investment that had been made to develop the Procurement Team which had subsequently contributed significantly to savings which would not otherwise have been found. There were also opportunities to be found in the new commissioning schemes. The Chairman stated that some of the County's Districts and Boroughs were pursuing property investment to generate income.

10. A Member, referring to the New Homes Bonus, explained that the Housing and Planning Bill which had recently passed through the House of Commons contained an alteration, which was being consulted on, which proposed a reduction in the number of years over which the New Homes Bonus was paid from 6yrs to 4yrs and then to 2yrs. It also contained various restrictions including restricting the New Homes Bonus to those houses which the planning authority had given consent. Officers agreed with this understanding and considered that the proposals could disadvantage districts heavily. Regarding a query about funding for flood defences, nothing had changed in the capital programme. However the funding was outside of the 3 year programme as Kent County Council was still waiting for the Environment Agency assessment with regards to some of the costs, other than £1million for working up the scheme. Mr Harrison (as Chairman of the Flood Risk Management Committee) confirmed that a meeting was being held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January in Worthing to discuss the flooding problems of the last 6 months and Members would be kept updated with developments.
11. In response to a comment from a Member about the Government's consultation, Ms Carey explained that the 2% social care levy was announced in the Autumn Statement and that it was the decision of the Local Authority whether they wished to introduce it.
12. Regarding the costs of energy identified within the budget, a Member asked whether there was an option to revisit this area following the recent drop in fuel costs. Mr Shipton explained that the budget contained the latest forecast received from commercial services, regarding the price of energy estimated for 2016/17. Energy prices were extremely complex and included not only the cost of generating electricity (30%) but the cost of distributing from the grid (70%). Whilst the cost of generating electricity might be falling, the cost of distributing was rising.
13. A Member also queried the reduced revenue spend on highway maintenance to focus on pothole repairs and the increase in insurance premium. Mr Wood confirmed that this was correct, there was a pressure of around £900,000 on the insurance premium. There was a balance between maintaining the network and repairing potholes which were a major cause of insurance claims. The overall allocation indicated that a greater proportion of money would be spent on repairing potholes which had a greater impact in the short term, on insurance claims and on people's experience of driving on Kent roads. It was emphasised that it was essential to continue maintaining Kent's roads; Kent's road were a major asset.

14. Referring to fostering and adoption – there was a spending reduction under both headings within the budget, fostering of around £1million and adoption £900k. A Member commented that there were concerns regarding the effectiveness of the service working with a reduced budget and whether its key outcomes remained achievable. Mr Shipton explained that this was the first year in memory with fewer children in care than in previous years. Savings were coming from independent fostering agencies, the Council was looking to reduce the spend on the most expensive agencies. Regarding adoption this related to a reduction in the Adoption Reform grant. Mr Simmonds referred to the very productive work of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adoption and Fostering and policy changes which had resulted in the reduction in numbers.
15. In relation to the Young Person's Travel Pass and parental contribution, Mr Shipton explained that the decision on the Young Person's Travel Pass was taken in June last year and it was decided that the parental contribution would be linked to the increase in bus fares, assuming this was reasonable – there was a cap to ensure this was not excessive. The expectation was to notify parents in early March 2016 of the increase.
16. In response to a Members' query it was confirmed that the additional 2% levy on social care would go on the base line of the budget. Mr Wood explained that originally the requirement on each authority to justify the 2% was based on the net change in budget for Adult Social Care, but he had received an email in the previous hour informing him that the DCLG would measure this based on the gross budget.
17. A Member asked about Business Rates – Ms Carey explained that Mr Shipton had spotted the opportunity of a Business rate pool for Kent and had encouraged the districts to join. The business pool captured money that would otherwise be returned to central government. Mr Shipton would provide a further explanation of business rates in the form of a 'guide', but summarised by explaining that currently local authorities retained 50% of the business rates raised locally. Of that 50%, 80% went to the districts, 18% to the County Council and 2% to the Fire and Rescue Service. In effect KCC received 9% of the total business rates. There were a series of tariffs and top-ups which redistributed the 9%, so effectively only 9% of any growth could be kept. As referred to earlier the county was also part of a pool with 10 districts, each authority kept its share of the business rates but the pool ensured that the levy rate was lower than it was for individual districts and so more money was kept by the authorities which would otherwise be sent back to central government.
18. In response to a question Mr Wood identified the pressure on domiciliary care. Demand had been expected to reduce, however demand had increased. Therefore there were additional costs due to 'spot purchasing' from care agencies, who in turn were using more expensive agency staff.
19. A Member referred to savings of £90million, through Adults' Services transformation and Children's Services transformation and commissioning. How optimistic were these savings? Were officers confident that they could be delivered? In response, it was stated that Key Performance Indicators had been drawn up to test that the work undertaken with Newton Europe was providing efficiencies. The budget presented to the County Council would be based on



robust estimates. Before it was presented Officers would test the 'RAG' (Red, Amber, Green) status of the budget proposals and any which had a 'red' status would be removed from the budget.

20. The Cabinet Member confirmed that he had confidence that he was delivering a balanced budget and the savings proposals were realistic.

21. A Member asked what the Council 'bought' from the Business Services Centre, Mr Wood confirmed that the majority of the Council's ICT service was delivered through the Business Services Centre.

22. Regarding transformation, how much money from reserves had been spent on transformation? Mr Wood explained that £2.5million was available within the budget for transformation each year. Further information regarding the money spent on transformation was available within the regular budget monitoring reports.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Committee thank Mr Simmonds, Ms Carey, Mr Wood and Mr Shipton for attending the meeting and for answering Members' questions. The Committee also offered its thanks to Ms Head (Head of Financial Management) and Ms Payne (Revenue Budget Manager) for their work on the budget.

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**From:** Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children’s Services  
 Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director for Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

**To:** Scrutiny Committee - 8 March 2016

**Subject:** **CORPORATE PARENTING SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT – Action Plan & 3 Month Update**

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway:** Corporate Parenting Select Committee – 11 Nov 2015  
 Cabinet – 30 November 2015  
 County Council – 10 December 2015

**Future Pathway:** N/A

**Electoral Division:** All

**Summary:** The Corporate Parenting Select Committee conducted a review of Members role as elected corporate parents. The report made 15 recommendations for improving Members oversight role as corporate parents. The work underway to fulfil these recommendations are set out in the attached appendix.

**Recommendations:** The Committee is asked to:  
 (i) **NOTE** the report and the attached appendix.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Select Committee was established in February 2015 to review Kent County Council’s corporate parenting arrangements and to make recommendations for the improving of members’ oversight of their role.
- 1.2. The launch of the Corporate Parenting Select Committee reflects the acknowledgment by the Council that it is time to restate the elected and officer corporate parent responsibilities. As such, it is important that the changes agreed by this Authority in order to improve the experiences and outcomes of our children in care are implemented successfully.
- 1.3. The report and recommendations were agreed by the Corporate Parenting Select Committee on the 11 November 2015 and this was endorsed by the County Council on the 10 December 2015. As required by the council’s constitution, the Scrutiny Committee needs to be informed within 3 months of what action is being undertaken to deliver the recommendations.

## 2. Key Findings and Recommendations

- 2.1 The Select Committee Report discusses the key topics and issues that have the most significant impact on health, wellbeing and education of the children in our care. Each chapter highlights the key points and high-level responsibilities

that Members, as elected corporate parents should consider. The report also gives an account of the Kent picture for the main topics and issues considered. Three important questions are also addressed in the report, namely:

- What are we trying to achieve?
- What are we doing at present? and
- What more could be done?

2.2 The 15 main recommendations of the report aim to:

- Provide Members with a framework to ensure that they have a comprehensive understanding of their statutory responsibilities to the children within KCC's care.
- Ensure Members are aware of what they need to do and what questions they need to ask of officers in order to ensure KCC is doing the right things as an organisation to support and provide for its children and young people.
- Make sure KCC has the right systems and structures in place to fulfil its corporate parenting duties in the best and most effective way.
- Make certain that feedback from young people informs everything Kent does, from casework to organisational design and delivery.
- Strengthen the work KCC does with its partner agencies to ensure that the needs of Children in Care and care leavers are prioritised.

2.3 The detailed actions to deliver the 15 recommendations are set out in the attached appendix, which also gives an overview of progress in the first 3 months.

### 3. Conclusion

3.1 The Corporate Parent obligations that are legally placed on the Kent County Council require members and officers to work together along with partner agencies to ensure that children in care are well looked after. Scrutiny Committee's role in looking at the actions being taken to deliver this is an important part of ensuring our obligations are being met.

3.2 Following Scrutiny Committee's consideration, the next formal step will be a reconvening of the Select Committee to review progress after 12 months.

<p>4. <b>Recommendations:</b> Scrutiny Committee is asked to: (i) <b>NOTE</b> the report and the attached appendix.</p>
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### 5. Report Author

Philip Segurola, Director, Specialist Children's Services  
[Philip.Segurola@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.Segurola@kent.gov.uk) 03000 413120

6. **Appendix:** Progress to Date, February 2016

### 7. Background Documents

Corporate Parenting Select Committee Report, December 2015  
[http://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/51890/Corporate-Parenting-Select-Committee-report.pdf](http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/51890/Corporate-Parenting-Select-Committee-report.pdf)

## Corporate Parenting Select Committee Report

### Progress to Date – February 2016

**Recommendation 1:** KCC should adopt a simply-worded and practical corporate parenting guide (handbook) for all members that clearly sets out what we need to know, including information about the fundamental areas crucial to running an effective children's services in fulfilment of our corporate parenting responsibilities. The handbook must include contact details of key officers within each division.

**Progress to Date:** Work is ongoing to develop a guide for members that sets out key information relevant to their corporate parenting responsibilities. The guide will encompass general information from Local Government Association (LGA) documents with more Kent specific detailed signposting to key performance information and local contacts. A draft of the guide will be made available for members to consider at the May Corporate Parenting Panel.

**Recommendation 2:** KCC should make available information about the fundamental areas of children's services such as education and health outcomes, placement stability and support for care leavers for all members on a regular schedule starting from March 2016.

**Progress to Date:** A quarterly Children in Care Scorecard is now produced by the Management Information Unit (MIU). This scorecard captures performance activity against a broad range of key indicators, including health and education outcomes. The scorecard is presented to Corporate Parenting Panel on a regular basis but can be made more widely available to all members.

**Recommendation 3:** KCC should introduce a refreshed training programme for all KCC members as part of their induction after every county council election or upon their appointment. In the event of significant changes to corporate parenting, KCC members should be updated through additional training. All members are strongly advised to take advantage of this training offer. Consideration should be given to the best option for overseeing and reporting on training attendance.

**Progress to Date:** Officers are working with Member Services to ensure that an introduction to corporate parenting forms part of induction training for new members. Significant changes to corporate parenting responsibilities will be addressed through additional training and guidance.

**Recommendation 4:** KCC should write to the Children's Minister to ask that a review of compliance to the new Regulations 2010 and the sufficiency duty should be carried out to ensure that responsible authorities are held to account in maintaining the welfare of the children in their care.

**Progress to Date:** A draft letter is being prepared for consideration.

**Recommendation 5:** KCC should adhere to the ‘simplification’ principle and merge the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Corporate Parenting Group to strengthen the focus on corporate parenting for a more powerful and streamlined oversight. This is to be backed by the development of a memorandum of governance between the new group and relevant existing groups to reduce any avoidable overlap and/or duplication.

**Progress to Date:** Arrangements are in hand for the multi-agency Corporate Parenting Group and Corporate Parenting Panel to merge from April 2016 onwards. A revised Terms of Reference and proposed membership will be presented to Corporate Parenting Panel in March.

**Recommendation 6:** All KCC members should commit to actively championing and engaging with divisional and countywide participation events (e.g. Virtual School Kent activities, Achievement Award ceremonies and organised foster carer events) to hear about the achievements of our children and young people as well as finding out about those emerging issues that concern those in our care. It must always be made the responsibility of the relevant service managers to extend an invitation to all members to events and meetings and ensure that this automatically happens and that relevant information is included in the Member Bulletin (or the Members’ Calendar) to give all members adequate notice and opportunity to attend.

**Progress to Date:** Area service managers for children in care have been briefed on the recommendations of the Select Committee and the strong wish on the part of members to become actively involved in events at a local level. Invitations have already been extended to members in respect of some recent events involving our children in care and full use will be made of the Member Bulletin to publicise further events in advance.

**Recommendation 7:** KCC should identify a lead participation officer to coordinate how the views of children, young people and their carers are taken into account at the service level and for such information to be made available to members annually.

**Progress to Date:** A dedicated Participation and Engagement Officer has been in post since October 2015. They are now progressing an agreed work programme, picking up on issues raised with the recent LILAC reassessment (Leading Improvements for Looked After Children), working alongside our care apprentices. Corporate Parenting Panel have been briefed on new initiatives including the use of an app-based facility (MOMO) to allow children and young people to engage more fully in their care reviews.

**Recommendation 8:** KCC should continue to strengthen work with our district partners (through council leaders and Joint Kent Chief Executives) to prioritise the needs of care leavers in gaining access to social housing and support. This partnership work should consider district partners supporting corporate parenting responsibilities in relation to the accommodation needs of care leavers through

mechanisms such as the Kent Housing Strategy and the Joint Housing Protocol.

**Progress to Date:** This work remains ongoing as part of the 0-25 accommodation strategy. A consultation exercise has been launched to consider how best to develop a broader volume and range of supported accommodation options. Access to social housing via the District Councils will form part of this process.

**Recommendation 9:** KCC should review the independent living skills support arrangements for care leavers (including the training provision and who care leavers should contact for support at whatever time).

**Progress to Date:** Building upon initial diagnostic work undertaken with Newton Europe, a pathway planning process has been in progress in East Kent, focusing on how well care leavers are prepared with the skills necessary for independent living. This process has now concluded and the lessons learned are informing the development of a new, more young person friendly pathway plan which it is intended to trial from April 2016.

**Recommendation 10:** KCC should conduct a review of the fostering service with the objective of improving the matching process and reducing the number of placement breakdowns. The review should take place six months after the county council has endorsed this Select Committee Report and report back to the Corporate Parenting Panel.

**Progress to Date:** The incoming Assistant Director for Corporate Parenting will be charged with undertaking a review of the fostering service within the timescale indicated, with a focus on service quality, sufficiency compliance and steps that can be taken to support placement stability in order to reduce numbers of placement moves.

**Recommendation 11:** KCC and its commissioning partners produce regular progress reports to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the provision of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, including evidence of the impact in relation to children in care – particularly the support offered to care leavers, disabled children and UASC and adopted children. Updates are to include key performance information, including waiting times and any geographical variances in access to services.

**Progress to Date:** In addition to reporting arrangements that are in place for the monitoring of CAMHS services by HOSC, regular reports will also be made available to Corporate Parenting Panel in respect of services provided to children in care.

**Recommendation 12:** KCC should investigate what further measures can be adopted as part of the NEET strategy development to address the high numbers of care leavers not in education, training or employment and to improve the life skills 'offer' for the post 18s. Measures should be defined and implemented to address any areas in need of improvement. A report on progress should be brought to the

Corporate Parenting Panel by June 2016.

**Progress to Date:** Work remains ongoing with EYPS to prioritise and address NEET outcomes for care leavers. The extended remit of the Virtual School Kent (VSK) up to the age of 18 is now having an impact upon outcomes and a specific focus is being placed on options for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) who will increasingly form the majority of care leavers. As requested, an update report will be brought to Corporate Parenting Panel in June 2016 updating progress on providing guidance and support to care leavers in respect of NEET outcomes.

**Recommendation 13:** KCC and our partner agencies should explore the viability of developing opportunities for care leavers to have apprenticeship positions with KCC and/or partners, thus increasing the range and access to further education and employment opportunities for young people in care who are in the NEET position.

**Progress to Date:** We will continue to build upon the success of the apprenticeship scheme already in place within Specialist Children's Services to explore further placement opportunities across the Council and partner networks. Meetings have taken place with the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste to develop apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers within the directorate and commissioned providers.

**Recommendation 14:** KCC should ensure that work is undertaken to improve the information we collect regarding our children in care and care leavers and their health needs. The result of this work should be fully reflected in the revised Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and future commissioning arrangements.

**Progress to Date:** There are now two working groups in place with health partners to oversee both the strategic and operational aspects of the health needs of children in care. The work of these groups will serve to monitor service provision and inform future commissioning priorities. This will be further reinforced by the active participation of senior health representatives in the augmented Corporate Parenting Panel. A stronger link will be built with Public Health in relation to intelligence gathering, needs analysis and service delivery to meet the holistic health needs of children in care.

**Recommendation 15:** Processes need to be established to ensure all members take an active role in getting to know our frontline staff and their concerns, informally as well as via formal consultation exercises. We should also ensure that feedback from our social workers is informing the development of activities and planning at all levels of the organisation. Protocols must be established to clarify this process.

**Progress to Date:** In line with the actions noted for recommendation 6, opportunities to attend events involving young people and staff will be extended members at a local level. An ongoing programme of district visits involving Lead Member and Director ensure that staff routinely have the opportunity to meet with



senior management to provide feedback that influences further service development.

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By: Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services  
Richard Parry, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee

To: Scrutiny Committee – 8 March 2016

Subject: **Select Committee Work Programme**

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Summary: To receive an update on the Select Committee Topic Review Programme

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## **1. Select Committee – Grammar Schools and Social Mobility**

1.1. In November 2015 all Members of the Scrutiny were asked to approve a request to establish a Select Committee on social mobility in relation to grammar schools. This was approved and after defining its terms of reference, scope, potential witnesses and timescale in December the Select Committee held its first evidence gathering session on 1 February 2016 and met informally to discuss areas of recommendation on 24 February.

1.2. This Select Committee is due to report to County Council in May 2016.

1.3. The Chairman of this Select Committee, Mrs Whittle, has been invited to the Scrutiny Committee to update Members on the latest information with regards to the Select Committee.

<p><b>2. Recommendation:</b> that the progress of the Select Committee on Grammar Schools and Social Mobility be noted.</p>
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*Background Papers – Nil*

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By: Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services  
Richard Parry, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee

To: Scrutiny Committee – 8 March 2016

Subject: **Select Committee Work Programme**

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Summary: To receive an update on the Select Committee Topic Review Programme

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## **1. Select Committee – Energy Security**

- 1.1. This Select Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr J Wedgbury has held 6 evidence gathering sessions with internal and external witnesses. The draft report and recommendations have been shared with the relevant Cabinet Member and Corporate Director for consideration and discussion with the Select Committee.
- 1.2. This Select Committee is due to report to County Council in May 2016.
- 1.3. The Chairman of this Select Committee, Mr Wedgbury, has been invited to the Scrutiny Committee to update Members on the latest information with regards to the Select Committee.

<p><b>2. Recommendation:</b> that the progress of the Select Committee on Energy Security be noted.</p>
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*Background Papers – Nil*

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