

By: Peter Sass - Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 23 June 2010

Subject: Follow up items from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report sets out the items which the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee has raised previously for follow up

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### **Introduction**

1. This is a rolling schedule of information requested previously by the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.
2. If the information supplied is satisfactory it will be removed following the meeting, but if the Committee should find the information to be unsatisfactory it will remain on the schedule with a request for further information.

### **Recommendation**

3. That the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee notes the responses to the issues raised previously.

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Background Information: *Nil*



	Issue	Response
10.12.08	Highways Business Plan IMG 02.12.08 - A list of gully schedules be supplied to all Members after the elections	In July Members will be supplied with specimen gully emptying schedules following the completion of route optimisation work for gulleys countywide. When all this is complete, gully emptying schedules will be available.
09.12.09	Kent Design Guide	A residential parking workshop was held on 14 April 2010. Mr Chard, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste has agreed to review current Government parking guidelines, the outcomes of the workshop on residential parking guidelines in the Kent Design Guide, and Kent Developers Group proposals so that they are not unnecessarily disadvantaged. A report will be presented to Environment Highways and Waste Policy and Overview Committee on this issue at its meeting in July.
10.02.10	Mr Horne asked that when it became known, Members be informed of the level of funding package which the Government was offering to Kent County Council in relation to the transfer of the Learning and Skills Council Service.	When this information is known Members will be informed.
09.04.10	Weather Damaged Roads - Ask for confirmation of the level of backlog to road repairs, the level of government support, and the level of expenditure which would be required to clear the backlog  - Ask for written confirmation that the total cost of administering the process and overheads is no more than 10% of the total cost of the contract  - Ask that Members, Parish Councils and Town Councils be informed when teams will be working in their areas  - Ask that the frequency of inspection of utilities work to road surfaces is increased to ensure benefits and high performance of utility companies.	Level of repair backlog – The current estimate is that the value of the highways backlog is in the region of £400million.  Confirm that admin/supervision costs will be below 10% - this is confirmed and detail will be provided to Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview & Scrutiny Committee at the 29 <sup>th</sup> July meeting  The programme has now been made available and Members, Parish and Town Councils have been informed  We currently meet our obligations under the New Roads and Street Works Act, we will shortly however be increasing the amount of reinstatements that we inspect. The outcome of this short term push will determine our future approach in this area.

	<p>- thank the witnesses for their assurance that there would be systematic monitoring of the work and ask the Scrutiny Board to review the Weather Damage Repairs to Roads in Kent contract and the work to date after £1million has been spent.</p>	<p>A report detailing findings will be available in the next 4 weeks. The Scrutiny Board considered that this issue should be pursued by the Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Cabinet Member updated Members on the progress of the weather damage repairs to roads at the EHW POSC meeting on 25 May meeting.</p>
<p><b>09.04.10</b></p>	<p>Safeguarding Children in Kent: Defending and Developing the Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thank the Cabinet Member Children Families and Education for her offer that when the summary of a serious case review is published and available to the public it is made available to all Group Leaders and Mr Lees and ask that this be extended to all Members;</li> <li>- Ask that the Cabinet Member Children, Families and Education in conjunction with the Deputy Leader (who has the portfolio for the Overview and Scrutiny Function) look again at the interrelationship with the Vulnerable Children’s Policy Overview Scrutiny Committee, the Children’s Champions Board, the Safeguarding Board and report the outcome to the Scrutiny Board;</li> <li>- Ask that the Scrutiny Board receive a report addressing how and whom should have the responsibility for elected Members as “Corporate Parents” supporting the needs of Looked After Children;</li> <li>- That the Cabinet Member for Children Families and Education in conjunction with the Managing Director be asked to prepare a briefing note setting out for Members the information and resources made available to schools and governors to ensure that the risks and vulnerability of children, as occurred in the recent case in Tunbridge Wells, is avoided.</li> <li>- Ask the Cabinet Member for Children Families and Education to draw up a protocol for dealing with future Serious Case Reviews in as far as it affects Information to Members, Members’ input into the recommendations flowing from the review and the monitoring of the recommendations. It was suggested that the Vulnerable Children’s Policy Overview and</li> </ul>	<p>A response to the recommendations of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee was put in all Members pigeon holes 17.05.10.</p>

	Scrutiny Committee would be the appropriate body to consider such a protocol in the first instance.	
<b>09.04.10</b>	<p>Kent Digital Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thank Mr Gough and Mrs Oliver for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions;</li> <li>- Ask that a note be provided once the staff consultation period has finished, explaining the process in terms of what was undertaken, why it was undertaken in that way and the cost of the process;</li> <li>- Ask that a copy of the legal advice regarding the need to use TUPE be provided.</li> </ul>	<p>The Cabinet Member for Corporate Support Services and Performance Management has agreed that this information will be supplied to all Members of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Further discussions are taking place between the Chairman, Spokespeople of the Committee and the Cabinet Member. Once these discussions are concluded Members of the Committee will receive this information.</p>
<b>09.04.10</b>	<p>Local Member Information</p> <p>Throughout the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee's discussion on each of the items was a common theme about how local Members are kept informed of issues, initiatives and decisions affecting their electoral divisions;</p> <p>The Committee are aware of a range of important initiatives being undertaken which will improve the quality and flow of information to elected Members for example implementation of the Informal Member Group: Member Information (approved by the County Council – December 2008), the enhancement and refresh of the County Council website and the decision to develop Kent Digital Service. However there is a lack of cohesiveness in pulling all these factors together and a lack of clarity over who has the overall vision which the Committee recommends must be addressed. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Localism and Partnerships be asked to report to the Scrutiny Board on how and when he proposed this work to be taken forward, and this be reported to Members of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee through their follow up items report.</p>	<p>The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Localism and Partnerships attended the Scrutiny Board on Thursday 22nd April to reassure the Board that he is pulling together all the strands of activity which impact on the Member role and the ability for Members to better serve the residents who elected them.</p> <p>This is an issue of culture and changing that culture both for elected Members and for officers which is particularly important in the present and developing climate.</p> <p>There is a need for strong and effective decision making. Effective information leads to more effective decisions. There is a need to ensure that this information is available to non-executive Members so that they can be effective community leaders who can add value to the decisions taken by the Executive and the County Council.</p>