

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Regeneration and Economic Development Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 24 March 2010

Subject: **UPDATE ON SELECT COMMITTEE WORK**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates Members on Select Committee work going on in 2010.

Current Select Committees

1. (1) Previous reports promised that all POSCs would be kept up to date on the work of all Select Committees.

Work is currently progressing on the following Select Committees:-

Renewable Energy

(2) This Committee held its first meeting on 26 January 2010, at which it elected a Chairman, Keith Ferrin, and agreed its Terms of Reference, scope and list of potential witnesses. As a departure from Kent's regular Select Committee style, the Committee is trying the Parliamentary method of seeking written evidence first, from which Members will then decide, at a meeting on 31 March, whom they wish to invite to give oral evidence. Hearings, at which oral evidence will be gathered, are planned for April and May. The Committee's final report will be considered by the County Council on 14 October 2010. The contacts in Democratic Services for this Committee are Research Officer Sue Frampton (01622 694993) and Democratic Services Officer Christine Singh (01622 694334), who will be able to supply further information on the work of the Select Committee to any Member who requests it.

Extended Services (previously titled Extended Schools)

(3) This Committee will hold its first meeting on 19 March 2010, at which it will elect a Chairman and agree its Terms of Reference, scope and list of potential witnesses to be approached to give oral evidence. Hearings, at which oral evidence will be gathered, are planned for late April through to June. The Committee's final report will be considered by the County Council on 9 December 2010. The contacts in Democratic Services for this Committee are Research Officer Gaetano Romagnuolo (01622 694292) and Democratic Services Officer Theresa Grayell (01622 694277), who will be able to supply further information on the work of the Select Committee to any Member who requests it.

Future Select Committee Work

2. (1) Work is due to start in Summer 2010 on the following Select Committees:-
- Dementia
 - Educational Attainment of Pupils and Schools in Areas of High Deprivation

(2) At its meeting on 24 February, the Scrutiny Board received an update on the current Select Committee Topic Review Programme. Although resources to support reviews are all currently allocated, there is potential to start new reviews in November 2010 and January 2011. The Board agreed that Members would be asked if there are any topics they would like to put forward for consideration for inclusion in the future topic review programme. If Members do have any suggestions of topics they should contact the Democratic Services Officer for this POSC.

Recommendation

3. (1) Members are asked to note the progress of the Renewable Energy and Extended Services Select Committees, and the further Select Committee work which is planned to start in the summer of 2010.

(2) Members are also asked to consider if there are any topics they would like to put forward for inclusion in the future topic review programme, and to advise the Democratic Services Officer of any such topics.

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Background Information: *Nil*

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