

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
25 March 2010

Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEE - UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report updates Members on the progress with the Select Committee on Renewable Energy and invites suggestions for future Select Committee topic reviews.

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### **Select Committee: Renewable Energy**

1. (1) The Select Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr Keith Ferrin (other members Mr Charles Hibberd, Mr David Hirst, Mr Richard King, Mr Tim Prater, Mr Chris Smith, Mrs Paulina Stockell and Mrs Elizabeth Tweed) held its inaugural meeting in January 2010. This Select Committee is piloting a different style of working and has gathered written evidence prior to agreeing its list of oral witnesses. This mirrors the way that Parliamentary Select Committees carry out their work.

(2) Visits have been arranged for the Select Committee to Beaufort Court in Hertfordshire, a low carbon building which is designed to be entirely self-sufficient in heat and power from on-site renewable energy installations and to a conference entitled 'Keeping the Lights on' at Pines Calyx, St Margaret's Bay in Kent, which has achieved a similar zero carbon profile. The Select Committee will be meeting on 31 March 2010 to review the written evidence received and agree its list of witnesses. Hearing sessions will be held during April, May and the first week of June. The Select Committee will be submitting its final report to the County Council in October 2010.

(3) Regular update reports will be submitted to this Policy Overview Committee (POSC) to keep Members informed of the progress of this Select Committee.

### **Suggestions for Select Committee topic reviews**

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

**Recommendation**

3. Members are asked to note the update report.

Christine Singh  
Tel No: 01622 694334  
e-mail: Christine.singh@kent.gov.uk

Background Information: *Nil*