

Appendix 1: SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC REVIEWS – MONITORING

Select Committee	Chairman	Final report to Cabinet	SC meeting to consider progress with Recommendations (12 months on from Cabinet)	Directorate/ POC	Update 2010 Page nos
Water and Waste Water, particularly in Ashford	Mr Hirst	October 2005	31 October 2007	E&R	61
Gypsy and Travellers	Mr Fullarton	May 2006	May 07 + 29 Nov 2007	Adult Services	70
Home to School Transport	Mr Law	April 2006	27 April 2007	CFE	77
Climate Change	Mr Wells	October 2006	Quarterly monitoring report circulated starting Feb 07	E&R	87
PSHE/Children's Health	Ms Cribbon	April 2007	14 April 2008	CFE	94
Transition to a Positive Future	Mr Bowles	May 2007	23 June 2008	Adult Services	98
Flood Risk Management in Kent	Mrs Hohler	November 2007	13 November 2008	E&R	101
Carers	Mr Christie	December 2007	30 January 2009	Adult Services	109
Alcohol Misuse	Mr Fullarton/Mr Hirst	March 2008	17 March 2009	Corporate	118
Accessing Democracy	Mrs Angell	September 2008	15 June 2010	Corporate	128
Passenger Rail Services in Kent	Miss Carey	December 2008	22 June 2010	E&R	138
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	Mr Simmonds	30 March 2009	11 May 2010	Adult Services	148
Provision of Activities for Young People	Mr Chell	30 March 2009	23 June 2010	Communities	155

Appendix 2: SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC REVIEWS – PROGRESS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

WATER AND WASTEWATER, PARTICULARLY IN ASHFORD – SEPTEMBER 2005	Progress at end March 2010
Recommendations	
<p>1. The Select Committee would endorse the view, expressed by officers of Kent County Council, that the solutions proposed for management of issues regarding the water system in the Ashford growth area must ensure mutual benefit and support, as far as is possible, with the economic and social dimensions of growth.</p> <p>The Committee also endorses the view that environmental considerations must be given equal weight in decision-making with social and economic considerations to achieve truly sustainable growth.</p> <p>The Committee recommends that when considering in future how to take forward actions identified through the IWMS, Kent County Council should continue to pursue strongly the objectives of the Kent Environment Strategy. The Council should consider how appropriate actions and targets from the IWMS could be linked to the Environment Strategy.</p>	<p>Alignment of policies continues to be pursued.</p> <p>The Ashford Water Group comprises KCC and other key stakeholders. It reports progress regularly to the Ashford's Future Board regarding the delivery of the IWMS Action Plan.</p> <p>The revised Kent Environment Strategy provides high level policy linkage and reflects many of the issues identified in the IWMS.</p>
<p>2. The Select Committee would support the establishment of a permanent group for the management, protection and enhancement of the water system in the Stour Catchment, made up of key stakeholders from central government (including planners and regulatory authorities), local government (county and district levels), water companies, and technical and environmental experts. Its remit should include land management issues relating to water and wastewater in the Stour Catchment. KCC should drive the establishment of this group, ensuring that key stakeholders are involved and that its work dovetails with that of Ashford's Future and the IWMS. The Group should engage actively with local people regarding its work, fostering public ownership and participation in measures to protect and enhance the aquatic environment.</p>	<p>The EU Water Framework Directive has raised the profile of catchment water management considerably and the Stour now forms part of the SE River Basin District. In 2008 the EA set up a Stour Catchment Group.</p> <p>The Action Plan for the Ashford IWMS is now linked into this wider programme.</p>
<p>3. Many of the Committee's recommendations will be more or less relevant to the welfare of the River Stour. Given that the growth in Ashford's population will lead to an increase in the output of wastewater, and that this growth sits within a context of higher temperatures and reductions in summer rainfall in the South East it must be stated here that the Select Committee believes that the Stour's chemical and biological condition, its temperature, flow levels and its chalk river</p>	<p>The Ashford Water Group set up a specific task group on water quality in 2008. Following several successful initiatives this has now been subsumed back into the main group.</p>

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<p>characteristics downstream, and the condition of its environment must be given a priority consideration when carrying out selection of the options for managing water resources and the water supply and wastewater system in and around Ashford.</p> <p>The Select Committee also acknowledges the Environment Agency view that ‘what is good quality for one habitat is not necessarily good quality for another’, and therefore urges that attention should be focused in particular on the quality of the chalk river stretches of the Great Stour. To facilitate this, the Select Committee recommends that as a matter of urgency an appropriate system of monitoring should be put in place to identify critical changes in the chalk river characteristics of the Stour, and to monitor the Stour’s flow levels and temperature, not just the river’s chemical and biological quality. Research should be undertaken to fill gaps in the present understanding of the impact of variations in flow levels and temperature on rivers with chalk stream characteristics.</p> <p>The Environment Agency’s resources should be increased as appropriate to enable this research.</p> <p>Although the Environment Agency’s statutory ‘backstop’ position is to maintain river chemical and biological quality, having noted existing concerns about the state of the Stour, especially in its chalk water stretches, the Select Committee would urge that the firm aim of the Environment Agency and <u>all</u> key stakeholders in the Stour Catchment should be an overall <u>improvement</u> in the chemical, biological and physical quality and the flow levels of the Stour, and in the condition of the Stour’s environment. The Select Committee recommends that such an aspiration should be at the heart of the Stour Catchment Group recommended by this report. Moreover, the Committee would urge that the Environment Agency should be given the statutory mandate and the resources needed to work for the <u>improvement</u> of the quality of surface waters throughout England and Wales. In parallel with this, the Committee recommends that the technical implications of the Water Framework Directive should be clarified as a matter of urgency, so that it may be given detailed consideration in forward planning for water supply and wastewater treatment and disposal.</p>	<p>Ashford River Health Toolkit (ARHT) has been completed – this is a computer model that can simulate river flows, diffuse pollution inputs and point source effluent discharges so that infrastructure can be planned in advance of problems occurring.</p> <p>The ARHT has identified problems with phosphorous loading in the river and, as a result, Southern Water has secured funding for upgrading the WWTWs at Lenham, Charing and Sellinge specifically to remove phosphorus.</p> <p>Phase 1 of Bybrook WWTW improvements has been completed at a cost of about £50m. This has resulted in river water quality improvements, especially to ammonia levels. Southern Water is developing plans for phosphorus stripping at Bybrook WWTW. Wastewater inflows to this WWTW have declined over the last two years possibly as a result of the recession and closure of one or two water intensive commercial operations.</p> <p>Improvements to the low flow regime of the Stour may be harder to achieve as recent research results show that reductions to local groundwater abstraction may not result in increased flows into the river from chalk springs.</p> <p>An SUDS SPD has been prepared to form part of the Ashford LDF and will be consulted on during June 2010. This will set out the surface water management requirements for new developments.</p>

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<p>4. To support work seeking to achieve and maintain a balance between population growth, water resource management and infrastructure development, the Select Committee recommends that the actual growth of the population and number of households in the Ashford urban area should be closely and regularly monitored. This information should be shared between local authority planners, water industry regulators and water companies, to provide a common baseline for their forward plans.</p>	<p>Sharing of data is taking place.</p> <p>The monitoring report for the Ashford Water Strategy is regularly updated by the EA and Ashford's Future. This includes data from South East Water on the current water demand within the Ashford supply zone.</p> <p>For wastewater planning OFWAT does not allow Southern Water to include plans to accommodate growth until that growth has a high degree of certainty – ie. It is set out in an Area Action Plan.</p>
<p>5. Assisted by close observation of population growth and number of households in the Ashford urban area, and by further research (as recommended by the draft consultants' report for the IWMS) into levels of non-mains water abstractions, the Select Committee recommends that the area's actual level of demand for water should be closely monitored by the Environment Agency, especially in the planned growth period. This information must be shared between planners, water companies and water industry regulators, so that an agreement as to the baseline position for forward planning can be established.</p>	<p>Non-mains abstractions have been a small part of total water use and have not been given a high priority, consequently funding has not been available to research this. But see section 12 below.</p> <p>The Ashford Water Group monitors data on actual water use and per capita consumption within South East Water's Water Resource Zone (WRZ) 8 (Ashford and surrounds).</p>
<p>6. The Select Committee recommends that, given the current uncertainty regarding the viability of Broad Oak reservoir (which must be resolved as a matter of urgency), detailed work should be carried out looking into the viability of alternatives to resource the supply-demand balance in the Ashford area, particularly effluent re-use. Work on effluent re-use should especially focus on the local environmental implications of such schemes, and on public health and acceptance issues.</p>	<p>Indirect effluent re-use has been considered and a 20 Ml/day scheme on the lower Medway is currently preferred by both Southern Water and South East Water.</p> <p>A pipeline from Bewl bridge to Ashford is nearing completion but the economic recession has meant that this is not needed immediately and is now planned for completion in 2012.</p>
<p>7. The Select Committee recommends that investigations should continue as to the most effective</p>	<p>All the water companies in the region have</p>

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<p>means to achieve demand management through tariffed metering. The Committee also recognises that incentives are lacking for customers to opt into metering, and recommends that the Government has a role to play in developing such incentives. The Committee would also recommend further research and open discussion regarding the potential costs of metering to customers, the reasons why water companies may apply for Water Scarcity Status and the implications of compulsory metering powers under Water Scarcity Status. The Committee urges that considerations of social justice be given high importance in the development of metering tariffs and that schemes to assist vulnerable customers should be publicised more widely.</p>	<p>included compulsory water metering in their plans. As these plans stand Kent will be fully metered by 2020 and possibly earlier depending on where South East Water start with their programme.</p> <p>KCC is working with South East Water and Folkestone & Dover Water to evaluate alternative tariff systems. Southern Water has now decided to apply a seasonal tariff for their customers.</p>
<p>8. The Select Committee strongly recommends to the Government that an accredited and recognised system of water efficiency labelling should be developed for fixtures, fittings and appliances using water. To address the important issue of reducing demand in existing housing stock, consideration should be given as to how retrofit of high-efficiency fixtures, fittings and appliances could be incentivised effectively. Installation of such measures in new build should be made compulsory under reformed building regulations, at least in areas where the water supply-demand balance is under strain.</p> <p>The Select Committee also strongly recommends to the water industry regulators that a water efficiency commitment should be developed, setting targets for water companies to reduce water use by their customers. Active encouragement should be given by Government and by the water industry regulators to partnership working on demand management projects between water companies and developers, and water companies and local authorities.</p>	<p>The DEFRA market Transformation Programme and the national Waterwise project are pursuing this. DEFRA already manages The Water Technology List that includes tested products that qualify for the ECA scheme. Waterwise has also developed a technology accreditation scheme.</p> <p>The Bathroom Manufacturing Association has established a voluntary water efficiency labelling scheme that is rapidly gaining credence. http://www.water-efficiencylabel.org.uk/</p> <p>Government has committed to reviewing the Water Fitting Regulations.</p>
<p>9. The Select Committee strongly recommends that further research be undertaken into the possibility of introducing rainwater harvesting and other appropriate technologies to new developments in the Ashford growth area. The results of this research should be reflected in the design of future developments in the Ashford growth area and elsewhere, and in the revision of national building regulations.</p>	<p>Rainwater harvesting has recently been shown to incur higher carbon emissions than supplying the same volume of mains water. This is due to the small, less-efficient pump that most rainwater harvesting systems require to lift the water into the building. KCC is awaiting further work on this before pursuing rainwater harvesting.</p>

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<p>10. The Select Committee welcomes the commitment to and guidance for sustainable development offered by Kent Design, and Ashford Borough Council's commitment to seeking high standards of water efficiency in new development, including consumption of toilets, taps and showers, bath size and white goods (where installed by the developer). It urges Government to give water conservation measures priority consideration in reform of the building regulations, including provision for stricter standards to be applied by local authorities in areas where the supply-demand balance is particularly under strain. Existing training and information should be extended to support local authority officers in enforcing building regulations and other high standards for design and construction, as deemed appropriate for the needs of the area (e.g. EcoHomes standards, SEEDA Sustainability Checklist, Kent Design principles). Local authority officers should be assured of the resources necessary to enforce such regulations and standards.</p>	<p>Building Regulations now require a maximum water use design standard of 125 l/h/d.</p> <p>Ashford BC and Canterbury CC now have LDF requirements in place for new homes to comply with Code for Sustainable Homes (CfSH) level 3 or 4. (This is the highest rating for water that can be achieved without rainwater harvesting or grey-water recycling).</p> <p>Seven other Kent local authorities have the same requirement within draft LDFs that are expected to be adopted within the next 2 years.</p> <p>Swale BC's LDF is at a very early stage.</p> <p>Dartford BC's pre-submission draft Core Strategy appears not to make reference to water use standards.</p> <p>Tunbridge Wells BC has an SPD on Sustainable Design and Construction that includes an expectation that new homes should be water efficient. A separate SPD on Sustainable Water Use is in preparation but specific standards are not yet clear in either document.</p>
<p>11. The Select Committee supports initiatives such as the SE Water Resources Forum, and the Kent Sustainable Business Partnership, which raise environmental considerations further up the business agenda. The Committee would wish to see more businesses applying for environmental management accreditation, and would suggest that more be done to incentivise such accreditation.</p>	<p>The Kent Sustainable Business Partnership finds limited interest in water efficiency because water is a relatively minor cost to most Kent businesses.</p> <p>However, KCC has recently launched the South East Business Carbon Hub in April 2010, an online service aimed at supporting businesses in measuring, managing and</p>

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	<p>reducing their carbon emissions. The service will also offer an environmental accreditation scheme which will help businesses improve their environmental performance and receive recognition for doing so.</p>
<p>12. The Select Committee encourages local authorities, DEFRA and the Environment Agency to take forward the following actions:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - compulsory metering of non-mains abstraction within the Stour Catchment, especially any closely linked to water resources for the Ashford growth area, in order to ascertain usage – to be complete within five years - research into the possibilities offered to farmers and horticulturists, through diversification, to proactively adapt to water resource pressures and climate change, and into the best policies and means by which to support such adaptation - research into the means to make the most efficient use of water from abstractions, and into alternative water resources (including reservoirs) - partnership working with farmers and with groups such as the NFU, to give practical advice and support regarding efficient water use and the planning, development and deployment of alternative resources. Within Kent, such work could be facilitated by the Stour Catchment group as outlined in Recommendation 2. 	<p>In the absence of adequate information on non-mains water use this recommendation has not yet been progressed.</p> <p>Both East Malling Research and Brogdale have research projects underway to investigate and promote water efficiency in horticulture and agriculture.</p> <p>The EA has been introducing tighter restrictions on abstraction licences for agricultural and horticultural water users. However it appears that growers are instead increasingly approaching the water companies for their irrigation water needs - South East Water reports a significant increase in demand from this sector over recent years especially within WRZ 8. This is resulting in unnecessary water treatment and is competing with domestic use for scarce resources at times of peak demand. Furthermore, because irrigation water is not returned to water courses after use, it is likely to contribute to low river flows and result in water quality deterioration.</p> <p>This is a worrying development because there is no established mechanism to control it – water companies are entitled to accept new commercial customers and to plan to meet this demand but domestic customers would share the costs of any resulting</p>

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	<p>strategic infrastructure requirements. Growers might develop or expand businesses that later prove unsustainable, resulting in wasted investment.</p>
<p>13. The Select Committee would endorse the IPPR's position that 'we do not feel that a lack of evidence should mean an abandonment or down-playing of demand management strategies, but that greater effort should be made to build the evidence base on how effective different strategies are in reducing water demand'. Given the existing concern regarding abstraction levels and the potential impact of growth on the supply-demand balance, discrepancies between population and demand projections, and uncertainty regarding the viability of some resource development options, demand management measures must be viewed as an immediate priority for action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public education could be led in the first instance by local authorities such as Kent County Council and Ashford Borough Council, in partnership with water companies, developers and local environmental groups. The Committee is encouraged by the work of the Kent Water Demand Management Group, led by KCC, in promoting water efficiency in building and business; the work of this Group should be supported and extended to support the mobilisation of stakeholders to systematically address water consumption pressures and develop related business opportunities locally (e.g. in water efficient technology). Should a Stour Catchment Group such as that proposed in Recommendation II be developed, this group could take forward work in engaging the local population to tackle challenges in the supply-demand balance in their area. Local authorities should carry out auditing of their own water use, and take action to improve efficiency. KCC should reaffirm and act on its commitment to carry out a water audit across all its areas of business, excluding schools, within three years. Schools should be encouraged to respond to this action within the same timescale. 	<p>The Kent Water Demand Management Group (KWDMG) has been further expanded. It now includes the Consumer Council for Water and all the Kent water companies except Thames Water.</p> <p>The Savings on Tap project with Hillreed Homes has demonstrated water efficiency measures in new homes that approximate to CfSH level 1. Per capita consumption in these homes is less than 120 l/h/day.</p> <p>Using the Code for Sustainable Homes, high standards are now being set within Kent LDFs.</p> <p>DEFRA has introduced a target that domestic per capita consumption should be 130 l/h/d by 2030. Most water companies have embraced this aspiration but South East Water has resisted somewhat – KCC has strongly challenged the company on this issue in the current Public Inquiry into their Water Resources Management Plan.</p> <p>KCC has been leading a project to address water efficiency in existing homes in Ashford. This has proved effective and very popular with residents. Savings are in the order of 10% per house. The project has also run a behaviour change campaign. The project is now being roll out to other parts of the town in combination with energy saving measures.</p>

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	<p>KCC is developing a Kent-wide project for retrofitting energy and water efficiency measures into existing homes.</p> <p>From 2010 OFWAT has given all water companies minimum targets for water efficiency gains. This is helping to galvanise partnership activity to improve the water efficiency of existing homes.</p> <p>KCC has disbursed £100,000 of grants to schools and large KCC offices for water efficiency improvements.</p> <p>KCC's Sustainable Business Programme offers free services to businesses in the South East including: an environmental review, flood risk consultation and membership of the South East Business Carbon Hub. All three services include water measurement and management and promote the efficient use of water. Eighty businesses have already received an environmental review with 7,921m³ of water savings identified.</p>
<p>14. The Select Committee would urge OFWAT (and its successor as the economic regulator) to give greater long-term financial security, through a revised Price Review process, to water companies' plans for long-term enhancement of their services. The economic regulator is also asked to consider how the process and timing for approval of water companies' asset management plans could be made more flexible, to allow greater synchronicity with local development frameworks and with actions identified through area projects such as the Ashford IWMS.</p>	<p>There has been no change on the timing of the Price Review process, however OFWAT has introduced mechanisms to remove some of the disincentives for investment in demand reduction.</p> <p>OFWAT is investigating a number of possible improvements to encourage more sustainable behaviour by water companies. KCC is planning to lobby the regulator to influence this work.</p>

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<p>15. The Select Committee recommends that not only flood risk implications but also the protection and enhancement of the River Stour should be taken into account in the consideration of all proposals for development in the Ashford growth area. (This recommendation supports the Committee's Recommendation 3).</p>	<p>This is being addresses by the EA as part of an Upper Stour Strategic Review and is coordinated by the Ashford Water Group.</p>
<p>16. The Committee recommends that separate storm and foul sewerage should be installed in place of CSOs, as and when redevelopment work takes place in the vicinity. It also recommends that OFWAT (and its successor as the economic regulator) should ensure there are financial means to fund the replacement of CSOs before unacceptable impacts are detected.</p> <p>The Committee also recommends that the Environment Agency should be required to advise the public through posting of notices and through public journals of all untreated or unsatisfactorily part-treated discharges – both licensed and unlicensed – of sewage and effluent into the sea, watercourses or over land. A record of such discharges should be maintained and be available to members of the public.</p>	<p>All new developments are served with separate foul and storm sewers.</p> <p>There are currently no funding mechanisms for the replacement of existing CSOs. However, improvements to the network capacity appear to be reducing the frequency of CSO incidents.</p> <p>Major enhancements and extensions of the sewerage network and underway to accommodate growth at Ashford.</p>

GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES IN KENT – MAY 2006	Progress at end June 2010
Recommendations	
<p>1. For KCC, in partnership with all Kent local authorities, to take joint responsibility for the establishment of a network of transit sites across Kent. For KCC to co-ordinate the submission of funding bids to the regional housing fund for January 2007 and subsequent bidding opportunities, where appropriate and sustainable. (Page 22, 4.5.10)</p>	<p>There has been significant progress made. The planning advice options were submitted to SEERA and made available on the KCC website, including the full version of the four Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments for Kent and Medway. A number of counties and districts revised their accommodation figures (not including Kent).</p> <p>The South Eastern Regional Assembly decided, at their meeting on 4 March 2009, to recommend that transit site proposals should be determined locally. Before the Examination in Public on the Partial Review of the South East Plan, SEERA Officers aim to commission a study on transit movement patterns and high-level evidence of need for transit provision, to inform the work their draft policy indicates will be needed at county group level to identify transit provision requirements.</p> <p><i>The issue was discussed in detail at the Examination in Public on the Partial Review of the South East Plan in February 2010.</i></p> <p><i>However, the Coalition Government has terminated the South East Plan, and the future planning guidance is still to be determined.</i></p> <p><i>At the least, there will be no regional transit site arrangements, unless agreed between individual authorities, even though there is some general agreement that regional planning for this is a good idea.</i></p>
<p>2. For Kent local authorities to investigate ways to facilitate growth in the number of self-owned, self-leased and self-managed private sites, within the existing planning and legislative framework. (Page 23, 4.6.4)</p>	<p>The Housing Corporation produced a paper on this subject, to act as a basis for increased RSL involvement and the Communities and Local Government Departments produced revised guidance on Accommodation Assessments. The KCC GTU developed a closer working relationship with</p>

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	<p>AMICUS Housing and was keen to hold an event, involving RSLs operating in Kent, once there was Housing Corporation or CLG new proposals to discuss - this has not yet taken place, but has been discussed informally with an officer from the new Homes and Communities Agency.</p> <p>A paper will be prepared by the Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board once the proposals were produced.</p> <p>Opportunities for owner-occupied sites will continue to be looked for, as part of necessary new site development in Kent.</p> <p><i>This will be even more critical now, as there is no money in 10/11 for new public sites.</i></p>
<p>3. For the KCC Gypsy Unit to investigate the situation of Irish Travellers in Kent, regarding access to local authority sites, and to monitor and report on the pitch occupancy rate on public sites.</p>	<p>KCC is now discussing with other authorities in Kent and Medway the review of public plot allocation policy, to reflect the needs and site stock that exist, the different groups seeking accommodation, and to enable those from different groups to live side by side.</p> <p><i>A few more Irish Travellers on KCC waiting-lists. But many still move to land they have bought, and try to get planning consent, arguing they are not catered for.</i></p>
<p>4. For KCC to facilitate the sharing of best practice between Kent local authorities, over the needs assessment processes, including addressing future needs. (Page 28, 5.1.4)</p>	<p>Sharing of practice continues through the Kent and Medway Site Managers' Group (to which other agencies are also invited) and occasional meetings of the planning officer group which helps steer the Kent and Medway SEERA work.</p> <p><i>Site Manager group continues. KCC GTU now managing Maidstone's two sites.</i></p>
<p>5. All Transit and permanent site provision in Kent should have amenities and services, including boundary fencing, hardstanding on each pitch, water supply, toilet and washing facilities, waste disposal and electricity supply and ensure adequate health and safety measures are taken. (Page 30, 5.2.5)</p>	<p>Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Service have completed, and launched in February 2009, an excellent DVD, for Gypsies and Travellers living on any type of site, or in a caravan with no site, which is being well-received in Kent</p>

GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES IN KENT – MAY 2006	Progress at end June 2010
	<p>and other parts of the country. It provides practical guidance on how to prevent fires starting, what happens when they do, and how to respond effectively and protect people and property. Anyone who would like a copy can contact the Gypsy and Traveller Unit.</p> <p>The Government's Site Design Guide was published in May 2008, and is the basis for decisions on grant for current and future public sites.</p> <p><i>However, as there is now no capital funding for new sites, there may need to be more managed encampments, without all the facilities mentioned in this recommendation, but with some facilities, and close management.</i></p> <p>The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 received Royal Assent in July 2008, making Mobile Homes Act 1983 provisions apply to publicly-run Gypsy and Traveller sites for the first time. Some exceptions can be made, and consultation on those (principally about right of assignment and rights to plots on succession after death) took place in autumn 2008. The further changes will be included in regulations expected to be placed before Parliament before the summer recess. A model new national pitch agreement is due to be prepared, and recommended to all public bodies managing sites. The change to the new system, with the new law applying, is expected by the end of calendar year 2009 or by 1 April 2010. New Site Management Guidance will be published at the same time by the Communities and Local Government Department.</p>
<p>6. Where transit sites are to be provided in Kent by the district authorities, KCC should offer its expertise in managing sites that have special challenges, such as transit sites. (Page 31, 5.3.5)</p>	<p>That offer remains in place, to facilitate the provision of transit sites which operate successfully.</p>

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	<i>Managing MBC sites from April 2010, under contract.</i>
7. For all Kent local authorities, to increase the involvement and responsibility of Gypsy and Traveller residents in site management arrangements. (Page 32, 5.4.6)	<p>There has been improvement in site management, including on new licence consultation.</p> <p>There are discussions with site residents over site management issues, and joint involvement in making improvements.</p> <p>A Countywide group of Traveller site managers has been established, and meets regularly to share best practice in site management, including the involvement of site residents in it.</p> <p><i>This will be a recommendation that will be discussed with the new Kent and Medway Gypsy and Traveller Forum, to see if more progress can be made.</i></p>
8. For KCC, in consultation with district authorities, to consider having a residential 'gatekeeper' on transit sites in Kent. (Page 33, 5.5.3)	<p>Needs further discussion at CWG once transit work is progressed.</p> <p><i>No prospect of early transit sites, but there are a couple of managed encampments.</i></p>
9. For Kent local authorities to ensure that any new transit sites in Kent should be self-financing, with rent charged on sites. The revenue costs for the running of transit sites should be shared between KCC and the relevant District/Borough Councils. (Page 34, 5.6.5)	<p>Needs further discussion at CWG once transit work is further progressed.</p> <p><i>No prospect of early transit sites, but there are a couple of managed encampments.</i></p> <p><i>They are self-financing, as far as facilities on them are paid for by the families concerned.</i></p>
10. For KCC, with district authorities, to lobby the Department of Work and Pensions to address the difference in the treatment of County Councils (as if they were profit-making landlords) in comparison to housing authorities. This is in the context of the Department of Work and Pensions meeting the full reasonable	The Department of Work and Pensions, no doubt noting the reduction in the numbers of county councils from 1 April 2009, and thus the reduction in the net impact of changing back to the old system, has decided to return to the pre-2001

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<p>rent of claimants in receipt of housing benefit who reside on Gypsy and Traveller sites. This is in order to ensure that County Councils and Housing Associations who provide and manage public sites are not forced to subsidise the costs of provision. (Page 35, 5.7.6)</p>	<p>system, whereby rents do not need to be referred to rent officers, and this took effect from 1 April this year, and will produce additional revenue for KCC and other councils to defray the costs of managing sites.</p> <p><i>Further review of Housing Benefit is referred to in the budget. We will await and respond to any consultation, and see what the implications are.</i></p>
<p>11. For KCC, with district authorities, lobby the government to provide sufficient resource to ensure that unsuccessful retrospective planning applications can be dealt with in weeks rather than years. (Page 42, 6.9.14)</p>	<p>None, but anecdotal evidence suggests the level of concern appears to have diminished in some parts of Kent, and the number and scale of new cases appears to have fallen.</p> <p><i>Recently some significant new cases, including not only new land being occupied without planning consent (and injunctions obtained) but also occupation of land owned by someone else, and developed.</i></p> <p><i>Close work with planning enforcement agencies, police and others, and possible future change in the law. May include shortening the timescale for determination and action to end the unauthorised development, if unsuccessful.</i></p>
<p>12. For Kent local planning authorities to consider the importance of ensuring that temporary applications are refused in situations where there are material objections, along the same lines as dealing with permanent permission applications. (Page 42, 6.9.14)</p>	<p>None - we will table this as a matter for a meeting of the Kent Planning Officers Group – perhaps in combination with a number of the other issues mentioned here that have not yet been pursued.</p> <p><i>Kent Planning Officers Group are considering the subject again, and could be discussed by the virtual group linking authorities together.</i></p>
<p>13. For Kent local planning authorities to consider the importance of ensuring that, where rural exception policies are included within Local Development Frameworks, there is a need to ensure that they are tightly drafted to mitigate any potential increase in planning applications on these grounds. (Page 42, 6.9.14)</p>	<p>Ditto recommendation above.</p> <p><i>Kent Planning Officers Group are considering the subject again, and could be discussed by the virtual group linking authorities together.</i></p>

GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES IN KENT – MAY 2006	Progress at end June 2010
	<i>Awaiting new national planning guidance – some way off yet.</i>
14. KCC to facilitate the establishment of a Countywide partnership group, which will work to share best practice and information to reduce and tackle Unauthorised Developments. (Page 42, 6.9.14)	<p>The Kent Planning Officers' Group are discussing this issue again in June 2009.</p> <p><i>KCC revived the issue with them in June 2010, and awaiting set-up of that group.</i></p>
15. For the KCC Gypsy Unit and Trading Standards to demonstrate increased collaboration in effectively reducing the practice of rogue trading, including more effective strategic and operational data sharing. (Page 45, 7.4.8)	<p>The KCC GTU has been successful in working with Kent Waste who worked with the BBC "Rogue Traders" programme to expose a partner of the licensee of one of KCC's managed sites as a fly tipper, including on an access road to the site itself. The individual has been convicted and fined, and other individuals have also been prosecuted successfully.</p> <p><i>Close, continuing collaboration between the KCC GTU and Trading Standards on these issues.</i></p>
16. For KCC, with district authorities, to lobby the government, to ensure that there is stronger multi-agencies work to tackle any criminality or tax evasion in transient populations. (Page 47, 7.5.9)	<p>Multi-agency work continues successfully, over a range of issues.</p> <p><i>Multi-agency work grows continually, including a recent conference on Domestic Violence issues, hosted by Kent Police.</i></p>
17. For KCC to facilitate the establishment of a joint Kent and Medway Authority group, to address the accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers. The primary objective of this group is to address the accommodation needs that are identified. It will also provide a vehicle for consultation and a sub-regional approach for applying for funding. In addition, it will consider the revenue cost implications linked to site provision, with a view to pooling resources. (Page 49, 8.5)	<p>A Countywide Group with nominated representatives from all local authorities and other agencies has been established and has met regularly.</p> <p>It has, very significantly, included, at every second meeting, individuals invited from Gypsy and Irish Traveller communities, and this has enabled very detailed discussion of issues of mutual concern, and engagement over the planning, housing and needs assessment processes that are proceeding in Kent, the South East and across England.</p>

GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES IN KENT – MAY 2006	Progress at end June 2010
	<p>The work of this group is the biggest progress made with the Select Committee recommendations, as it involves invitations to all the relevant stakeholders, including the Kent Association of Parish Councils.</p> <p>The Group is the key to future progress with partnership working on the remaining recommendations.</p>
18. For the KCC Gypsy Unit to be renamed as the 'Gypsy and Traveller Unit', in order to reflect the role of the Unit in working with all Gypsies and Travellers. (Page 49, 8.5)	Achieved.

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT – APRIL 2006

Recommendation	Progress at end March 2010
<p>1. For Kent County Council to make the description and explanation of school transport rules in its school admission booklets more clear and accessible (Page 11).</p>	<p>Description and explanation of school transport was enhanced in Admission to Secondary School booklet for 2007. It has been maintained in all books since with a dedicated section clearly explaining transport eligibility.</p> <p>The level of information provided in the Admissions to Secondary School booklet has continued to be of a high standard and will further be enhanced again for 2011 admissions within the dedicated section. This will also include information on where transport will be available with particular regard to the parishes within Kent.</p> <p>The Transport Team also developed a new transport booklet back in 2007 this is distributed each year to Primary and Secondary schools. It has been designed with the applications for transport forms inside the back cover so parents will have full access to transport information on hand while completing their applications for transport.</p> <p>The separate information booklet, 'Home to School Transport', has continued to be a success with parents who have expressed how informative the booklets are to them through the Customer Satisfaction Survey. It continues to update parents with as much information as possible regarding all aspects of Kent's transport policy. This includes information on applying for the Kent Freedom Pass, Kent's strategy for sustainable transport and on applying for assistance for Low Income Families. The application forms are still enclosed within the booklet for the parents in order for them to have easy access to apply.</p> <p>The application forms have also been made available in pdf form on Kent's website in order for parents to print an application from and send it direct to the Transport Team.</p> <p>Officers within Admissions & Transport attend some school open evenings to assist parents in understanding the rules. Admissions & Transport staff will continue to monitor feedback regarding the School Admission booklet and indeed the transport booklet, both of which ask for feedback and suggestions for improvement. Any comments will then be used to inform future editions of the publications.</p> <p>The Home to School Transport booklet was enhanced further in 2008 when the Transport team gained the Crystal Mark for the booklet from The Plain English Campaign.</p>

Recommendation	Progress at end March 2010
	<p>Comments gained from the Customer Satisfaction Survey have shown that parents are very satisfied with the booklet and the information that is available.</p>
<p>2. To consider the provision of online systems that supply school admission and transport information, and that enable electronic applications and payments (Page 11).</p>	<p>Section 508A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, in force from 1 April 2007, places a general duty on local authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel and modes on the journey to, from, and between schools and other institutions. The Act also requires an audit of the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority that may be used when travelling to and from, or between schools/institutions. As part of addressing both of these requirements, Kent Highway Services undertook a full infrastructure audit of all KCC schools in 2008 and has worked with CFE and ISG to develop and expand the 'School's Searchable Database' on kent.gov.uk to include an additional section on 'Safer Journeys To School'. The facility contains information regarding the School's Travel Plan and also basic information about local speed limits, crossing points, the availability of a school crossing patrol etc. It is planned to develop this facility over the next 12 months to include more interactive mapping that allows the user to view, precise locations of things like walking bus routes and school crossing patrols. Additionally the website www.11-19travel.info, provides bespoke public transport and journey planning information for every secondary school in Kent.</p> <p>The possibility of providing an online application system to parents is also being investigated by officers to assess the cost/benefits and plans are being made to investigate with other authorities how this may be achieved.</p>
<p>3. To ensure continuous dialogue between Kent County Council and religious denominations in an effort to reflect more accurately the communities that denominational schools serve in the entitlement and provision of free home to school transport (Page 14).</p>	<p>The guidance from the DCSF states that the Secretary of State continues to attach importance to the opportunity that many parents have to choose a school in accordance with their religious and philosophical beliefs and believes that wherever possible LAs should ensure that transport arrangements support the preference of the parents. He hopes that LAs will continue to think it right not to disturb well established arrangements for denominational transport assistance. Regular contact is maintained by the LA and the diocesan boards of education on matters relating to transport and indeed admissions.</p> <p>The LA continues to keep regular contact with the diocesan boards of education with regard to transport assistance and will continue to consider the guidance from the DCSF with regard to this part of Kent's transport policy.</p>
<p>4. That in the interests of consistency consideration be given to free home to school</p>	<p>Home to school transport is provided to children who are selected for grammar school education, attend their nearest appropriate school and live more than three miles from the</p>

Recommendation	Progress at end March 2010
<p>transport for pupils specifically selected by aptitude to attend specialist schools (Page 14).</p>	<p>school. However, they must live within a selective area of education to receive assistance. If they live in a comprehensive area of education, children would not receive assistance to a grammar school even if they have been selected unless the school was geographically nearer and over 3 miles away (2 miles for low income groups). For children taking aptitude tests to enter specialist or particular types of schools – this would depend on whether or not the school is the nearest appropriate school or not.</p> <p>There are a large number of specialist schools and changes would require an extension of the transport provision across the County, with undoubtedly, further financial implications. One would hope that the Kent Freedom Pass will open up access to such schools where cost of transport may have been a barrier in the past.</p> <p>Whilst Kent continues to provide transport provision to those children who attend grammar schools because they have been assessed as grammar school students, parents are now able to apply for the Kent Freedom Pass county wide and has also been provided to children who live in Kent LA but who actually attend schools across County and LA borders e.g Medway and East Sussex. This has enabled numbers of children to be able to receive assistance to specialist schools where normally they would not qualify.</p>
<p>5. That in the interests of consistency consideration be given to providing transport to the nearest single sex school if a preference is expressed by the parents (Page 14).</p>	<p>The County's transport policy is currently under review and it is felt that the LA provides parents with a significant choice of single sexed schools to express preferences for. The transport policy reflects parent's preference by providing transport assistance to a child's nearest schools, which can include single sexed schools.</p> <p>To our knowledge there are no plans to extend the policy to include a parents preference for single sexed schools as in some areas this has already been addressed. In other areas, the Kent Freedom pass has allowed parents to have an even wider choice of schools to include single sex schools.</p>
<p>6. To ensure additional legal support is available to Members when they exercise their discretion at the Regulation Committee Case Panel (Page 16).</p>	<p>If Members require Legal support, Democratic Services would make the necessary arrangements. Legal Services do charge and this charge would have to be met by Democratic Services. To our knowledge, there has only been one appeal where a Legal representative was present as the parent had brought her own representative to the appeal.</p> <p>If required, Members would be supported by Democratic Services with any legal support they may require. However, there are very few occasions when this has been required and to our knowledge, only one appeal has been held this year where legal support was required and</p>

Recommendation	Progress at end March 2010
	this was for a case for transport on denominational grounds.
<p>7. To consider younger siblings' eligibility for free transport when applying to a school that, although not their nearest appropriate, is the one to which the older sibling has been directed, therefore receiving free transport (Page 16).</p>	<p>When siblings apply for transport all circumstances are taken into consideration. However, whilst Members refer to the LA 'directing' pupils to schools there are several scenarios that have to be taken into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) If it has not been possible to offer a place at any of the preferred schools at the time of secondary transfer and have allocated child a place – transport would only be granted to the allocated school if the nearest appropriate school had been named and refused a place. b) If a child has moved in and cannot attend nearest appropriate school – Admissions & Transport would advise parent of where there are places available and therefore it would be parents who decide where their child will attend. If they attend the next nearest appropriate school transport would be granted. <p>If it is deemed appropriate to make changes to the existing policy this would require a Cabinet decision, such a scenario would ordinarily be considered through the independent appeals process. This route is far more appropriate because panels can consider the full implications of individual circumstances and effect the overriding of the policy. This process protects the LA and facilities an opportunity to make exceptions on a case by case basis.</p> <p>The County's transport policy is currently being reviewed and will take this question into account. It should be remembered that parents having the right to express preferences for schools may not necessarily want their siblings to go to the same school but would prefer them to be in separate schools depending on their abilities.</p> <p>The response to this proposal would still be the same for this year as consideration whether to give transport assistance or not is given, especially during appeals, to parents in order for them to drop off and collect two children to two different schools. However, it should be remembered that, for their own reasons, parents may prefer to send their children to two different schools and that if applying for a grammar school it may be the case that the children would not necessarily be eligible to receive assistance based on their assessment.</p>
<p>8. For Kent County Council to take lead responsibility in promoting walking bus initiatives. This includes: for KCC to make financial contributions to walking bus schemes;</p>	<p>Kent Highway Services are part of a unique partnership to develop and promote Walking Buses and associated Walk to School initiatives in the County. This partnership involves, KCC, Medway Council, the Kent and Medway Charity Team (affiliated to the KM Group) and private sector sponsors. This partnership has gone from strength to strength in recent years</p>

Recommendation	Progress at end March 2010
<p>attract business sponsorship to help funding walking buses; encourage a greater involvement of Community Wardens in promoting walking buses at strategic and operational level (Page 22).</p>	<p>and has contributed to a gradual shift to walking to school at primary schools, helping to tackle congestion on the school-run. Broadly speaking, KCC provide safety and administrative support to Walking Buses, ensuring they are properly risk assessed and meet insurance requirements. KCC also provides support in identifying appropriate routes and training volunteers to operate within clearly defined guidelines. The Kent and Medway Charity Team, funded in part by a grant from Kent Highway Services, work with schools and walking bus volunteers to ensure the longevity of the schemes, through a series incentives and events. They also help to secure private sector sponsorship for equipment like hi-vis tabards. Through the partnership, over 70 walking buses currently operate in Kent, in addition to some 130 schools participating in either Walk on Wednesday (WOW) or Walking Bug annually. It is estimated that the schemes save in excess of 150,000 school-run trips each year.</p>
<p>9. To continue to support and promote initiatives and schemes aimed at encouraging safe cycling to school and at improving the quality of cycling networks and services in Kent (Page 24).</p>	<p>Cycle Training in Kent continues to be delivered to Year 6 pupils as part of the <i>Kent Rider</i> scheme, a one day course led by the Road Safety team in KHS. However, KHS has recently obtained additional funding to develop and expand existing arrangements to deliver cycle training to the new national 'Bikeability' standard at selected schools in Ashford and Canterbury. Subject to available funding and the outcomes of this pilot, it is intended that these arrangements will be rolled out across the County.</p> <p>Additionally, Kent continue to work with Sustrans to deliver the BikeIT programme to 12 selected schools in Ashford and Canterbury to promote and encourage cycling to schools more generally. This scheme has been highly successful and has resulted in significant mode shift to cycling at the targeted schools.</p> <p>Finally, Kent Highway Services has a partnership with Sustrans to develop and expand a volunteer 'Ranger' scheme, where Rangers for specific cycle routes keep track of maintenance requirements and work collaboratively with Kent Highway Services to ensure on and off-road sections of route are maintained to a safe standard.</p> <p>Enhancements to the cycle network County wide continue to be delivered through Developer funding and the Integrated Transport programme subject to funding.</p>
<p>10. For Kent County Council to enhance its involvement in organising, promoting and monitoring its own car sharing initiatives in order to increase the number of people using the</p>	<p>Kent Highway Services' highly successful <i>Kentcarshare.com</i> journey matching facility has been developed and expanded to include new 'budi' elements for walking, cycling and taxi trips aimed at improving personal security, knowledge and confidence of local cycle routes and cost sharing opportunities. The new facility is called <i>Kentjourneyshare.com</i> and over the</p>

Recommendation	Progress at end March 2010
scheme (Page 28).	<p><i>past 12 months membership has increased from 2,880 to 3,390 members.</i></p> <p><i>Kentjourneyshare's sister scheme Kentschoolrun, targeted specifically at schools, was taken out of service in 2008. This was largely due to new seatbelt and child restraint legislation which has made it increasingly difficult to transport other peoples' children without transferring often bulky equipment between vehicles. Also, experience has taught us that car-sharing schemes at schools tend to work better when they are managed locally, rather than via the web which tends to lead to concerns over personal security etc. However, the University of Kent are working with Liftshare.com to establish a car-sharing scheme for Universities and Further Education Establishments across the County.</i></p>
11. To maximise the use of the rail network, where available, for school transport purposes. (Page 29).	<p>Transport Integration does make use of the rail network currently having children travel by rail where appropriate. However, it should be remembered that the rail companies consider a child as an adult on their 16th birthday and would charge KCC accordingly. The potential to increase this above the 13% mainstream pupils eligible for free travel is limited by a number of factors e.g. a high number of rail journeys involve a considerable walk at either end of the journey which is generally less so with buses whose timetables are more suited to school sessions.</p> <p>The number of pupils travelling by rail remains fairly constant. There is generally little appetite for scholars to transfer from bus to rail for the reasons given above. There is often no financial advantage to the County Council in providing rail than bus passes; the nature of the County Council's agreements with local bus operators presents good value for money and rail fares can be considerably higher depending upon the journey. Additionally, timetabling changes following the introduction of HST services have not had a positive effect on some existing scholar flows</p>
12. To urge a stricter enforcement of parking regulations in schools' surroundings (Page 30).	<p>The first step in enforcing parking regulations outside of schools is to ensure that the relevant Traffic Regulation Order is in place. Historically, the default position with school zig-zag and 'Keep Clear' markings has been 'advisory'. This means that parking on them is inconsiderate and potentially dangerous but often not a traffic contravention. However, as part of Kent Highway Services' emerging Asset Management Plan, it is anticipated that the precise situation at each school site will be identified and that the necessary Orders will be published to ensure all 'Keep Clear' markings are enforceable in the future. In addition, KHS have recently begun piloting a new 'hearts and minds' campaign with schools in Dartford, Gravesham and Thanet to remind parents of the potential dangers of inconsiderate parking. The scheme, based on a yellow and red card theme, has been well received and had</p>

Recommendation	Progress at end March 2010
	<p>positive press coverage. It is hoped that the scheme will be rolled out across the County in due course. The scheme has involved enthusiastic participation from local PCSOs and Civil Enforcement officers and is another excellent example of partnership working.</p>
<p>13.To ensure that Green Travel Plans are embodied in the planning stage before building new schools, which should include consultation with KCC Commercial Services (Page 31).</p>	<p>Kent has recently published its 'Guidance on Transport Assessments and Travel Plans' which makes it clear that all new developments which are expected to have a significant impact on traffic and transport require a Travel Plan. A Travel Plan is defined as 'A strategy for managing multi-modal access to a site or development focusing on promoting access by sustainable modes'. The main objective of a Travel Plan is to reduce the number of single occupant car trips to a site. A successful Travel Plan will give anyone travelling to and from a site a choice of travel options and encourage them to use the more sustainable ones. It has been agreed that all new schools and BSF refurbishments will require a Travel Plan. In many cases this will be an expansion and development of existing School Travel Plans developed as part of the Government's 'Travelling to School Initiative'. This project is entering its final year and as of March 2010 558 out of 592 schools had developed an approved Travel Plan (94%).</p> <p>A Travel Plan is a 'whole school community' initiative and requires extensive consultation with key stakeholders, including Commercial Services, where applicable.</p> <p>KHS, CFE and Commercial Services are currently working collaboratively to address the travel and transport implications of delivering the 14-19 diplomas in the county as well as the Kent Freedom Pass so the relevant lines of communication are well established.</p>
<p>14. For Kent County Council to gradually expand its bus fleet, where this can be done without unacceptable harm to the viability of commercially provided routes (Page 33).</p>	<p>KCC has been gradually expanding its own fleet with the combined objectives of market moderation and raising standards. This has met with an adverse reaction from some local bus operators and Members should be cognisant of that. Longer term, introduction of free transport for all would affect this policy.</p> <p>The County Council's own fleet continues to develop in both terms of its contracted services and its private hire business. Opportunities to utilise the Council's fleet for school services are taken where this represents best value and following the appropriate competitive tendering process.</p>
<p>15.To promote the use of CCTV systems in all buses used for school transport provision in Kent and to encourage the provision of escorts</p>	<p>At present, Transport Integration do not require potential transport providers to supply CCTV on hired school bus services. This could, however, be included as a pre-requisite in all Invitations to Tender for hired services. There would, however, need to be regulation</p>

Recommendation	Progress at end March 2010
<p>in school buses (Page 35).</p>	<p>specifying the type of systems to be used and issues such as data protection would need to be addressed. The cost of retro-fitting CCTV to a vehicle is in the order of up to £3500 and it is unlikely that operators would be able to bear this additional cost; it is probable, therefore, that the tender prices received, and hence the cost of home to school transport in general, would rise as a result. As a guide, Transport Integration currently manage around 260 hired contracts with vehicles of 16 or more seats (£910k).</p> <p>A rather more difficult consideration would be if this requirement was extended to all commercial bus routes upon which entitled scholars travel.</p> <p>The cost of providing escorts on all buses could be as much as £2 million per annum.</p> <p>The commercial bus fleet continues to develop and, as a result of the on-going replacement of the existing fleet, newer vehicles are increasingly fitted with CCTV. Furthermore, the on-going usage of the County Council's Code of Conduct ensures that reported incidents of misbehaviour receive appropriate attention</p>
<p>16.To carry out further investigation, through bus companies and school clusters, into the staggering of starting and finishing times of primary and secondary schools in Kent in order to reduce car congestion and school transport costs (Page 38).</p>	<p>This exercise is being explored and implemented in a number of areas following consultations with schools and parents. The impact of such changes have yet to be fully established and will require close monitoring before any further reaching policy decisions can be explored.</p> <p>Problems can be increased costs, as existing contracts may have to be cancelled to gain new ones, which would be quoted at a higher cost. Times could cause issues for parents for collecting and delivering children to school. Possibly more congestion due to breakfast club/after school clubs being at different times.</p> <p>Initial discussions with Headteachers would indicate their primary concern is raising standards of achievement and extending or staggering the school day is not proven to be conducive to this.</p> <p>Hugh Christie School has embarked on this process and already found that transports costs have increased in the region of £65,000.</p> <p>There will be obvious staffing and student concerns to be overcome in the process and a full cost benefit analysis will need to take place in due course. A major consideration for primary schools parents is a disruption in childcare arrangements that may be costly.</p>

Recommendation	Progress at end March 2010
<p>17. To continue to monitor technical developments which may be of use in the provision of school transport to a higher appropriate standard (Page 40).</p>	<p>Kent Highway Services have secured £1 million through the Integrated Transport capital programme in 2009/10 to invest in Smartcard reader machines on Kent's bus fleet. The Smartcard system will allow significantly greater flexibility on public transport ticketing across the county, benefiting both the user, operators and KCC, particularly in terms of tracking and monitoring usage and reimbursement. The Smartcards will be piloted with Stagecoach as part of the Kent Freedom Pass for Thanet schools from June 2009.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to the prices received in the procurement procedure carried out in 2009, and other delays related to the technical specification, the trial of Smartcards did not happen in 2009. Progress has however been made recently and the first cards are expected to be in circulation for the start of the 2010-11 academic year.</p>
<p>18. To support the East Kent Direct Project in an effort to supply a more co-ordinated, integrated and efficient allocation of transport services which meet the needs of Kent residents (Page 41).</p>	<p>Transport Integration has played a significant role in the East Kent Direct project and is keen to work further towards the stated goals. Although there has been a recent lull due to the re-alignment of Ambulance Services across the southeast, work has already been undertaken in relation to the provision of public transport information, joint procurement activities, joint provision of training services and the development of common eligibility criteria for Primary Care Trusts amongst other activities. The proposed absorption of the East Kent Social Services client transport by Transport Integration, which already manages the service for the former Mid and West Kent areas, has been delayed due to internal KCC re-structuring although work has recently re-commenced.</p> <p>Further staffing changes within the NHS in East Kent resulted in the impetus being lost but this has now been regained and KCC continues to participate fully in the strategic Working Group and the associated, and more detailed, project groups.</p>
<p>19. To continue to support cross-border collaboration with neighbouring authorities, and to promote the initiative of a shared, co-ordinated transport database aimed at maximising the utilisation of school transport and at creating a more cost-effective transport system (Page 43).</p>	<p>Transport Integration has good contacts with colleagues in neighbouring Authorities and effort is made to share information and vehicle movements where possible. However, the natural pupil flows mean that there is not a great deal that can be achieved with regards to mainstream transport; flows from Kent into neighbouring Authority schools are often in the opposite direction from those arranged by that Authority. Greater opportunities, although still few in number, exist for pupils attending special schools.</p> <p>Transport Integration continues to liaise with other LAs in order to share journeys where this is possible. However, aside from a small amount of 'cross-boundary' journeys, eg Kent pupils attending school in Medway, work is generally focussed on long-distance journeys</p>

Recommendation	Progress at end March 2010
	which, by their nature, operate infrequently as the pupils tend to board at those schools.
<p>20.To explore the possibility of becoming a Pathfinder authority, by providing all students aged 11 to 16 years living in a selected area of Kent with an annual bus pass in order to evaluate bus usage and consequent reduction in car use (Page 50).</p>	<p>The School Travel (Piloting of Schemes) (England) Regulations 2007, S.I.2007/1366 made provision for the piloting by authorities (Pathfinders) of the school travel scheme provisions in section 508E of, and Schedule 35C to, the Education and Inspections Act 2006.</p> <p>Accordingly in 2007 the DfES (DCSF), invited Local Authorities to submit bids for Pathfinder funding for innovative schemes that met the following key criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transport arrangements that support parental preference; • transport arrangements for pupils living more than 2 miles from school; and • reducing levels of car use on the home to school journey. <p>KCC submitted a bid for match-funding to support the roll out of the Kent Freedom Pass. However, KCC and other Local Authorities were subsequently notified by DfES that:</p> <p>‘None of the bids were fully compliant with the criteria set out in the prospectus or in regulations. Ministers have therefore decided that we should not proceed with the pathfinder pilot at this time. We will however consult with the Local Government Association to consider alternative options for home to school transport arrangements.’</p> <p>This is the latest position</p>

CLIMATE CHANGE – OCTOBER 2006

Recommendation	Progress at June 2010
<p>1. An explicit corporate acceptance of climate change and how human activity contributes to it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. • Council approved first set of actions in response to Select Committee. • Cabinet Working Group on Climate Change established to oversee implementation of actions (Alex King, Nick Chard, Kevin Lynes, Graham Gibbens, David Brazier) meets as a minimum on a quarterly basis. • Climate Change Programme now moved to wider Sustainability & Climate Change team in Environment, Highways and Waste to recognise that it has now entered delivery stages. • Sustainability & Climate Change section is integrated into all business plans • Additional governance in place where needed (e.g. working groups reporting into KCC Environment Board). • KCC emissions reductions and climate change adaptation embedded in Corporate Environmental Performance and ISO 14001 delivery. • KCC Environment Policy (including carbon emissions) agreed by Cabinet Dec 2007 and reviewed annually. Latest iteration to be launched shortly. • The Kent Agreement 2 has contained within it two targets directly linked to climate change: NI 186: Reduction of emissions in the local authority area and NI 188: Preparing to adapt to climate change. • Environmental performance and climate change covered as part of all KCC induction. • Progress reported annually to Directorate Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees (POSCs) • KCC sustainability and climate change officers and elected members are leading and actively participating in several regional and national good-practice networks including the Local and Regional Adaptation Partnership (LRAP), which steers work on climate change adaptation nationally and DECREASE, a regional steering group for mitigation. •
<p>2. Detailed assessment of climate change impacts on KCC services and development of adaptive responses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding secured and work completed on a comprehensive, Kent-wide Local Climate Impacts Profile (identifying current vulnerability to severe weather) with a range of key partners. • Climate Change Projections (UKCP09) are now integrated into KentView and used to raise awareness of the implications of climate change • All business unit operating plans have reference to developing an understanding of how the changing climate will impact service delivery and what action to take in response. • Workshops held across senior management teams within KCC to identify the impacts of climate change on their service area using adapted methodology from the UK Climate Impacts Programme. • Workshop held for risk managers across Kent partners to assist in the integration of climate

Recommendation	Progress at June 2010
	<p>change into risk management processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outputs from LCLIP and workshops risk assessed through KCC's risk management processes to identify key priorities for the county to be developed into a Kent Adaptation Action Plan, linked to the Kent Environment Strategy Theme 2: Meeting the Climate Challenge. • Meeting held for first priority theme (Health and Social Care) in May 2010 to identify potential actions and appraise these. Other theme meetings to be held over the next three months with the action plan to be completed for consultation in November 2010. • Development of resources for Green Guardians to undertake workshops within teams to identify risks and opportunities from climate change and actions to address these. The outputs from these will also be monitored centrally to identify any opportunities for partnership working and sharing of resources. To be piloted in KCC and Thanet District Council over the summer 2010. • Climate change adaptation target (NI 188) for the county agreed under the Kent Agreement 2 (2008-2011). Currently at Level 1+ with a view to meet Level 3 by March 2011.
<p>3. Ensure climate change impacts on flood risk, water resources and emergency planning are taken into account.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate Select Committee on Flood Risk convened in summer 2007, recommendations adopted by Council in March 2008 (together with Pitt Review actions). Significant work now being taken forward in KHS, Kent Resilience Forum and elsewhere. • New water policy approved Dec 2006. Now being delivered through mechanisms ranging from responses to external consultations through to practical KCC led delivery projects. • A Flood Risk Management Officer is now in post (May 2010) in the Natural Environment and Coast team providing strategic leadership for flood risk in the county. To develop, and plan for, flood risk management within the County Council in accordance with the relevant responsibilities as defined under the Flood and Water Management Act. • The Kent Environment Strategy Theme 1: Living 'well' within our environmental limits contains within it targets for water efficiency both within public buildings and through retrofitting homes in the county • Target to reduce KCC's own water use by 7.5% by 2010 on track. • New water efficiency demonstration project for existing housing: KCC is leading a 500 home pilot project in Ashford to retrofit water saving measures into existing homes. This is a partnership project with South East Water, Environment Agency, Ashford Borough Council and the Kent Wildlife Trust and it is promoting simple, free water saving measures to households in the Washford Farm area of Ashford. The project started at the beginning of March and aims to offer a cost effective mechanism for off-setting the additional water use from new homes at the same time as helping local residents to save money on their water bills. If successful, this project could be rolled out more widely. • KCC has set up and, since 2005, has led the Kent Water Demand Management. This partnership with key water industry organisations has established itself as a national exemplar

Recommendation	Progress at June 2010
	<p>and has won a commendation for 'Inspiring Change' under the Environment Agency National Water Efficiency Water Awards for 2007.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Resilience Forum has a Severe Weather sub-group who have developed plans for flooding and drought. • Kent Resilience Forum Risk Assessment Working Group have updated Kent Community Risk Register to reflect current likelihood of flooding and other extreme weather hazards (e.g. heatwave, snow, severe gales). Eight out of ten of the top risks in the Community Risk Register are related to severe weather. • Event held on Water Efficiency in Kent 12th April 2010. Speakers included Kevin Lynes (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development, Kent County Council), Trevor Bishop (Environment Agency), Jacob Tomkins (Waterwise), Alan Turner (Kent County Council), Gemma Avory (South East Water), Laurienne Tibbles (Ashford's Future), Alison Murphy (Sutton & East Surrey Water), Ian McAthy (Veolia South East) and Darren Bentham (Southern Water).
<p>4. Provide support for better sustainable energy advice to Kent's residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Energy Saving Advice Centre and Districts to provide advice and help to households in reducing emissions. Support given to departments across the LSP who have direct contact with the public to be made aware of the advice centres. • KCC are part of the Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership (KEEP) and through this attend the County Show and raise awareness of energy efficiency and grants through the Kent Action to Save Heat (KASH) scheme. • The Multi Agency Referral Form piloted in Thanet enables a co-ordinated approach to those services looking to engage with Kent residents face to face. This includes questions on energy efficiency in the home and has the potential to be rolled out across the county which will be explored in 2010-11. • The Kent Retrofitting Programme (Phase 1 in progress) will intensify the take up of basic measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation by focusing on an area based approach, putting money back in the pockets of Kent residents. As part of this an innovative and targeted communications and engagement campaign will be developed. • Targeted mail out carried out to households with high carbon profiles raising awareness and offering support. • Climate Change Community Conference held in June 2010 including presentations from Energy Saving Trust, Community Groups and UK Low Carbon Communities Network. This was over-subscribed and received 100% positive feedback from attendees. • Challenge Fund set up for 2010 to identify projects with potential for energy saving or climate resilience. Two communities will be supported with all others to receive further advice on accessing funding through the KCC Funding Team.

Recommendation	Progress at June 2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC website fully updated with advice for residents on energy saving. Advice and support given to Districts in updating their pages with many now linking to kent.gov.uk.
<p>5. Complete a feasibility study for use of biomass in KCC buildings and replace conventional fuels with bio-fuels in KCC vehicles where possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC fleet vehicles operated by Commercial Services have been running on 5% biodiesel since 2006. Now technically possible to increase to 30% although currently this does not seem commercially viable (increases vehicle service frequency and minimum order quantity exceeds tank capacity at Gibson Drive). • 3 biomass boilers have been installed with KCC funding support during 2008 and 2009. • European Funding secured to establish mechanisms for deriving economic value of Kent woodlands in providing a local supply of Biomass fuel.
<p>6. Increase support for energy efficiency and renewable energy, particularly micro-generation, in the KCC estate and across Kent as a whole.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon emissions reduction targets for KCC (10% by 2010, 20% by 2015 on 2004 baseline) agreed by Cabinet (March 07). • Carbon emissions have increased by 10% to date, due to growth in the KCC estate and government led programmes affecting schools energy use ie Increased use of ICT and extended schools. • Commitment in principle to BREEAM “very good” design standard for KCC buildings. Government now requires all new buildings to be “excellent / zero carbon” by 2018. Formal monitoring of BREEAM uptake under Towards 2010 reporting. • KCC Energy Loan Fund extended (total £1.5m fund for capital investment in energy / water efficiency and renewables projects) and realising carbon and budget savings. We estimate that the first 64 projects under this scheme will save £1,923,246 and 14,961 tonnes of CO2 over the lifetime of the equipment, which cost £928,955 to buy and install • Grants have been made available to 18 schools to install one or more renewable energy solutions such as solar photovoltaic or wind energy projects. 4 further school renewable energy projects are to be completed during 2010. • Low energy traffic signals will deliver £1.8 million savings; Low energy lighting fitted in Ramsgate Road Tunnel has achieved 40% reduction in energy use and is the largest project to date under the KCC Energy Loan Fund. The streetlighting strategy is currently under consideration. • All estate buildings >1000m2 now have display energy certificates providing an energy efficiency benchmark and a full report on potential opportunities. These are being used to target energy efficiency projects and further utilise the KCC Energy Loan Fund. • Participated in Carbon Trading Councils initiative 2008-10 to help prepare for Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) a mandatory cap and trade scheme commencing April 2010. Recruited new post to manage CRC reporting and ensure scheme compliance. • KCC achieved the Carbon Trust Standard for its programme of carbon reduction earning early

Recommendation	Progress at June 2010
	<p>action credits under the CRC scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart meters installed at all monthly billed sites providing automatic electricity readings. • The Sustainable Estates Taskforce continues to engage Directorates in improving estate buildings, overseeing benchmarking and prioritisation to support further retrofitting of energy efficiency and water efficiency measures. • Ongoing training programmes on energy management for facilities managers, school caretakers and now working with Kent Design to establish professional development opportunities for asset managers and capital projects staff. • Low Carbon Opportunities for Growth strategy developed for low carbon economic development in Kent incorporating renewables, new development, flexible working and land based activities. • Renewable Energy Select Committee convened in Spring 2010 with a final report to be produced in Autumn 2010. • Kent Climate Change Network set up in January 2009 consisting of leads on climate change from across Kent partners. This group meets quarterly and takes on partnership projects (e.g. LCLIP) and shares best practice. Communications in addition to these quarterly meetings are via the Kent Climate Change Network web portal on Kent Connects where best practice, delivery plans, minutes and agendas are uploaded.
<p>7. Review transport policy to achieve an overall reduction in emissions from transport in the KCC estate and across Kent as a whole.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Kent JourneyShare</i> scheme saved more than 3 million car journeys and 1,000 metric tonnes of carbon in 2009 • KCC business miles have reduced for the 2nd year running. A 3.5% reduction was achieved in 2009-10 and saved £277,000. The launch of the BT MeetMe teleconferencing service has supported this reduction. • Improved monitoring of fuel usage of KCC fleet vehicles and driver training in fuel efficient driving techniques. • KCC Streetcar fleet in Maidstone being extended to a new location in conjunction with a major house builder. • More than three quarters of schools now have travel plans. • Freedom Pass extended to whole of Kent and used by more than 13,000 young people • Use of sustainable transport to school has risen by 2.9%
<p>8. Make more efficient use of land in the development process and meet higher standards of sustainable construction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC submitted responses to consultations including the update on PPS1 supplement on climate change and PSS22: Renewable energy (closed June 2010). • High-level training programme to be developed for Planning colleagues across Kent Partnership in 2010-11 building on the outputs from the consultation process. • Report published and implementation in progress about impacts of climate change on Kent biodiversity including awareness raising across partnership with a target in the Kent

Recommendation	Progress at June 2010
	<p>Environment Strategy on the establishment of habitats and networks in Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets incorporated into the Kent Environment Strategy on low carbon, resource efficient new development and easy access to transport, services and broadband. • Low Carbon Opportunities for Growth strategy developed for low carbon economic development in Kent incorporating renewables, new development, flexible working and land based activities.
<p>9. Introduce a Climate Change Action Plan, supported by clear targets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC's own emissions targets adopted and published. • Climate change mitigation (NI 186) and adaptation (NI188) targets for the county agreed under the Kent Agreement 2 (2008-11), under both the Environmental and Economic themes. • Comprehensive, yet pragmatic delivery plans have been created, identifying the activities necessary to ensure progress on the KA2 targets. Template plans for districts include examples of best practise, support mechanisms and identification of where resources are available. • The climate change programme team provide a central resource of expertise for the LSP, becoming a Centre of Excellence for the county as a whole and are beginning to gain national recognition. • The full Climate Change Adaptation Action plan will be circulated to Kent partners in November 2010. This is being developed in partnership to address priorities identified through the Local Climate Impacts Profile and workshops across senior managers within KCC and wider Kent partners. • Kent Environment Strategy developed and agreed
<p>10. High profile communications programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revamp of kent.gov climate change pages with new Kent case studies and greater detail on actions that can be taken by communities. • Communications strategy for Sustainability & Climate Change in development by the Environmental Engagement Programme (formerly the Changing Attitudes and Behaviours Programme) • Climate Changing Briefing Pack developed for elected Members and senior managers across Kent partners. Agreed by the Leader and circulated in June 2010 by the Cabinet Working Group on Climate Change. • Community Climate Change Conference received significant media interest with articles in Kent on Sunday and BCC Radio Kent. • The Kent Climate Change Network bulletin goes out monthly incorporating both partnership and national news and best practice. This has received regional recognition and currently has nearly 150 subscribers.
<p>11. Clarify political and management</p>	<p>Please see R1.</p>

Recommendation	Progress at June 2010
leadership and accountability on climate change within KCC.	
12. Improve education on climate change impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The KCC Climate Change Pack for schools was launched in Dec 2009, together with the Kent Schools Action on Climate Change Pledge. The pack builds on the recent Government pack and drills down to make the information and activities more Kent-specific and aligned to the new curriculum changes as far as possible. The pledge asks schools to commit to joining in action to reduce the carbon emissions of Kent. • A wide-reaching schools action plan is in development building on work undertaken for sustainable schools. This will be targeted in energy and water efficiency and climate change adaptation in the first instance, looking at priority schools with high energy usage or at higher risk of flooding.

PSHE/CHILDREN'S HEALTH – APRIL 2007

Recommendations	Progress at end May 2010
1. That all those dedicated individuals working to provide young people in Kent with high standard sexual health services be commended.	Complete
2. The Committee urges that all key agencies be wholly committed and signed up to the Kent Teenage Pregnancy Strategy in an effort to decrease the rate of teenage pregnancy.	Partnership working between Local Partnerships, Director of Public Health, CFE and Teenage Pregnancy Board is well established. The Kent Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and its Board have been reviewed, and new action plans and priorities have been developed to bring about an increased reduction in teenage pregnancy. All key agencies are signed up to the KCC PSHE Education Strategy and its implementation.
3. The Committee endorses and supports all the efforts of the Kent Teenage Pregnancy Partnership. It recommends expanding the Partnership's reach to all the young people in Kent by further promoting its sexual health services in places young people frequent.	Promotion of sexual health services to young people continues through activity such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local media campaigns; • distribution of promotional materials in schools, colleges, youth clubs etc and by school nurses, outreach nurses, the Connexions Services, pharmacists etc. • web-based information services; • 'The House' campaign.
4. The Committee strongly recommends the broad production, promotion and distribution of discreet information on local sexual health services and support.	'For young people' resources are available in increasing numbers of schools, school based sexual health clinics, C Card venues (C Card is a free condom scheme), through the EHC scheme (emergency conception) and the development of the 'Healthy Bytes' model (offers small animated advertisements around a range of health issues on computer desktops in schools). Some progress has been achieved through the use of on-line resources, e.g. Teen Health Check. Dissemination of sexual health literature for young people is being co-ordinated through Health Promotion services.
5. The Committee recommends that all partner agencies involved must facilitate the expansion of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme, to ensure full screening coverage of all sexually active young people in Kent under the age of 25.	<p>In East Kent there has been a steady rise in the number of young people screened for Chlamydia with an estimated 20.55% of the target population screened in 2009/10 (20,427 young people). The PCT works with a variety of partners in a range of settings to maximise uptake this includes: Schools, Youth clubs, Barracks, Prisons and the workplace in addition to a range of NHS settings.</p> <p>In West Kent there has been a steady rise in the uptake of the number of young people screened for Chlamydia with an estimated 18% of the target population screened in 2009/10. The PCT works with a variety of partners in a range of settings to maximise uptake including</p>

Recommendations	Progress at end May 2010
	<p>schools, through outreach work and CASH (Contraceptive and Sexual Health Clinics).</p> <p>Chlamydia screening has been provided as part of 'The House' campaign and through all Connexions Action Points in Kent.</p>
<p>6. That GUM clinics must replace appointments with a "walk in" service. The Committee insists that the proportion of Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinic attendees offered an appointment within 48 hours of contacting the service must reach 100% by 2008.</p>	<p>NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent have investigated more than £2.5 million in Sexual Health Services over the past three years with the aim of improving access to services by increasing the number of appointments offered within 48hrs of contact and by increasing the availability of walk in clinics particularly to young people. The PCT is currently meeting the target for 48 hour access set by the Department of Health.</p> <p>NHS West Kent is consistently meeting its Department of Health access target for GUM. Additionally, NHS West Kent is working with providers to improve community access to sexual health services.</p>
<p>7. That the number of school nurses working in secondary schools in Kent be increased, and that the number of accessible, confidential and young people friendly sexual health clinics in all secondary schools in Kent be raised by at least one per cluster by 2008.</p>	<p>Almost 50 schools/colleges across Kent now have an on site sexual health service. These are staffed by school nurses and sexual health outreach workers. Widening access to sexual health services which are accessible to schools in West Kent is an area for development in the revised strategy for teenage pregnancy. There is also a school nurse texting service for young people.</p>
<p>8. The Committee commends and supports all those working with disengaged, vulnerable young people, and urges the effective re-integration of more young mothers and fathers into school to complete their statutory education.</p>	<p>All statutory school age parents are supported to return to school post birth. Where this is not possible other educational programmes are implemented which meet their individual needs. There are now 7 Pinnacle Coordinators in post covering 7 of the 12 districts. They provide outreach 1:1 support to young parents and coordinate local services to ensure their needs are met. There are currently 5 specialist school provisions offering extended services to young parents and the Young Parents Team are negotiating the development of these provisions in all areas of the county.</p>
<p>9. The Committee recommends that all schools in Kent work towards Healthy Schools validation by March 2009, through a process which is all inclusive to parents and governors.</p>	<p>Around 85% of Kent schools have achieved this status and all remaining schools are working towards Healthy Schools validation. Some of the schools who have achieved the status are working towards the new enhanced Healthy Schools status.</p>
<p>10. The Committee strongly recommends a strategy for a more consistent and systematic Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)</p>	<p>The PSHE Education Strategy (2008-2012) was approved and launched in autumn 2008. An action plan to deliver the strategy has been developed and is being implemented by a multi-agency group.</p>

Recommendations	Progress at end May 2010
<p>delivery, that is coupled with more robust assessment and monitoring methods and that is adopted in all primary and secondary schools in Kent.</p>	
<p>11. The Committee urges that the new RE and Citizenship Advisor remains permanently in place to ensure that one advisor is permanently and wholly responsible and accountable for PSHE in Kent.</p>	<p>The Adviser for RE and Citizenship was appointed in 2007 but the post is currently vacant. The outcomes from the CFE re-structure may have an impact on arrangements to provide a dedicated adviser.</p>
<p>12. That PSHE certificates for both teachers and nurses be widely promoted and supported. That each school cluster in Kent has a PSHE lead and each secondary school in Kent has at least one PSHE certified teacher. That PSHE awareness be raised through a countywide multi-agency conference, which includes all the decision makers, by March 2008.</p>	<p>The programme in place and oversubscribed. This programme has now been extended to enable other professionals to undertake this training. The course is heavily promoted to school nurses and schools, including target schools. However, there is an optional module within the Specialist Practitioner course regarding SRE and Drugs/Alcohol with regard to young people. Nurses will be asked to undertake this module on the accreditation course due to the government agenda to significantly increase numbers of specialist practitioners.</p> <p>The multi-agency PSHE Education conference was held in January 2008. It was attended by schools and young people, agencies, Members and officers. Pupils from Brockhill Park School and Sittingbourne Community College supported key activities on the day and the event informed the development of the PSHE Education strategy (reference: recommendation 10).</p>
<p>13. The Committee strongly urges the County Council to press Government to make PSHE statutory and therefore part of the core curriculum, thereby ensuring that a selection of PSHE lessons are duly observed during inspections by Ofsted.</p>	<p>DCSF announced in Oct 08 its intention to make statutory provision for PSHE. However, requirements to make PSHE Education statutory were dropped from the Children, Schools and Families Bill before it became law. The Conservative spokesman in the House of Commons has indicated that the role of PSHE Education in the curriculum is an issue that would be addressed and consulted on.</p>
<p>14. The Committee insists that all secondary schools in Kent ensure access to websites such as "foryoungpeople", "RUthinking" and "Frank", and that they provide permanent information on local sexual health services on a visible notice board.</p>	<p>Completed. Firewalls lifted in schools. Web based resources promoted through display at headteachers conference and to subject teachers/teachers through networking meetings and CPD opportunities.</p>

Recommendations	Progress at end May 2010
<p>15. The Committee recommends that school governors ensure that strong and consistent sex and relationships education within a PSHE framework is delivered. That SRE be taught appropriately from primary school and by specialist teachers.</p>	<p>Ongoing training for teachers, head teachers and school governors supported by the Learning Group, CFE is available and promoted to schools.</p> <p>Kent Trust web provides access to current guidance on policy developments, aspects of teaching and learning, assessment and use of resources.</p> <p>As part of the Healthy Schools work in east Kent, PSHE good practice meetings and networking meetings have been set up in 10 out of the 12 LCSP areas. As a result training needs have been identified and action plans are being formulated to support schools with the delivery of PSHE Education.</p>
<p>16. The Committee strongly recommends that the “relationships” aspect of SRE be emphasised more than the biological aspect, and that, in order to reflect this emphasis, the name “sex and relationships education” be changed to “relationships and sex education”.</p>	<p>The final version of the new national guidance for SRE is awaited. However, the teaching of relationships is firmly embedded in the draft version of the guidance which was put out to consultation. Kent guidance promotes the teaching of sex education within the context of relationships.</p>
<p>17. That the nature of SRE lessons reflects equality of responsibility between boys and girls, and therefore that it has a stronger focus on young men and on their attitudes and responsibilities when negotiating sexual relationships. That it be considered to teach particular aspects of SRE in single-sex groups.</p>	<p>Kent guidance reflects the equality of responsibility between girls and boys, and schools are encouraged to pay particular attention to the attitudes and behaviours of some young men. Equality of responsibility between girls and boys is also firmly embedded in the draft version of the new national guidance.</p>
<p>18. The Committee commends that schools encourage greater involvement of both pupils and parents/carers in the planning and evaluation of SRE programmes.</p>	<p>The involvement of parents and pupils/students is promoted in information to schools. This is further supported by national guidance as part of the Children’s Plan and is embedded in the draft version of the new national guidance.</p>

TRANSITION TO A POSITIVE FUTURE – MAY 2007

Recommendations	Progress June 2010
1. That KCC work with all providers to increase the availability and choice of leisure facilities for young disabled people and promote and publicise 'taster sessions' to encourage participation.	KCC is one of 21 Pathfinder authorities allocated £15m for short breaks and access to leisure activities for more young disabled people. Partnership working is being developed to take this forward across the county. The Kent Partnership Board, local Learning Disability groups and KASS teams have worked with colleagues, for example, the District Council Sports Development Officer in Thanet. Bluewater management were engaged through Dartford LDPB resulting in a 'Changing Place' to facilitate better disabled access at the centre. Members would like good practice to be emulated across the county to bring consistency and continuity.
2. That KCC and schools promote a variety of initiatives to raise disability awareness among peers of young disabled people in mainstream schools and the wider community.	The Kent Children's Trust will be signing up to the Charter proposed under 'Every Disabled Child Matters'. KCC also works with organisations such as Partnership with Parents, Parents Consortium and the Centre for Independent Living, all of whom are engaged in raising disability awareness. There is evidence that projects in particular districts have raised levels of confidence and improved access by disabled people to a noticeable degree in some shops.
3. That the Cabinet Members for Children Families & Education and Adult Social Services Directorates are made aware of the Hampshire transition documents and protocols, particularly the new Transition Handbook and Multi-agency Guide, with a view to working towards a similar scheme, for Kent.	<p>Kent's Transition Protocols are now in place having been developed in consultation with numerous stakeholders and informed by best practice in a variety of authorities. They were signed off by the Children's Trust Board and formally launched by the Leader on 6th November 2008.</p> <p>Person centred planning (PCP) is a central aspect of the transition work. Specialist schools are now working to the PCP approach. KASS has appointed Transition Co-ordinators to work with schools, education and Connexion to promote effective transition planning.</p> <p>The experience of people in transition is monitored are part of the ongoing review at key stages of transition.</p>
4. That KCC should evaluate the capacity of current data systems to enable strategic monitoring of transition plans.	<p>A non-technical solution is in place ensuring that key data is, with parental consent, shared across agencies. The introduction of ICS should facilitate further improvements in the future.</p> <p>Work continues in using information about the number of people through transition to inform local service commissioning. Kent wide Transition Executive Group remains in place to consider and oversee how strategic issues are addressed.</p>

Recommendations	Progress June 2010
5. That the Transition Task Group investigates the potential for the increased use of Trans-active in Kent schools, colleges and other settings.	Trans-Active and other models have been investigated.
6. That KCC should identify the source and type of advocacy available for parents and young people to facilitate better transition planning and make provisions to meet any gaps in service.	<p>For the first time ever, a contract for advocacy services for adults with LD has been let to a national organisation. KPB and the 2010 Transition Executive are overseeing training of peer mentors identified through local LD groups. Partnership with Parents provides independent advice and representation.</p> <p>KCC has maintained its investment in advocacy services and the present commissioning consideration is being taken forward with due regards to how people in transition can exercise greater choice and control as part of the personalisation changes.</p>
7. To ensure that Children, Families and Education and Adult Social Services' commissioning strategies are co-ordinated, including the use of jointly-resourced budgets where appropriate, to provide a more graduated and consistent approach to service provision for young disabled people in transition from childhood to adulthood. Such strategies should incorporate Transition Worker roles in order to demonstrate clearly alternative means of providing similar support.	<p>This longer term aim will be helped by the Kent Protocol (Rec 3) which requires KASS to have early involvement in planning for children with complex needs and the continued involvement of CFE staff beyond a young person's 18th birthday in an advisory role. The 'transition worker' role is under review and an 'Invest to Save' business case is being put forward.</p> <p>KASS has appointed Transition Co-ordinators to work with schools, education and Connexion to promote effective transition planning.</p>
8. That the Managing Director of Adult Social Services and the Managing Director of Children, Families and Education must ensure that information about transition and Adult Social Services is available in a range of accessible formats and is brought to the attention of young disabled people and their parents in advance of meetings to enable them to participate in transition planning.	<p>The KASS/CFE officer team are checking that this sharing of information is happening as it should. The Transition Protocols include information for families and there is an Easy Read version for people with LD.</p> <p>A process is in place to ensure that we can meet the needs of those who require information in different formats.</p>
9. That KCC, Connexions and partners identify how to use available resources more effectively to benefit young disabled people (including those with learning	The Protocols should lead to more effective use of multi-agency resources and KCC's influence over Connexions resources is increasing.

Recommendations	Progress June 2010
difficulties) in transition.	
10. That individuals identified as Lead Professional for young people in transition to adulthood have the capacity to undertake the function and are provided by KCC and partners with training and support.	LP role was rolled out April-September 2008 and the requirements of the Transition Protocol were included in guidance. Connexions led the development of revised section 139A assessment documentation which should have the impact of reducing duplication in the assessment process.
11. That KCC, schools and other partners promote the use of Direct Payments by young people whose social care needs will extend into adulthood, by raising awareness and understanding of Direct Payments among CFE staff and ensuring that Direct Payments are discussed (with the involvement of a peer-mentor or Direct Payment Support Worker/Adviser where possible) as part of transition planning from Year 9 onwards.	Aiming High Pathfinder funding will enable more staff to be recruited, more Personal Assistants and a higher take up of DP. DP are addressed in the Protocol and Legislative barriers will largely be rectified by the Health and Social Care Bill when it becomes law in 2009. (A complex situation remains for a large number of young people placed in Kent by other local authorities for whom Kent would take on considerable cost if they choose to stay in the county and access its services at 18.) Promotion of Direct Payments continues and this is signified by the increase of Direct Payments support from CFE. As a result of changes in the legislation, it is a great deal smoother for young people and their parents to move their Direct Payments provision from children's' to adult services. There is currently over 500 Direct Payments user in CFE in addition to those supported by KASS.
12. That KCC, through Kent Supported Employment and its partners, explore the potential of a programme whereby disabled young adults are employed as peer-mentors to assist with transition planning in schools and elsewhere.	The Job Action Group has been established to increase employment opportunities for people with LD. KSE lead on a pilot (DwP) project to help disabled young people to achieve their employment aspirations. Employment pathway through the 'Getting a Life' initiative has offered opportunities to some people. The KCC Employability Strategy should provide further opportunities.

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SELECT COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER 2007

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
<p>1. That KCC look into setting up and resourcing a permanent Flood Risk Committee, in partnership with District Councils, to monitor: organisational changes affecting the management of flood risk in order to minimise the effect of such changes; the KHS gully clearance programme; non-structural means adopted by KCC and District Councils to reduce flood risk, and the Environment Agency's progress on proposed flood defence works as well as maintenance of existing defences.</p>	<p>Flood risk management committee established: In response to the Flood Risk Management Select Committee and the Flood and Water Management Act (FWM Act) (April 2010) a member based Flood Risk Management Committee has been established to provide oversight and scrutiny of flood risk management across the county. It first met in January 2010 and has met twice since. Work to date has focussed on getting members up to speed with existing and new responsibilities of the key flood risk authorities. The Committee's TOR states that it is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the preparation, monitoring and review (in conjunction with the Flood Risk Management Officer) of a strategic action plan for flood risk management in Kent taking into account KCC Select Committee recommendations, the Pitt Review and relevant requirements of the Flood and Water Act; • reporting annually (and more often if necessary) to the Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview Committee and to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste; • reviewing and responding to any consultation on the implementation of the Pitt Review and the future development of the Flood and Water Act; • receiving reports from the South East Regional Flood Defence Committee and responding as appropriate; • the investigation of water resource management issues in Kent. <p>The Committee comprise of Richard King (Chairman); Andrew Bowles; David Brazier; Michael Harrison; Willie Richardson; Paulina Stockell; and Martin Vye. The Environment Agency also attends meetings. The Committee is supported by the Flood Risk Management Officer (see action 7).</p> <p>Kent Strategic Flood Partnership in development: In response to the requirements of the FWM Act, a Strategic Flood Partnership is currently being established for the county. Directors from the district and borough councils have been invited and the same will be extended to the Environment Agency, Southern Water, Internal Drainage Boards and other relevant flood authorities. It is intended that an inception meeting will be held by September.</p> <p>Improved coordination across Council on flood risk management: coordination across the relevant divisions has greatly improved over the past 12 months. The creation</p>

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
	of the Flood Risk Management Officer post (see recommendation 7) will only serve to further this.
<p>2. That there should be adequate, ring-fenced, direct government funding for flood risk management to provide a more transparent system which will reassure the public that vital plans, strategies and flood defence work will not be compromised by competing demands within DEFRA or elsewhere.</p>	<p>Prior to the election Defra committed an extra £36 million a year to be made available to fund the new lead local flood authority role resulting from the FWM Act, with money provided as an Area-Based Grant to every lead local flood authority. This funding was not to be ring fenced, despite objections from local authorities. In the recent budget cuts announced by the Government, Defra have lost £162m from their budget but how this will affect the funding for flooding is not yet made clear. It also seems that ring fencing of future funding is unlikely.</p> <p>The LGA is working with Defra to identify what funding is required and the methods by which this should be made available to local authorities.</p>
<p>3. That KCC should lobby the government to consider re-designating the flood management arm of the Environment Agency as a dedicated flood risk agency as well as giving the EA a strategic overview of all types of flood risk.</p>	<p>The FWM Act gives the Environment Agency a strategic overview role for flood risk. This includes a responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management. • Supporting Lead Local Flood Authority. • Developing tools. • Investment. • Reporting to SoS. • Powers to instigate work on non-EA assets. • Statutory consultee on flood planning applications.
<p>4. That KCC promotes the further development of an Engineering Consultancy led by Canterbury City Council Engineers to disseminate good practice and offer training/apprenticeships to build a practical skills-base and retain local knowledge/expertise in flood risk management.</p>	<p>A county-wide drainage team has been established within KHS (as per report March 2009).</p>
<p>5. That KCC supports development in brownfield and other areas subject to the rigorous application of site specific sequential and exception tests of Planning Policy Statement 25.</p>	<p>KCC Planners have noted and observed – no further action required (as per report March 2009).</p>
<p>6. That KCC oversee the development of further sub-</p>	<p>The Flood Risk Regulations (FRR) (2009) (domestic transpose of the EU Floods</p>

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
regional flood risk assessments, based on river catchments, and undertakes to monitor this development.	<p>Directive) have set a programme for delivery of flood risk mapping and planning for the next 5 years. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) by December 2011. • Mapping work by December 2013. • Risk management plans by December 2015 <p>The aforementioned Kent Strategic Flood Partnership will oversee delivery of this work. KCC as the lead local flood authority will have a key role in the completion of this work.</p>
<p>7. That KCC ensures that its Environment and Waste Team are sufficiently resourced to enable them to: develop a county-wide coastal policy; maintain their oversight of Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) to promote consistency across the county; and raise public awareness of plans.</p>	<p>The Coastal Officer post has been secured (as per report March 2009).</p> <p>A dedicated Flood Risk Management Officer has now been secured within the County Council and the post was filled in May 2010 (max.tant@kent.gov.uk). The purpose of this post is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide strategic leadership for flood risk management in Kent, working in partnership with relevant bodies across the county. • Develop and maintain effective working relationships with district authorities, the Environment Agency and other relevant authorities to secure a collaborative and holistic approach to flood risk management in the county. • To develop, and plan for, flood risk management within the County Council in accordance with the relevant responsibilities as defined under the Flood and Water Management Act. <p>Key immediate tasks for the Officer is the establishment of the Kent Strategic Flood Partnership; commencement of the work required to complete the PFRA for the FRR; and a review of the new responsibilities for KCC under the Flood and Water Management Act and assessment of measures, and associated resources, required to implement these.</p>
<p>8. That KCC should lead on the co-ordination of work with landowners and other agencies to identify options for the funding of changed land-use or buy-out to ensure that plans to achieve more naturally functioning flood plains and coastline in Kent are arrived at equitably.</p>	<p>No local action has been taken pending the outcome of national work being undertaken to look at issues of blight associated with coastal policy (Defra) (as per report March 2009).</p>
<p>9. That KCC works in partnership with the EA to ensure that River Basin Management planning is fully</p>	<p>KCC and EA are working to ensure integration and no additional action is required (as per report March 2009).</p>

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
integrated with existing Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) and with regard to SMPs.	
10. That Kent Highway Services (KHS) and the EA seek to reconstitute Flood Liaison Advice Groups (FLAGS) in Kent (ideally catchment based), with representation from the insurance industry and local communities.	KHS are now working with Kent Resilience Forum, with input from Emergency Planning (as per report March 2009).
11. That KCC instigates discussions between local planning authorities, Southern Water and others on the feasibility, benefit and cost implications of using non-return valves/sealed sewage systems in all new developments and existing developments where sewage flooding is proven to be a problem and requiring it to be a condition of planning consent.	Needs to be pursued through the development control arm of the Kent Planning Officers Group.
12. That KCC promotes the use of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) throughout Kent with over-attenuation of surface runoff, guided by best practice adopted by Canterbury and Ashford councils and findings of the integrated urban drainage pilots.	<p>Kent Design Guide (with Technical Index) promotes SUDS and no further action is required (as per report March 2009).</p> <p>To note: new responsibilities for KCC in relation to SUDS. Please refer to accompanying note on FWM Act.</p>
13. That Kent planning authorities adopt the requirement for Drainage Impact Assessments for all new developments, following the Canterbury model.	Discussion needs to be held at district level to review the requirement of drainage impact assessment and feasibility for its inclusion (as per report March 2009). Some progress on this has been made by District Councils, with most requiring Drainage Impact Assessments to accompany planning applications for relevant development proposals. Ashford Borough Council has recently produced Supplementary Planning Guidance on Sustainable Urban Drainage systems.
14. That the Fire & Rescue Service are included as an active partner in the planning process for new developments.	District development control liaise with KFRS and no further action is required (as per report March 2009).
15. That the Kent Design guide is revised to include information on mitigating flood damage and makes reference to innovative designs for the future, such as floating homes.	To be picked up as part of the Kent Design Initiative/revision of Kent Design Guide.

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
<p>16. That KCC lobbies government to produce a set of Building Regulations for use in flood risk areas so that planners are supported by increased but nationally consistent obligations to assist developers with a high level of flood proofing/mitigation.</p>	<p>A clause in the FWM Act amends the Building Act 1984. Sir Michael Pitt recommended revising the Building Regulations to ensure that all new or refurbished buildings in high flood-risk areas are made flood resistant or resilient. Currently, powers in the Building Act allow regulations to be made to cover flood resilience or resistance for new buildings or for major alterations. However they do not allow similar provisions to be made for most types of minor repair work. An example of minor work might include replacing flood-damaged plaster with a more resilient plaster. The new clause extends the scope for which Building Regulations can be made to achieve this.</p> <p>Furthermore, Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) was published in March 2010 and sets out Government policy on development and flood risk. Its aims are to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas of highest risk. Where new development is necessary in such areas, policy aims to make it safe, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where possible, reducing flood risk overall.</p>
<p>17. For KCC to work in partnership with the EA to publicise actions householders can take to increase the flood resilience of their homes.</p>	<p>KRF has made information is available via the Kent Police website on preparing for a flood which includes links through to the Environment Agency's new guidance. See http://www.kent.police.uk/Advice/your_property/emergency_planning/flooding.html</p> <p>The Environment Agency's public awareness programme Floodwise is ongoing in Kent, which promotes, and encourages uptake of, a free flood warning service.</p>
<p>18. That KCC specifically allocate funding to enable the proposed road gully cleansing work to go ahead without delay and, where necessary, to enable the condition and capacity of highway drainage systems to be improved and the location of gullies and their characteristics to be recorded on GPS. That the KHS winter maintenance budget is readjusted to become an extreme weather budget.</p>	<p>Budget for gully emptying for 2010/11 now £2.9m (£2.8 million in 2009, increased from £1.8m previously). The condition and performance of highway drainage system is being recorded during cleansing and rectified if problems identified. Asset data inventory being collected now.</p> <p>The winter maintenance budget remains under consideration.</p>
<p>19. That KCC works in partnership with local authorities, the police and traffic wardens to inform the public about road drainage cleansing activities to address the issue of vehicles obstructing gullies and</p>	<p>KHS will be developing a website over next two years that will list programme of works and facilitate the prioritisation of maintenance (as per report March 2009). Gully emptying schedules will be posted on the web site.</p>

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
delaying vital works.	Route optimisation for gulley emptying routes is underway, providing a more efficient service.
20. That the government should urgently consider the EA's request for funding to enable vital works to proceed at Jury's Gap, Camber.	This refers to the Broomhill area, between Jury's Gap and Camber. The project is currently in the consultation and design stage with the local community. Construction work is planned to commence in March 2012, with completion programmed for 2013-2014. During the design and construction period the wall will continue to be maintained to its current standard of protection.
21 That the EA should encourage the input of local authority and Internal Drainage Board (IDB) experts on local strategies and schemes and that IDBs gain representation on the Southern Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC) in order to optimise the benefit to be gained from local knowledge.	<p>In relation to the SE RFDC, IDBs are represented through the local authority representative, which has been agreed by the RFDC as the correct approach (as per report March 2009).</p> <p>To note: as a result of the FWM Act the Regional Flood Defence Committees (RFDC) have now been renamed to Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to reflect the inclusion of coastal management within their remit.</p>
22 That the EA develop and implement a phased rolling programme of maintenance to include 'low risk' areas (in collaboration with the Kent Internal Drainage Boards).	The Environment Agency is currently embarking on a full maintenance programme for Kent's Main River network including areas classed as 'low risk'. A copy of the maintenance programme is available on the EA's Web site http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/109548.aspx
23. That the EA prioritise clearance of waterways in the Romney Marsh Area.	Maintenance work for all main rivers is carried out on a priority basis – most of Romney Marsh is classed as medium or high Risk. This year's maintenance programme is underway and will be completed to programme in March 2011.
24. That the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) Severe Weather Group (SWG) audit and promote the development of emergency plans/specific flood plans for at risk areas in liaison with the Environment Agency and develop a generic flood plan for Kent.	The Sever Weather Group protocol has been practiced and the protocol is due for publication late summer/early autumn 2010.
25. That the government consider placing a duty (with funding) on the Fire & Rescue Service to respond to a flood emergency and further considers designating FRS as the lead body in charge of a flood incident.	<p>This recommendation has been made by the Pitt Review and has been adopted by Central Government. It will now be a matter for them to incorporate this into legislation (as per report March 2009).</p> <p>Despite the introduction of the Flood and Water Management Act, which was intended to</p>

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
	take forward the Pitt Review recommendations, there is still no duty on the Fire & Rescue Service to respond to a flood emergency. However, in response to flooding being high on Kent's risk register, Kent Fire and Rescue Service have notably increased their capability to respond to a flood incident and have invested in flood/water rescue equipment.
26. That the Kent Resilience Forum Severe Weather Group formulate and publicise an action plan in relation to flooding to raise public confidence in Kent's preparedness for flood events and consideration should be given to merging the SWG with the Flood Warning Planning Liaison Group to reduce duplication and avoid confusion as part of a wider streamlining of the group structure within the Resilience Forum.	<p>Classification of the flood plan will be subject to final KRF approval. Once established, levels of information can be extracted and placed into existing warning & informing work streams within the KRF. Regardless of any sensitive detailed information, the KRF continue to underpin county-wide W&I strategies to support this statutory duty under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (as per report March 2009).</p> <p>The latest action plan will be adopted this summer.</p>
27. That KHS should send officers to work alongside local district colleagues in an emergency situation.	Arrangements exist for this and no further action is required (as per report March 2009).
28. That the Environment Agency, through its chairmanship of the KRF Severe Weather Group, should ensure there is a systematic survey of critical infrastructure (location and flood defences) and through the SWG promote work with utility companies to ensure supplies can be protected and maintained during flood emergency situations.	These discussions are on-going between the EA and the Utility Companies (as per report March 2009).
29. That the Severe Weather Group liaise with partners in the Kent Resilience Forum and east coast authorities to formulate an emergency response plan for an extreme coastal event and, given the risk to life and property from sea flooding, assess whether the current warning system and communication processes are adequate or whether a siren system should be acquired for Kent, and that people are educated about what to do when they receive a flood warning .	The generic plan detailed above will deal with many of the issues stated in this recommendation. However, coastal flood risk mitigation and further analysis are continuing to support this approach (as per report March 2009).
30. That KCC support the Environment Agency in raising flood risk awareness (including the appointment	In direct response to the Pitt Review, KCC are piloting the development of a generic community resilience plan template which is being rolled out to PCs across the T&M area.

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
<p>and training of flood wardens and to ensure that vulnerable people are identified and supported in emergency situations) via town and parish councils and similar community groups.</p>	<p>Response has been positive; therefore we are looking to further rollout county-wide (as per report March 2009).</p> <p>Further to this the Environment Agency's public awareness programme Floodwise is ongoing in Kent, which promotes, and encourages uptake of, a free flood warning service.</p>

CARERS SELECT COMMITTEE – DECEMBER 2007

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
<p>1. Need to raise awareness and profile of carers and carer support services and make information available out of standard hours.</p>	<p>To raise the profile of young carers a range of events have been held, which have included training for school governors, school staff, and events with children organised via the projects working in schools. Children, Families and Education have developed young carers leaflet available through key statutory and non-statutory organisations countywide. To help raise professionals' awareness of how to identify and support young carers a DVD has been produced featuring input from Kent's young carers.</p> <p>Kent Adult Social Services HQ and area based staff supported carers' week events.</p> <p>The KASS carers' website has been revamped to make it easier to use.</p> <p>Carers' issues featured prominently in a Conference held in May 08 on the economic, social, employment and housing implications of the ageing population. This helped highlight the critical role carers' play with partner organisations across Kent. The conference attracted national/ international experts including one on carers' policy.</p> <p>KASS continues to involve carers in recruitment process where possible. Users and carers have been engaged in drawing up shortlists of candidates, contributing interview questions, sitting on interview panels. Users and carers have also been involved in selecting panels to appoint providers.</p> <p>The work of the standing Adult Services Carers Advisory Group has also added weight to raising the profile. West Kent NHS and NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent (Primary Care Trusts) have carer leads identified which has had the effect of pushing carers' issues forward.</p> <p>Inequalities in Health in Kent the Director of Public Health's annual report contained a chapter about the health inequalities experienced by carers. This is an influential report read by health and social care commissioners, which contains specific recommendations to improve the health & well being of carers.</p> <p>Work is underway to raise the profile and the support offered to carers within KCC workforce. A staff survey is planned to gain insight into the number of employees juggling caring with employment. The carers leave pilot scheme has been well received and extended until August 2009.</p> <p>KASS is planning a Carers and Personalisation event to provide carers the opportunity to inform the implementation of Self Directed Support</p>

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
	<p>Work has been undertaken with County Duty Service to ensure a more consistent and proactive response to carers' issues and enquiries when raised through the duty service.</p> <p>During national Carers Week 14th-18th June 2010, Kent Adult Social Services launched it's 'Do I look Like I Care?' social media campaign. With thanks to 4 younger adult carers who volunteered to be filmed and interviewed, a series of short advertisements were published, one per day throughout the week. The advertisements were aimed at younger adult carers between the ages of 18-30 and were posted on Youtube and seven other internet video sites. It was also promoted by many Facebook and Twitter sites. This was accompanied by a press release and interview clips which were aired on participating local radio stations, Heart FM dedicated a whole webpage to the campaign.</p> <p>This campaign promoted www.kent.gov.uk/carers with the intention of raising awareness among Kent's younger adult carers about the services Kent provides to Carers and to encourage them to become involved in shaping future support services for Carers in their age group.</p> <p>Better Support For Carers in the NHS Develop a range of strategies to improve Carers' experiences of accessing and using their local NHS Services, working in partnership with Local Authorities and the voluntary sector.</p> <p>West Kent NHS launched 3 video clips on Youtube aimed at Carers urging them to look after their health and to contact their local Carers Organisation or GP for check ups. 'Who's supporting them to keep caring and live their own lives?'. Links to these videos have been made available on www.kent.gov.uk/carers</p> <p>DementiaWeb and 24 hour Helpline The 24 hour helpline will compliment the website ensuring those without web access can benefit from the information on the website. The helpline will also provide a supportive and informed listening ear to those who wish to discuss any worries or concerns. The website and helpline was launched countywide in May 2010.</p>
2. Promote single point of contact for carers.	<p>The Department of Health is soon to launch and promote a national Single Point of Access for Carers. KASS has supplied local carers' information to this scheme and is pursuing opportunities to utilise this scheme locally. We do not want to duplicate or confuse carers with two single points of access and hence we are eagerly awaiting the national scheme to see how best to supplement with more local information.</p> <p>The Carers Emergency Card Scheme has created a unique telephone number for carers 08458 247 105. This number is operated by the Kent Contact Centre and could be further utilised as a single point</p>

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
	<p>of contact if necessary.</p> <p>The Carers Emergency Card is promoted and administered on KASS behalf by seven Carers Support Organisations across Kent. When carers make a request to join the scheme if they wish they will also be informed of other carers services available in their area, such as support groups etc.</p> <p>Following the launch of the Department of Health Single Point of Access for Carers, work on this has commenced and the new service is due to be in place in April 2011.</p>
<p>3. Involvement of the Carer Support Organisations at assessment and subject to carers consent sharing the statutory assessment should be considered.</p>	<p>A new Carers Assessment Policy has been written and formally agreed at KASS Policy Development and Review Board. The policy clearly sets out KASS duties in assessing and providing support to carers.</p> <p>In conjunction to developing the policy it has been agreed to trial the outsourcing of carers' assessments to Carers Support Organisations. Work has begun to progress this trial, two pilot sites have been identified in Tonbridge & Dover. The pilots are planned for a year with monthly monitoring of three key quality markers, quantity, quality (including carers experience) and cost.</p> <p>We are exploring mechanisms for information sharing across health, social care and the voluntary sector. Carers Assessments have been considered in discussion regarding Kent Adult Social Services decisions to procure a Common Assessment Framework /Single Assessment Process tool. We are actively exploring enhancing self-assessment for carers (online and paper) as part of the Self Directed Support.</p>
<p>4. Reviews or contact from Care managers should be regular with annual reviews as a minimum.</p>	<p>The present policy is clear in that service users and carers needs should be assessed as follows: Within 3 months of the initial service, annually there after or sooner if a significant change in needs/circumstances do arise.</p> <p>The revised carers' policy makes it clear to carers who and how to contact the relevant teams.</p> <p>The issue will be addressed further as KASS finalise its development plans for Self-Directed Support.</p> <p>Performance monitoring systems on reviews are in place and reported to the Government and KASS Senior Management Teams. These reports will also be shared and discussed at the Carers Advisory Group.</p>
<p>5. District Social Services Teams to</p>	<p>The launch of the revised Carers Assessment Policy will provide the opportunity to further raise the</p>

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
address and overcome issues around call management.	<p>profile of carers within KASS.</p> <p>To compliment the new policy, training is being developed to reinforce the policy implementation and further clarifying duties and responsibilities towards carers. The aim is to create a far more consistent approach to the assessment and support offered to carers.</p>
<p>6. Emergency Card Schemes, backed up by emergency plans and response teams should be expanded and developed Kent wide if the pilot is successful.</p>	<p>On Carers Rights Day December 5th 2008 a Kent Carers Emergency Card Scheme was launched. The scheme is designed to provide carers with peace of mind when away from the person that they care for that should something untoward happened to them that emergency assistance could be accessed. Currently there are over 1300 carers signed up to the scheme and the number is growing steadily, since the launch there have been 107 applications generated from the website alone. When applying Carers are offered as much support as necessary to complete their emergency plan if they have no friend or relative to step in at short notice or their emergency plan fails for any reason, either County Duty or the Out of Hours service will step in to arrange emergency support. This support is available to all carers not just those carers of people receiving community care services.</p> <p>To compliment the scheme additional carers grant funding has been commissioned with the voluntary sector to provide increased levels of community based respite.</p> <p>Currently there are over 1300 carers signed up to the scheme and the number is growing steadily.</p> <p>An Example of how the Emergency Card has been used:</p> <div data-bbox="734 927 2074 999" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>A Kent Carer recently became ill and was taken to hospital. The card identified that he cared for his wife and his wife was found immediate respite care.</p> </div> <p>Dementia/Care Crisis Support Service NHS West Kent has commissioned a new service aimed to prevent the breakdown of caring situation that normally led to people with dementia being admitted to hospitals or to care homes.</p>
<p>7. KCC together with Health and VCO's need to ensure that provision of respite/breaks is flexible, of the right type and that provision meets the needs of carers as well as the cared for person.</p>	<p>A standing Carers Advisory Group has been established. The Group is jointly chaired by Steve Leidecker, and Barbara Hagan, a representative of carers support organisation. The Group was instrumental in shaping the service development priorities for 2008/9. These are;</p> <p>A Single Point of Contact - a county-wide dedicated advice and information helpline service for carers</p> <p>Carers' Emergency Card - 24/7 contact number in case of an emergency. This means that if a carer</p>

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
	<p>becomes ill or is involved in an accident they can be assured that there will be someone to look after the person that they care for</p> <p>Carers' Training and Education - to cover topics such as moving and handling, medication, dealing with difficult or challenging behaviour, coping with specific conditions and employment. A group of Kent carers support organisations, supported by KASS are bidding for funding to provide the Expert Patient Programme for carers called 'Caring with Confidence'.</p> <p>Carers' Emergency Support Services - developing time-limited (48-72 hours) home-based emergency cover to provide support in times of crisis e.g. carer's unplanned admission to hospital or a medical emergency, a family member being taken ill and requiring help or attention, the death or funeral of a close friend or family member.</p> <p>Short breaks - Increasing the type and availability of short breaks, including at home, in the evening and overnight.</p> <p>KASS will use its influence via the Carers Advisory Group and other methods to ensure that the PCT sign up to joint commissioning plans to ensure that the additional carers' money routed through the NHS is spent to compliment existing services, addressing gaps and delivering against the agreed priorities. Emergency or crisis support will be a priority commissioning area for the NHS.</p> <p>Some examples of short breaks and Carers having a life of their own as a result of the Carers Assessment Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Carer was able to pursue their interest in photography when he financed a photography course through the Carers one-off Direct Payment. ▪ A Carer who was unable to leave the property due to caring responsibilities used the Carer one-off Payment to purchase a laptop for internet shopping. ▪ A Carer providing 24 hour supervision used the Carers one-off Payment to finance a trip to visit his grandson and watch him graduate <p>Peer Support and Dementia Cafes The Demonstrator Project has enabled a new peer support groups to be established in the Maidstone, Ashford and Shepway areas and in the new financial year there will be another peer support group in the Malling area.</p>

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
<p>8. Multi Agency Adult Carers Strategy to be progressed as a priority.</p>	<p>Work has begun to develop a Kent Adult Carers Strategy; the strategy will be our Kent response to delivering the National Carers' Strategy which was published in June 2008. To take the works forward a sub group of the standing Adult Services Carers Advisory Group has been established with representation from KASS, the voluntary sector, both Kent PCT and carers. The group will develop a high level strategy to show how in Kent we intend to implement the National Carers Strategy. Following on from the strategy there will be two separate joint commissioning plans for East & West Kent. KASS will ensure that links are made between the Kent Adult Carers Strategy and work within Kent to deliver the imminently expected National Dementia Strategy and the recently published End of Life Strategy 2008.</p>
<p>9. Need to ensure that awareness is raised within schools to increase understanding of what it means to be a 'young carer', and find ways to identify and support Young carers.</p>	<p>In 2008 guidance was issued to all schools regarding the needs of young carers and how to support them in the school environment. In order to support schools in applying this guidance an additional 20K was allocated to each of the five young carers projects across the county to enable them to work directly with local schools. This has enabled us to identify additional young carers across the county.</p> <p>Awareness raising and training has taken place with a number of Local Children's Services Partnerships (LCSP) and with specific groups of staff who work in schools or support the school environment i.e. Family Liaison Officers, Parent Support Advisors etc. Strategic links have been made with other initiatives that support the well-being of pupils in school e.g. PSHE and Healthy Schools.</p> <p>The Anti-bullying Strategy makes specific reference to bullying that takes place as a result of disability and the KSCB Anti-Bullying Policy specifically identifies young carers as a group of vulnerable young people at risk of bullying. The Joint Protocol between Children's and Adult Services (see below) clarifies the routes of referral into children's services for those young carers with additional needs.</p> <p>Ashford Carers Support services have been able to introduce a Schools Development worker (SDW); the SDW has been working in liaison with 12 local schools providing advocacy, signposting and support to Young Carers in the area. In addition the funding helped to provide some respite days for Young Carers including a first aid training day, summer BBQ and a camping trip</p> <p>Through home access to targeted groups funding 62 Young Carers and their families have been provided with a laptop and broadband access for two years. The allocation of laptops has been targeted at the most vulnerable Young Carers.</p> <p>The Youth Capital and Youth Opportunities Fund. Young people are trained as decision maker at a number of events, including residential courses. During this year, 25% of the decision makers who have been trained are Young Carers.</p>

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
	<p>During this year three Young Carers have been supported to stand for election to the Kent Youth County Council. All three were successful and have achieved a position in the council.</p> <p>A Young Carers DVD produced with Young Carers in the county is being made available to all schools through the Healthy Schools Programme and will be incorporated into training for staff across all agencies.</p>
<p>10. Consider the need for a clearly identified lead professional for young carers on CSS operational front and education, alongside those for policy/strategy.</p>	<p>The additional monies identified during the last year to support local young carers projects working more closely with local schools will have helped to begin to share the expert knowledge held within the projects to other agencies, specifically schools. This year, to support the LCSPs in developing links with the young carers projects and to prioritise support for young carers, each LCSP has been offered £500 per 1000 of child population to develop young carers support. To date the majority of LCSPs have taken up this offer and a report will be made next year on the outcome of this work.</p> <p>In a year of great change in children services the majority of agencies have identified leads for young carers. These leads are proactive in promoting the needs of young carers within their agency and as a result a range of awareness raising events have taken place and are planned. Further work will take place to clarify young carers leads for all agencies. It is as yet too early to judge the impact of the CAF in identifying and meeting the needs of young carers. It will be important to monitor this during the coming years.</p>
<p>11. Need to ensure clear responsibilities and referral pathway for young carers between Kent Adult Social Services, and CFE and other agencies, and ensure that protocols between Kent Adult Social Services and Children's Social Services are developed as a matter of urgency.</p>	<p>A Joint Protocol between Adults and Children's Services is now in place within KCC. Recommendation will be made to the Kent Children's Trust Board that the Protocol is adopted children's and adult services across the county.</p> <p>The joint protocol identifies the appropriate person to carry out assessment within households. It is anticipated the adoption of the protocol will increase the number of young carers identified and therefore support offered to them.</p> <p>Staff awareness/briefing plan is being developed.</p>
<p>12. Invisible People – the multi agency young carers strategy and accompanying commissioning strategy (currently in draft) should be implemented urgently and monitored to ensure objectives and targets are met.</p>	<p>Invisible People- Kent's Young Carers Strategy was subject to formally launched in July. The document is available via Kent Trust Web and the KCC web-site. The multi-agency implementation plan that supports the document is subject to annual review by CFE POC and the Kent Children's Trust Board. Work has begun on a 'Hidden Harm Strategy' this multi agency strategy will pull together the work necessary to protect vulnerable children (many of whom will be young carers) who live with parents of guardians with substance misuse problems.</p>

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
	<p>In 2008, there were 600 Young Carers across the county receiving support. This figure has more than doubled with over 1200 Young Carers being supported across the county during 2009/10. This support, commissioned through the Local Children's Services Partnerships, includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of social and recreational activities for Young Carers including residential weekend, weekly support groups, holiday and weekend activities; • Activity in more than 130 schools to build awareness of Young Carers, develop capacity to deliver in school support and identify Young Carers; • Tailored individual support for those Young Carers most in need.
<p>13. KCC in partnership with Health and the VCO's need to improve understanding and signposting from Health sector to available help and support for carers in the county.</p>	<p>The new standing Carers Advisory has for the first time in Kent brought all the key strategic partners involved in supporting carers together. Both PCT have identified Carers Leads who are working in partnership with KASS to develop the Kent Adult Cares Strategy and associated commissioning plans. The identification, sign posting and support offered by primary care is a consistent theme and one that will feature heavily in the strategy.</p> <p>We expect that training for GPs, a requirement of the dementia strategy will also contribute to improving the current situation.</p> <p>'Live life to the full in West Kent' which is an informative booklet full of advice information and guidance.</p> <p>West Kent CareCall, a service commissioned by NHS West Kent and established in April 2009 is a proactive telephone-based health coaching service for people with long term conditions.</p>
<p>14. KCC to pursue with Health the need to consider how carers of mental health patients (and service users) can be better supported, particularly at times of crisis and out of hours.</p>	<p>The provision of carers assessment workers, piloted in West Kent, has now been extended to cover all of Kent. These workers ensure that all carers of people with severe mental health problems are offered their own assessment of their needs and are signposted to the support they need. Likewise, funding for Carers Breaks has in the last year been implemented in all parts of Kent. These are designed to give carers a break and are arranged by carers support projects.</p> <p>The Mental Health Matters help-line is now funded from 5PM to 9AM on weekdays and 24hrs weekends and holidays. The service is available to carers and referrals can be made to the Crisis Resolution and Home treatment Teams.</p> <p>Kent Adult Social Services will aim to influence how the local NHS intends to allocate the new funds that they are receiving for carers, increasing services available to carers out of hours and at time of</p>

Recommendations	Progress at June 2010
	<p>crisis will be a priority.</p> <p>Further work needs to be done to ensure carers needs are fully recognised in crisis and out of hours. We will be finding ways to include mental health in the Carers Emergency Card scheme. A seminar is shortly to take place with all mental health carers projects across Kent which will examine how carers needs can be better recognised at times of crisis and out of hours.</p>

Alcohol Misuse Select Committee - March 2008

Recommendation	Progress
<p>1. KCC to establish, in partnership with Kent Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), an independent task board which will carry out a comprehensive and systematic needs assessment of alcohol service provision in Kent. This review should investigate, quantify and evaluate the current level of need and the financial resources available in both East and West Kent; it should consider coordination, commissioning and provision mechanisms involved; it should assess the effectiveness of local alcohol treatment systems in all the four tiers of intervention, and it should explore opportunities for savings in order to maximise budget spend on service delivery. The Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team (KDAAT) should produce an annual updating report indicating in the various areas of operation the number of individuals receiving treatment and the reasons for their referral.</p>	<p>Presented to Alcohol Select Committee 17.3.09 by Angela Slaven <i>Action updated 20 5.10 by Meradin Peachey</i></p> <p>Kent Action on Alcohol Steering Group (KAASG) was established to reflect multi-agency representation and resources were identified enabling the commissioning of Oxford PHRU for the completion of a comprehensive alcohol needs assessment. An initial report was received in readiness for the launch in the Alcohol Select Committee Report in July 2008 and a final report is anticipated on 31 July 2009.</p> <p><i>A needs assessments was completed by November 2009 and this underpinned the Kent Alcohol Strategy, PCT commissioning plans and community safety partnership plans. More work will be done on a gap analysis of services across the county now that there are more services, and how we can improve local data collection.</i></p>
<p>2. The needs of all those individuals requesting assistance, especially those caring for dependants, should be assessed carefully, and treatment should be prioritised according to the importance and urgency of each situation.</p>	<p>KAASG is working with KDAAT Young Person's Service in the coordination of a multi-agency group to address issues of Hidden Harm. A gap analysis has been completed and a Hidden Harm Strategy has been prepared for consultation across the County. Via safeguarding structures the identification and assessment of families at risk is prioritised and ongoing work will be developed with substance misuse treatment providers and Children's Social Services.</p> <p><i>Young peoples services were included in the HOUSE campaign which identified a number of vulnerable young people that were referred into services.</i></p> <p><i>The safeguarding board has prioritised prevention support for children living in families with substance misuse.</i></p> <p><i>The development of the service user and carer groups has progressed and funding will continue in 2010/11.</i></p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>3. The outcomes of the needs assessment should inform the production of an overarching alcohol strategy for Kent. The production of the strategy, aiming at reducing the impact of alcohol misuse in Kent, should be lead by KDAAT. The strategy should address a variety of issues including treatment services, underage drinking, public awareness, alcohol-related crime and responsible retailing. It should clearly identify effective actions to be taken, together with responsibilities and accountability of all the agencies involved in the coordination, commissioning and provision of alcohol-related services. The strategy should include mechanisms that will evaluate and monitor the progress of its implementation, and it should encourage closer collaborative ties between all the agencies involved.</p>	<p>Presented to Alcohol Select Committee 17.3.09 by Angela Slaven <i>Action updated 20 5.10 by Meradin Peachey</i></p> <p>The draft Alcohol Strategy is now ready for consultation across the County with a view to progress to Council in Autumn 2009. <i>The Alcohol Strategy has been subject to wide consultation with partners and is due to be launched in the summer2010.</i></p>
<p>4. KCC to lobby Central Government to raise the priority and profile of the issue of alcohol misuse in the UK. KCC should press for an increase in funding to finance services dealing with alcohol misuse. This pressure should be carried out through the influence of the Local Government Association (LGA), as well as through direct contact with Central Government agencies.</p>	<p>Alcohol misuse and issues relating to licensing and retail costs have been a Central Government priority for action and legislation is anticipated that will amend current licensing laws. The issue of cost is now in the public domain and KAASG can contribute to this ongoing work. Kent is working with the retail industry via Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (KCAP) – see answer to point 27 and a dialogue has commenced with Shephard Neame. <i>The Chief Medical Officer and the Royal College of Physicians now supports KCC select committee recommendations.</i> <i>There is considerable national lobbying supporting KCC position.</i></p>
<p>5. KCC should ensure that the distribution of financial resources for alcohol-related services is monitored, amongst other methods, through Local Area Agreement (LAA) structures and mechanisms. KCC should prioritise the allocation of resources for these crucial alcohol services, given their impact across so many other aspects of life.</p>	<p>KAASG has identified, within the Alcohol Strategy, the areas that contribute to the LAA process, namely treatment services, Accident & Emergency Admissions and young people and alcohol. Additional resources have been secured from PCTs and a further growth is planned in expenditure in 2009/10. <i>The PCTs have increased resources available for specialist services and there are now tier 2 and 3 services in West Kent. Specialist services have been re-tendered and now have a more community based model of treatment enabling wider access.</i></p>

Recommendation	Progress
	<p>Presented to Alcohol Select Committee 17.3.09 by Angela Slaven</p> <p><i>Action updated 20 5.10 by Meradin Peachey</i></p>
	<p><i>Tier 3 and 4 services have been re-tendered in East Kent.</i></p>
<p>6. KCC to establish closer links with local academic institutions, such as the University of Kent, in order to deal with alcohol misuse. Work should be carried out with the European Institute of Social Studies (EISS) of the University of Kent, in an effort to attract European Union funding to finance alcohol misuse services in Kent. KCC should liaise with EISS to encourage the participation of both the alcohol industry and Kent-based agencies dealing with alcohol misuse in the EU Alcohol and Health Forum. Care should be taken to present the Forum with the many projects that the alcohol industry in Kent may initiate.</p>	<p>KCAP is to be externally evaluated by the University of Kent and other treatment services will be assessed and evaluated as appropriate and as funding permits. In the Autumn 2008 a dinner was held at the University of Kent to establish links and areas for future exploration.</p> <p><i>Kent liaised with the EU Alcohol and Health forum through the European Public Health Alliance to advocate for strong European policy development . The Kent & Medway Health and Europe Centre led a well-attended alcohol conference in November 2009, showcasing evidence from UK and other countries of what works in approaches with Young People.</i></p> <p><i>The “Think Family” principle is being extended across children and Young People services.</i></p>
<p>7. The effectiveness of GPs in early identification and referral of alcohol misusers in Kent should be improved. All GPs in Kent should be strongly encouraged to attend special training that will help them identify alcohol misusers, especially those with dependants.</p>	<p>GPs with Special Interest (GPSI) have become established in respect of the drugs agenda. KDAAT is seeking to address GPSIs with a specific alcohol brief once funding becomes available. Via the Accident & Emergency pilots briefing intervention models are being developed via existing providers in the treatment field.</p> <p><i>Alcohol screening has been incorporated into NHS health checks provided by GPs in Eastern & Coastal Kent. It is under consideration in West Kent, where half of all practices signed up to alcohol screening of new patients. Brief intervention and advice in A&Es is still not common practice. This under discussion in West Kent and a resource has been identified for a nurse alcohol worker for East Kent Hospitals Trust.</i></p>
<p>8. GPs and other primary care staff should increase the provision of “motivational brief interventions” and advice to individuals drinking excessively, but not yet experiencing major problems resulting from excessive consumption.</p>	<p>See answer to Recommendation 7.</p> <p><i>This is being funded through the NHS health checks programme in Eastern and Coastal Kent and is being considered in West Kent.</i></p>

Recommendation	Progress
Funding sources to finance these brief interventions should be identified by Kent Primary Care Trusts (PCTs).	Presented to Alcohol Select Committee 17.3.09 by Angela Slaven <i>Action updated 20 5.10 by Meradin Peachey</i>
<p>9. Immediate intervention should be provided to support those with urgent needs, such as children mistreated by alcoholic parents, young carers of misusers and misusers suffering from alcohol withdrawal crises. If during assessment a parent is identified as in need of alcohol treatment, KCC Social Services should ensure that support is provided to ascertain that the children are properly cared for.</p>	<p>See answer to Recommendation 2. <i>Prevention is also a priority for the safeguarding children's board</i></p>
<p>10. Additional temporary sheltered housing should be facilitated by KCC for individuals recovering from alcohol addiction, particularly those discharged from hospitals, prisons and residential alcohol treatment, in order to prevent relapse.</p>	<p>Discussions have commenced with service providers in the county who act as registered social landlords (RSLs) for this targeted group. Existing provision is currently coping with demand and additional resources from Supporting People to provide floating support at the point of move on has enabled a more fluid and flexible accommodation response.</p>
<p>11. There should be a hard-hitting health campaign targeted at the young to increase their awareness and so reduce the damaging effects of alcohol. The Committee urges that this campaign should stress personal responsibility and self esteem, give information about sensible drinking and about the variety of alcohol- related services available in the County</p>	<p>House has been developed as a multi-agency response across the county. The programme will be assessed and evaluated externally but already evidence is emerging that young people previously outside treatment services are being identified and support is being given and where necessary referral on to more structured programmes. <i>HOUSE has resulted in higher number of referrals of vulnerable young people to connexions, youth services, health services drug and alcohol services.</i></p>
<p>12. In order to help those seeking support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A logo, which facilitates the identification of all alcohol services in the County, to be adopted. <p>The "alcohol" section in the KDAAT website to be developed and expanded.</p>	<p>The issue of a logo is a matter for resolution at a corporate level and has not been progressed. The KDAAT website is being refreshed and new leaflets supporting the NHS campaigns have been produced.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
	<p>Presented to Alcohol Select Committee 17.3.09 by Angela Slaven</p> <p><i>Action updated 20 5.10 by Meradin Peachey</i></p>
<p>13. KCC should produce a directory in hard copy of all alcohol-related services available in the County which includes all voluntary sector provision, to aid partners and clients to access help for individuals in crisis.</p>	<p>KDAAT has produced a new leaflet identifying treatment providers and other avenues of support. This links to the national directory. No hard copy document has been produced but a Communication Strategy has been established to ensure that the timeliness and accuracy of information available to professionals and other groups is available.</p>
<p>14. More consistent Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), which includes effective alcohol education, should be delivered in both primary and secondary schools in Kent. PSHE accreditation for both teachers and nurses should be widely supported. The organisation and promotion of this training should be carried out by Schools Drugs Education Advisers through Local Children's Services Partnerships. The Kent PSHE Advisory Group should pay particular attention to this recommendation when investigating young people's personal health and wellbeing in the County.</p>	<p>Kent is now compliant with the PSHE requirements and further opportunities are being developed by the Kent Safer Schools Health model.</p> <p><i>This is also a priority for the new Teenage pregnancy strategy.</i></p>
<p>15. The inclusion of persons recovering from alcohol addiction in the delivery of alcohol education in schools in Kent should be considered by Local Children's Services Partnerships. Guidance for schools will ensure that lessons delivered by outside speakers, including previous alcohol misusers, comply with a clear quality assurance framework.</p>	<p>Within the Alcohol Strategy workforce development is recognised as a key strand and through the Progressions Awards at South Kent College, we are developing opportunities for service users to develop the skills and confidence to begin to contribute to the overarching agenda. LCSPs in their Needs Assessment can access these resources via local treatment providers.</p>
<p>16. Parents and Kent-based primary and secondary schools should work in partnership to promote legal, safe and sensible drinking. Schools should involve parents in their children's alcohol education by transferring learning about sensible drinking into the home.</p>	<p>Parental Awareness has been developed using the national tool kit and a booklet has been issued to all schools to engage parents in the promotion of the work.</p>
<p>17. Successful initiatives dealing with other related health issues, such as drug misuse, drink driving and sexual health,</p>	<p>This is being addressed through the KAASG Communication Strategy.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>should be explored for adaptation to the theme of alcohol misuse. KCC should support the delivery of these initiatives in tackling alcohol misuse.</p>	<p>Presented to Alcohol Select Committee 17.3.09 by Angela Slaven <i>Action updated 20 5.10 by Meradin Peachey</i></p> <p><i>Various national social marketing campaigns are being adapted for use in Kent over the Christmas period and using the LIFE channels in GP practices.</i></p> <p><i>KASSG has a clear understanding of the national campaigns and is reflecting how these can be complemented within the Kent plan. The World cup offers an opportunity to further develop the social marketing response.</i></p> <p><i>KASSG has collated a visual map of national social marketing campaigns that can be used locally, this will be shared with all CDRPs so they can target messages in their local communities.</i></p>
<p>18. The work carried out by the Safer and Stronger Communities Group and its sub-group, in their effort to reduce alcohol-related crime linked to the night-time economy and to deal with domestic violence in Kent should be comprehensive, including the diversity of offences fuelled by alcohol misuse which are not necessarily of a violent nature.</p>	<p>Work is ongoing with Kent Police, Probation and Children's Services to ensure the sharing of data and information in order that a more coherent approach can be applied and resources can be targeted more effectively. The analysis is being linked to the work being undertaken by Oxford PHRU.</p> <p><i>The Kent Fire service is actively seeking support form partners through the Safer Stronger groups to share information about high risk individuals so they can visit and offer prevention. An approach has been made to the Mental Health Trust to specifically agree a data sharing protocol.</i></p>
<p>19. Communication between agencies at county level and those at more local level should be enhanced. Better data sharing between organisations dealing with alcohol-related crime, such as the police and Crime Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) should be secured. The sharing of best practice between Kent-based CDRPs in tackling alcohol-related disorder should be improved. Both Central Government and the alcohol industry should be encouraged to provide data and finance.</p>	<p>KAASG is leading on the coordination of the groups that sit within Safer Stronger Communities, Safer Kent Delivery and the Public Health Boards. KAASG has a clear data strategy attached as Appendix 1</p> <p><i>Both PCTs contribute to the strategic assessments for the CDRPs with alcohol data.</i></p>
<p>20. A Kent-based alcohol misuse conference, including representatives of local authorities, CDRPs, KDAAT and the alcohol industry, is established.</p>	<p>In July 08, the Select Committee Report was launched at a Kent based conference. In November 2009 an EU Symposium will address young people and alcohol.</p> <p><i>The Kent & Medway Health and Europe Centre led a well-attended alcohol</i></p>

Recommendation	Progress
	<p>Presented to Alcohol Select Committee 17.3.09 by Angela Slaven</p> <p><i>Action updated 20 5.10 by Meradin Peachey</i></p> <p><i>conference in November 2009, showcasing evidence from UK and other countries of what works in approaches with Young People. The planning and execution of this conference was supported by KDAAT and Kent PCTs.</i></p>
<p>21. All hospitals in Kent improve Accident and Emergency (A&E) data gathering on injuries resulting from alcohol-related violence. All A&E departments in Kent should be strongly encouraged to collect and share data with other agencies in order to pinpoint “hot spots” and sources of crime resulting from alcohol misuse, and should quantify accurately NHS costs of dealing with health consequences.</p>	<p>Two pilots are currently being completed and evaluated. A review of the evaluation will commence in July 2009 and the outcomes considered prior to further roll out.</p> <p><i>A&E data is available to the police, this includes alcohol and knife related incidents. However it still needs more development to improve collection through A&Es. An implementation project has been ongoing since September 2009. A conference is being held May 2010 to improve enthusiasm and understanding of the importance of this data collection</i></p>
<p>22. Magistrates to be provided by Her Majesty Court Service (HMCS) with training which will enable them to deal more effectively with alcohol-related crime.</p>	<p>Magistrates across Kent are in the process of being trained. This is related to the delivery of alcohol treatment programmes ATR (statutory court order) and is being managed by the Kent Probation Service.</p>
<p>23. The Select Committee supports the KCC Towards 2010 target 58 to work with off licence pub and club owners to reduce alcohol fuelled crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse. In addition, we recommend that problems of drinking outside the curtilage of licensed premises should be addressed, and that KCC should seek to discourage the practices of discounting alcoholic drinks, charging high prices for soft drinks and other strategies that could promote irresponsible drinking by all retail outlets</p>	<p>Drinking outside licensed premises is an area being addressed by Kent Police and other responsible authorities. A number of reviews resulting in licensing conditions have been imposed following crime, disorder or serious nuisance caused outside licensed premises. Examples include a review called by environmental health due to repeated excessive noise and by police following crimes outside a licensed premises. Clearly, each case is considered on its merits and the aim is to work with Designated Premises Supervisors to prevent any issues arising or reoccurring.</p> <p>Police have used dispersal powers requiring that persons leave an area if they are linked to alcohol-related crime and disorder. These are used extensively throughout Kent.</p> <p>Kent Police set a target for 2008-09 of reducing alcohol and drug-related violence in identified night-time economy areas by 5% based on 2007-08 figures, although full year data is not available, the figures for the first 11 months show significant falls in these violent crimes.</p>

Recommendation	Progress Presented to Alcohol Select Committee 17.3.09 by Angela Slaven <i>Action updated 20 5.10 by Meradin Peachey</i>
	Second point: If discounted drinks promotions are shown to directly impact on any of the 4 licensing objectives (public safety, crime and disorder, public nuisance and harm to children) responsible authorities can seek a review to impose appropriate conditions. See also answer to 27 re KCAP
<p>24. KCC to support, where appropriate and after other measures have been explored, the establishment of alcohol free areas and of Alcohol Disorder Zones, which can require premises failing to implement actions designed to reduce alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in their vicinity to contribute towards the cost of the additional policing necessary to suppress the disruption. Kent Police, Trading Standards and other appropriate agencies should increase their efforts to identify retailers who supply alcohol to under age persons and ensure that penalties are applied.</p>	<p>Alcohol Disorder Zones (ADZ). It is widely accepted that designating an area as an ADZ is very much a last resort when all other measures have been pursued. There have been none created to date anywhere in the country, creating an ADZ shows that the partnership has failed to manage the NTE. [An ADZ could be adopted when all other measures failed to reduce the identified disorder. If so, the police and the local authority need to agree that an ADZ is necessary. A 28 day consultation process follows, then an action plan is agreed, if this fails, the ADZ can be designated. This means that premises in that area can be made to contribute towards the costs towards dealing with issues in the night time economy.</p> <p>Underage drinking: Kent Police have used confiscation powers to confiscate drink from underage persons. This also involves investigating where the drink was purchased from and notifying parents of what has happened. Following test purchases KCC's Trading Standards have prosecuted a number of retailers for selling alcohol to young people. Trading Standards Officers have been accredited and have issued a large number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND's) - effectively an £80 fine, where a prosecution is not appropriate. More recently the service has instituted a number of reviews of licenses which have resulted in the licensing authority adding conditions or even suspending a licence.</p>
<p>25. Public knowledge of the rights to object to licence applications for the sale of alcohol and to call for license reviews if problems of public nuisance occur to be improved. Local experience of public nuisance was previously submitted via Parish Councils, and the Select Committee recommends that KCC engages the support of the Kent Association of Parish Councils to lobby Government to reinstate Parish Councils as consultees in license</p>	<p>The 12 District Councils as the licensing authorities receive all the applications for new licences and alterations to existing licences. This same information is also sent by applicants to the statutory responsible authorities, which includes KCC but does not include the Parish Councils. Parishes have expressed a desire to comment on licence applications / changes but it appears that they are not being consulted by the licensing authorities. KCC's Director of Community Safety is writing to the 12 DC Chief Executives to establish the position within each licensing authority. Depending on the answers received this matter will be placed on the</p>

Recommendation	Progress
applications.	<p>Presented to Alcohol Select Committee 17.3.09 by Angela Slaven</p> <p><i>Action updated 20 5.10 by Meradin Peachey</i></p> <p>agenda for discussion at the Crime and Disorder Partnership (CDRP) meetings to consider a local change of policy or, if required, an approach to Central Government for a change in the law or guidance issued to local authorities.</p>
<p>26. KCC to engage and encourage Central Government to ensure that the rate of taxation of drinks increases proportionally with their alcoholic strength. A greater part of the additional revenue accrued from alcohol taxation should be re-invested for the prevention and treatment of alcohol misuse.</p>	<p>Since the Select Committee hearings, the low cost of alcoholic drinks and its effect on levels of consumption has been well publicised in the media. The Government are considering a number of possibilities which would result in the price of alcoholic drinks being increased.</p>
<p>27. KCC to support Central Government's engagement of large supermarket chains encouraging them to review their alcohol marketing strategies, including "loss leader" discounting practices, and to ensure that alcohol is not sold to under-age customers.</p>	<p>KCC's Trading Standards service is leading on the UK's largest partnership initiative joining forces with Kent Police, the Health Service, District Councils, many services across the County Council (such as the DAAT, Community Wardens, Youth Service, Schools etc) and the retail industry to form the Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (KCAP). Large national retailers are represented by the Retail of Alcohol Standards Group which comprises all the major supermarkets and other national retail chains. The Kent Community Alcohol Partnership has a Steering group led by KCC's Dir of Community Safety and includes a national senior manager for one of the major supermarkets, on behalf of RASG.</p> <p>KCAP aims to change attitudes to drinking by informing and advising young people on sensible drinking, supporting retailers to reduce sales of alcohol to underage drinkers, promote responsible socialising and helping local communities to tackle alcohol related issues.</p> <p>The project was launched across the County in November 08 and in the three pilot areas (Edenbridge, Canterbury City Centre and the Westwood Cross area in Thanet, covering a population of almost 100,000) in March 09. The pilots will run until September 09 and if successful (evaluation to be carried out by Univ of Kent at Canterbury), the project will be rolled out across Kent.</p> <p><i>The project continues to be rolled out</i></p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>28. KCC to encourages Central Government to make Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) a statutory subject with inspection by Ofsted (please refer to Appendix 4 for related recommendations in KCC PSHE report).</p>	<p>Presented to Alcohol Select Committee 17.3.09 by Angela Slaven <i>Action updated 20 5.10 by Meradin Peachey</i></p> <p>Incomplete – the Action Plan indicates work to commence June 2009.</p>

ACCESSING DEMOCRACY - Summary of progress towards each Select Committee Recommendation

Recommendation	Progress to date (June 2010)
<p>1. Raise profile of elected members and use other strategies to change public perception.</p>	<p>This overarching recommendation depends on the delivery of all the other recommendations. It involves the use of technology, development of a Members portal, potential development of Members' blogs, and Members websites, shadowing opportunities for elected Members and officers, roadshows, the emerging localism agenda etc.</p> <p>Members are welcome and encouraged to use Gateways to hold "surgeries" or as a facility for reaching their local constituents.</p> <p>Development of members portal. Work ongoing to consider options including use of Pic and Mix. Lead: Jude Sage/Edward Thomas and Members of the Member Information Member Officer Group.</p> <p>Communications publicity Campaign Campaign to raise awareness and understanding of what councils do, role of members and how members and the public have made a difference. To be launched as part of Local democracy week. (links to R4). Lead: Jane Clarke/ Marcus Chrysostomou.</p> <p>Shadowing opportunities for elected members and officers: Internal scheme to be piloted with lead officers and members to shadow each other. Lead: Paul Wickenden, Coral Ingleton.</p> <p>British Youth Council scheme 'Youth of today'- looking to take part in scheme aimed at 13 to 19 year olds to shadow councillors designed to help young people learn more about what they need to know to take part in the democratic process. Lead: Nigel Baker/John Turner</p>
<p>2 .a) A 'menu of options' of how local people can get involved in local democracy in Kent should be promoted.</p> <p>b) All proposals taken through County Council or Overview and Scrutiny should be required to state the degree of public involvement to date. This would improve accountability and demonstrate how information from consultations is used (especially the effect on decision making).</p>	<p>Promoting options for involvement: The many different ways local people can get involved/make change happen can be highlighted as part of the communications publicity campaign (see R1), and as part of the Gateway Multi channel.</p> <p>The County Council is exploring the various mechanisms available to it to allow the public to express their views which might highlight areas for possible review. This could be piloted through a mechanism to be developed to understand the views which might lead to a Topic Review for the Select Committee Topic Review Programme.</p> <p>Consultation Portal: Many consultations are currently promoted on the KCC website and a few have direct links for residents to use to access the consultation and participate. Improvements to the consultation portal – including covering all consultation and involvement; searchable database; online</p>

Recommendation	Progress to date (June 2010)
<p>c) Existing good practice should be advertised and promoted, identifying future priority issues for local action/campaign with elected members and/or highlight possible areas for review.</p>	<p>access to participate; results and outcomes – deferred again and needing higher priority to move to implementation. Lead : Robert Hardy</p> <p>Model Report. Model report about to be re-launched to include new paragraphs on degree of public involvement to date and how the duty to involve and promote democracy is being delivered. Lead: Geoff Mills/ Christine Singh</p> <p>Participation Techniques - Key to explore new opportunities to increase involvement of local people in local democracy. This is an evolving process and focus is on continued development to involve local people. Consideration by committees to using different methods to engage with all sectors of the community where appropriate. Implemented Webcasting of Local Board Meetings with interactive live feed. Increasing knowledge base of different participation techniques (Participate by right, Social Innovation Laboratory for Kent method deck).</p> <p>Local action to empower communities project - The 100 days campaign is under discussion and early planning stage. A multi agency approach, members, partners and the public working together to tackle a specific issue through joint action. A catalyst for change and empowering 'change makers' in local community. Initial meeting held 25 Nov 09. Lead: Robert Hardy/Jane Clarke/Marcus Chrysostomou. 3 Member focus group to be established.</p> <p>Gateway are available to promote democracy more generally. Opportunity of using Gateway for surgeries highlighted to all members. The network of seven Gateway across Kent is an ideal platform for promoting democracy in our county. With over 40 partner agencies in place delivering services via Gateway, it has proved a vital link and vehicle for communicating with the public. A variety of meeting rooms are available via reservation to host drop-in sessions or surgeries with councillors. This is already working successfully in Tunbridge Wells Gateway and Thanet's Gateway Plus, with all Gateway printed publications promoting url links to find further information on the Councillors in their area.</p> <p>Gateway provides a user-friendly, supportive, modern and comfortable atmosphere, in which the work of Councillors, and the issues and needs of the people of Kent can meet. Each Gateway has the ability to hold 'roadshow' type events where there is a targeted promotional theme if there was a specific date/ week that you would like to focus on. For example, held a 'Backing Kent People' (BKP) week across the Gateway network, where all Gateway had a BKP pop-up and Moneybox booklets to distribute which was also supported by a series of radio adverts advising the event. Lead: Tanya Oliver/Marcus Chrysostomou.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to date (June 2010)
	<p>There are currently two mobile Gateway units, designed to enhance public access in rural and hard to reach communities – particularly communities with relatively poor public transport links and/or at a distance from commercial hubs. The Gateway mobiles can be used as a channel to support specific public sector campaigns and consultations. Gateway will be used as part of the 100 day campaign. Lead: Tanya Oliver/Marcus Chrysostomou</p> <p>Kent TV: Kent TV provided an excellent medium to facilitate democracy and reach younger people in particular. Piloted the use of Kent TV during elections approaching the three political group leaders. Following the decision not to continue with the pilot, KCC has made a commitment to continue engaging with citizens through digital media on Kent.gov. The wealth of information gathered during the pilot is now available on the website; a small team will work on creating new content and on specific projects to continue engaging with young people and help the public to engage further with democracy through video.</p>
<p>3. The Member Charter, and programme of member development to help ensure Kent has high calibre effective community leaders, should incorporate media training and public speaking skills.</p>	<p>As part of the County Council's preparation for the South East Employers Member Development Charter all Members were invited to identify those skills on which they would welcome development. Media training was a high priority and this has been built into the ongoing programme of development for all Members. Training has been arranged for all members.</p> <p>The IMG Member Development and the IMG Member Information undertook a survey of all prospective candidates and interviewing all elected Members on their needs following the County Council elections. The staff in the Information Point interviewed members as part of their induction.</p>
<p>4. As part of the 'Communications Strategy' KCC should actively promote the role of elected members as community leaders and advocates within their community using a range of communication tools.</p>	<p>The Media and Communications Centre can advise but do not have the resources to promote each Member, but are running a publicity campaign to promote KCC Members and what they do, (see Rec 1)</p> <p>Toolkit for members: The Communications team has developed a toolkit for members to enable individual members to utilize the various communication tools available. Also have toolkit from Courier Group and will marry together. Working on new communications protocol for committees Lead: Jane Clarke/Marcus Chrysostomou</p>
<p>5. Embrace democracy in secondary schools and school councils should be encouraged to operate through age range - advocate school councils in primary</p>	<p>Opportunity to embrace democracy in secondary schools through the Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum on School and Councillor Wellbeing, extend the Kent County Council where Year 6 children will join together to form the Kent Primary School Children's Council and discuss the big</p>

Recommendation	Progress to date (June 2010)
<p>school.</p> <p>(a) All elected members should be involved in schools democracy week.</p> <p>(b) Ensure all teaching staff are firmly encouraged to undertake Continuous Professional Development on democracy.</p> <p>(c) Linkage between School Councils, Kent County Council and District, Town and Parish Councils should be promoted.</p>	<p>issues of the day. Projects being undertaken:</p> <p>Kent Primary Schools Children's Council (KPSCC). The on-going plan is for the KPSCC to meet twice a year to discuss the issues of the day. The KPSCC is made up of 69 Year 5 pupils (3 from each LCSP) and is held at The Chambers in Maidstone's County Hall. These pupils stay as KPSCC for four meetings (over two years) to ensure continuity, development of discussion and to build strong relationships. The meetings, which are chaired by the KYCC, take place in March and November every year and the fourth meeting will take place in November 2010. The agenda is formulated around the ideas brought in by each KPSCC member. So far, the topics debated include: the appropriateness of PHSE education in primary schools, bullying, internet safety, climate change, sustainable schools, Say No To Phonebooks and the Rights of the Child (Article 12 from the Convention on the Rights of the Child).</p> <p>At the March 2010 meeting, a group formed a journalist team to report on and produce a newspaper which was viewed at the day. This meeting also saw the premiere of the animated DVD "Voices Grow Louder." Voices recorded at the November 2009 meeting were animated into a Creature Comforts-style DVD by the 12 KPSCC members from Maidstone, Tonbridge and Malling. Unicef and CRAE requested copies of the DVD to help promote the importance of pupil voice. The KPSCC members all received letters from Baroness Delyth Morgan (DSCF) in November 2009 and the Rt. Hon. Dawn Primarolo (DCSF) in March 2010 which congratulated the children in actively engaging with important issues. All meetings provide the children the opportunity to hear presentations from Keynote speakers and ask open and frank questions, which are then reported back to their schools and District councils. The link between all the KPSCC members is maintained by their registration to the safe social networking site SuperClubsPLUS. The event is also used to conduct consultations with the KPSCC members and their input has contributed to the KCC/KCT Participation Charter/Commitment. Lead: Emma Jenkins (CFE)</p> <p>Councillors in Secondary Schools project developed. This project, which involves councillors visiting schools to tell children more about democracy, aims to improve young people's understanding of and interest in the democratic process. Launched in democracy week and takes place during Key stage 3 focus within citizenship classes. Teaching support and a resource pack are provided together with 'before' and 'after' questionnaires to monitor effectiveness. Results so far have been extremely positive. Using Electoral commission recipes for framework.</p> <p>The intention is for all eighty four Members to build good relations with at least one of their local secondary schools through the implementation and roll-out of the Councillors in Schools project.</p> <p>An invitation was sent to all secondary schools via the cluster web and all Members with a request to</p>

Recommendation	Progress to date (June 2010)
	<p>initially express an interest in participating. Nine schools and fifteen Members have responded which produced five natural matches. To date four Members have held an initial meeting with their local school and identified a way forward on becoming better integrated within the school environment and amongst the students. A further two Members have meetings scheduled and more will take place as and when mutual dates can be determined. Has for example led to involvement of students and members in consultation on new cycle paths, youth provision in new community building, student surgeries.</p> <p>Lead: Louise Bolton.</p> <p>Kent TV - engaging schools and young people: In February 2010 the decision was taken not to extend the Kent TV pilot. However KCC is committed to looking at new ways of engaging with young people through digital media and in particular video content. This will include proposals for a 'Youth Channel' which will allow young people to upload their own videos, giving them a forum to express their views and showcase their talents, in a safe and moderated environment</p>
<p>6. Citizenship pack should include information on how to register to vote, the role of local elected members and how to contact local members at District, County and National level.</p>	<p>The Citizenship pack includes the Electoral Commission leaflet "Register to Vote" which includes an electoral registration form. The leaflet is a generic one. Also enclosed in the pack is a list of the addresses of the 12 district council electoral registration sections in Kent. Many new citizens will have registered to vote prior to gaining citizenship as they already have entitlement to vote eg EU elections etc but the leaflet will be useful to those who have not already registered.</p> <p>Information provided on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member roles, contact information. Jane Clarke/Marcus Chrystommou - Kent and Medway Citizens Panel information included. Nick Warren.
<p>7. Need to ensure that induction and information pack for new staff includes information on how to have your say and get involved in local decision making and how public involvement has made a difference.</p>	<p>The induction programme for new staff includes the decision making process and how it is possible to get involved in local decision making. This programme is also delivered to other staff groups across the County Council. Information about how to have your say to be provided/linked in online information pack - Delayed until revision of new website (how to get involved pages). Lead: Denise Fitch/ Philippa Cracknell</p>
<p>8. KCC should provide subtitles and British Sign Language option on all DVDs produced.</p>	<p>Strategic Development Unit already do this and the Gateway DVD produced in January 2007 has been used as an example. Communications to develop standard note/ policy to ensure production of DVDs and BSL is consistent across KCC. Is policy that this should happen each time a DVD is made.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to date (June 2010)
<p>9. a) Elected members should have a hard copy summary of all the planned KCC consultations.</p> <p>b) Information regarding consultations and the need to inform and involve elected members needs to be highlighted and included within future plans to develop a discreet section of information for members on the web and clear commitments reflected within the Consultation and Engagement Strategy.</p> <p>c) Information on consultations should include note on method of engagement to be used.</p>	<p>This will be linked to the new consultation and involvement database being developed for Kent.gov. BUT please note this has been further delayed and needs to be afforded a higher priority in order to secure its implementation.</p> <p>The Consultation and Engagement Strategy offers the opportunity to explore a range of tools depending on the consultation being conducted to reach the audience using in the most appropriate method(s). The comprehensive Engagement and Involvement strategy is being developed in sections and is programmed to be brought together and launched in June2010.</p> <p>c) Information to be incorporated in consultation database – to help recognise and embed practice. Please note reference to delay as above.</p>
<p>10 a) Facilities for video conferencing should be utilized, maximizing opportunities in Kent with KCC and partners.</p> <p>b) Elected members should be supported in using this service through current resources, training and support mechanisms.</p>	<p>To ensure that when opportunities present themselves for installing video conferencing facilities this should happen. For example, 'Gateway's' have video conferencing facilities.</p> <p>Through the decision making and democratic processes of the County Council all opportunities should be taken to explore the use of video conferencing. This will be built into the Training and Development module for elected Members.</p> <p>Video conferencing promoted to staff via global emails and training sessions provided and promoted. Training being given on a one to one basis where required.</p>
<p>11. a) Need effective promotion of E-consultation and decision making (E-democracy) to raise profile and encourage local people to have their say and voices heard.</p> <p>b) All engagement activities and weblinks should be brought under easily recognisable umbrella and portal e.g. 'Ask</p>	<p>E-consultations represent only one engagement tool. The Consultation and Engagement Strategy offers the opportunity to explore a range of tools depending on the consultation being conducted to reach the audience in the most appropriate method(s).</p> <p>"Access Kent" is one of the key themes being supported by the Kent Partnership and will contribute a lot on streamlining engagement as well as access.</p> <p>Consideration is being given to revamping Member blogs. There is an issue here about developing a policy on the use of blogs.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to date (June 2010)
<p>Kent', to ensure two way interactive communication.</p> <p>c) Facilities for blogs, emails, online surgeries, plus training and support should be available for elected members.</p>	<p>New 'Have your say' area on the website, completed on direction of Consultations Group. Plus about to promote online survey tool for staff to use. Lead: Marcus Chyrsostomou</p> <p>b) To build in to Access Kent Initiative and see how this develops, now Gateway multi channel. Lead Tanya Oliver</p> <p>c) Power hour support to talk through and embed ways of working.</p>
<p>12 In promoting the role of elected members and interaction with communities KCC should embrace e-democracy/ technological solutions to make elected members activities more visible and to open up dialogue and debate, for example e-petition, e-campaigns generated by Local Boards and local people, and e-debate.</p> <p>(As tool in box to increase participation and revive democracy.)</p>	<p>The emerging localism agenda and the duty to involve and to promote democracy opens up a whole range of ways in which the Council will engage with its local people which will promote the role of elected Members.</p> <p>New website: exploring possibilities of new website to move accessing Democracy agenda forward to raise profile and encourage local people to have their say, opening up dialogue and debate. Lead: Jane Clarke</p> <p>Webcast and live emails to Neighbourhood forums: The Gravesham Neighbourhood Foras successfully trialled webcasting the joint KCC/GBC/Parish neighbourhood forums in Gravesham. The webcast includes the presentations (normally given by officers relating to the issues on the agenda) and round table discussions that follow the presentation capturing public mood and issues raised. Internet users can also send in live questions and comments (but moderated first) to be fed via lap top and digital project onto the screen at the front of the meeting. Videoed material would be used to create short DVDs by GBC/KCC to promote the Forums and widen interest further. Lead Officer: Will Farmer.</p> <p>e- petitions: Being developed to use Modern.gov system to support e-petitions. Part of the petition scheme that is due to be approved at County Council on 22 July 2010. Lead Officer: Denise Fitch/Denise Eden Green.</p> <p>Kent TV was considered as a possibility to use Kent TV as a platform for local forum meetings through webcasting or training to local community members so they can film their own videos on issues that are affecting them. With option to use voting facility available on Kent TV to gage peoples views. The Kent TV specifications allowed for quarterly debates/Webinars on current topics relevant to Kent, this should involve members of the public and be attended by relevant experts. The Pilot has now ended.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to date (June 2010)
	<p>The new Digital Service will look at new ways of engaging with the public to enhance e-democracy and engagement. This will include piloting Members video blogs and creating content informing people of their rights and how to engage with the council.</p> <p>Web jam. In Feb 2010 , KCC had been proposing to hold a public ‘web jam session on behalf of the Kent Partnership. This would have enabled residents of Kent to ask questions or write comments on a particular subject within an on-line ‘real-time’ environment. The session would have interactive allowing moderators and KCC/partners’ staff to respond to the questions asked. KCC is a strong supporter of using new innovative technologies to communicate with Kent residents. The web jam presents a new way in which citizens can get involved in shaping public policy and informing KCC and partners what they feel is important. However, due to the cutting-edge technology involved there is a significant cost attached to such activities. Given the current financial climate, we feel that spending such costs can not be justified at the present time. We will look to use existing communication channels such as the Kent and Medway Citizens Panel and public user groups to get residents views to inform our work.</p>
<p>13. Raising interest in both the opportunity and how to become an elected member needs to be clear and transparent. Agree more diversity in elected members is seen to be beneficial but is complex and worthy of separate study.</p>	<p>Help KCC embrace the duty to promote democracy, and develop information for website. Adjust as necessary to ensure take account of the duty (Local Government and democracy and Construction Act 2009) when it exists and the statutory guidance for this duty.</p> <p>Information on ‘How to become a councillor’ to be provided on website. Web team working with L&DS to write web pages on How to become a councillor. Lead officer: Jane Clarke</p>
<p>14. ‘Top tips’ and contact details on making contact with seldom heard/ perceived hard to reach communities should be included in all new ward packs.</p>	<p>Time for new ward packs has now elapsed. To incorporate information within section on member web as develops.</p>
<p>15. (a) The introduction of role descriptions for all elected members needs to be supported.</p> <p>(b) The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) Councillors guide should be actively promoted and need to ensure all elected members have a copy.</p> <p>(c) Training for elected members in ways</p>	<p>(a) All this work is being picked up in the work that is being undertaken in the County Council’s bid to achieve the Member Development Charter. Work is also being undertaken to identify the support councillors need to carry out their role and the County Council will be invited to sign up to the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) declaration of giving councillors the support they need.</p> <p>(b) All County Council Councillors issued with a copy of the Councillors Guide.</p> <p>(c) An ongoing and full training and development programme has been prepared and in consultation with the IMG. Member Development and is being delivered.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to date (June 2010)
of local government and ongoing training to help elected members carry out their role effectively should be actively supported.	
<p>16. To effectively strengthen local structures for community engagement and encourage involvement in local decision making need</p> <p>(a) Localism to be more outcome focussed.</p> <p>(b) mechanism for prompt feedback to the public on specific issues.</p> <p>(c) to explore further with District, Town and Parish Councils and other local partners what they believe would improve community engagement.</p> <p>(d) to devolve power and resources to support local priorities and action, from discretionary funds being delegated to local forums for decision making.</p> <p>(e) Chief Officers and Cabinet should identify which services can be delegated to local level and be influenced by members in their representative capacity based on views of community priorities and preferences.</p>	<p>Ongoing discussions are taking place with partner organisations to develop a range of pilot models for localism across the county and for ensuring that the localism agenda is more outcome focussed with appropriate feedback mechanisms for the public on specific issues, ongoing.</p> <p>Several Members as well as local fora have expressed a wish to pursue the model of participatory budgeting when allocating its grants which will allow the communities to set its priorities, ongoing.</p> <p>In the County Council Budget for 2009/2010 £25,000 was set aside for each Member top sliced from the Highways Budget for Members to spend on highways issues and other service areas and budgets are being explored by Cabinet and Chief Officers.</p> <p>“Gateways” and Digital Kent are ideal facilities to access communities and effectively engage.</p>
17. The opportunity for participatory budgeting from devolved discretionary	Participatory Budgeting workshop featured at the Community Engagement Conference at Oakwood on 28 November 2008, and included in the Member Development programme. Piloted innovative method

Recommendation	Progress to date (June 2010)
<p>funds should be provided within the next budget year, with delivery mechanism to be determined, and a sum of underpinning monies to enable local people to determine how the resource should be spent.</p>	<p>of Participatory Budgeting 09/10 where residents and supporters of local organisations decided who should be allocated community grants.</p> <p>The pilots run last year over came many of the anxieties on the part of local community groups and councillors who were unsure about the process, whether residents would turn up and the resource intensive nature of the set-up process for Participatory Budgeting. A strong and effective delivery team, the transparent decision making processes and the numbers of people willing to give up a Saturday has seen many more KCC members wanting to run PB events to allocate community grants – with 7 events planned for 10/11 so far.</p> <p>Dates so far are: 17 July –Willesborough in Ashford 11 September – Sandgate Folkestone 18 September - Dover West and Dover North 25 September – Tonbridge and Malling 2 October – Deal, Walmer and Sandwich 8 October – Dover Town November – Gravesham Forums (TBC)</p> <p>Lead: David Geoghegan</p>

PASSENGER RAIL SERVICES IN KENT - Summary of progress towards each Select Committee Recommendation

Recommendation	Progress to Date (June 2010)
<p>1. The County Council should with the evidence available at this time, welcome the new high speed rail services starting in December 2009 serving stations in Kent with new trains.</p>	<p>Response to the County Council in April 2009 given below – see later responses on experience since services started in December 2009</p> <p>Agreed. The County Council has consistently supported the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL). One of its benefits is to offer faster domestic services from east and north Kent to London and over the years the County Council has worked with partners to lobby for the CTRL scheme to be completed and for domestic services to serve as many stations as possible.</p> <p>The new high speed rail services will help regenerate parts of east and north Kent by making access to London more attractive. This will encourage people to move to cheaper housing, further away from London but within acceptable commuting range. With the new services running to St. Pancras and Stratford, people currently living to the north and east of London will in future be attracted to relocate in Kent. The new services will also attract businesses to locate in areas close in London in terms of time, but at rates significantly below those in central London. They will also encourage tourism to Kent by making attractions in the County more accessible by rail from central and north London as well as areas beyond the capital.</p> <p>Medway Council held similar views before the services started</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date (June 2010)
<p>2. County Council should welcome the link to St. Pancras in opening access to a growth area in London and offering excellent connections to the Midlands and the North.</p>	<p>Response to the County Council in April 2009 given below – see later responses on experience since December 2009</p> <p>Agreed. Not only do the high speed services help to regenerate parts of East and North Kent, but they significantly improve opportunities for Kent residents and businesses to access the growth areas around Kings Cross/St. Pancras and Stratford/Docklands as well as providing excellent connections with the East Coast, Midland and West Coast Main Lines</p>
<p>3. County Council should use the publicity surrounding the launch of the new services to promote:</p> <p>a) Tourism from London and north of London to Kent, building on the present campaigns by Visit Kent (and other partners).</p> <p>b) Inward investment by businesses especially knowledge based (i.e. non industrial) businesses to take advantage of Kent's good connectivity building on the work by Locate in Kent.</p>	<p>Visit Kent, in partnership with Southeastern and other Councils (including Medway Council), ran a joint marketing campaign between May 2009 and March 2010 to cover the period of the preview and full launch of the new high speed services. This campaign was successful with over 50,000 website hits recorded and an estimated £800,000 brought to the local economy. Visit Kent considers it too early to assess the impact on tourism this year but there is some anecdotal evidence that hotels in Medway, Canterbury and Ashford have seen a positive impact on their businesses</p> <p>Locate in Kent prominently stresses the fast journey times achieved by high speed rail on its website, but at present does not consider that it has been a significant factor in attracting businesses to Kent. The ongoing recession has delayed development throughout the County and this is particularly evident at Ebbsfleet. Additionally, the significant development around Stratford Station has been delayed and is not yet completed.</p>
<p>4. The County Council should lobby for services lost in the new timetable to be reinstated at the earliest opportunity.</p>	<p>The most significant services lost due to the new timetable are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of the Maidstone – Cannon Street (Charing Cross) service • Reduction in numbers of trains from the North Kent Line to Victoria and Charing Cross and longer journey times • Reduction in number of off-peak trains and slower journey times between Ashford and Charing Cross <p>The County Council has held a Rail Summit on 25 March with Southeastern, Network Rail, Passenger Focus and Rail User Groups to discuss these and other issues and it is intended to continue to hold another in the Autumn and bi-annually in future.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date (June 2010)
	<p>The County Council and other partners have continued to lobby for the restoration of these services – particularly for the Maidstone to City services involving the three local MPs, Maidstone BC and Tonbridge & Malling BC as well as KCC and local rail user groups. To date this pressure has not been successful and Southeastern considers that the likelihood of any significant changes being made during the current franchise period is remote. The current franchise runs until 2012, with a possible extension to 2014 if certain performance targets are met by the train operator.</p> <p>Southeastern explained that they could not afford to introduce new services involving additional rolling stock as the subsidy they are receiving from Government continues to decline significantly and they are expected to pay a small premium to the Government in 2014. Southeastern's revenues have not increased as forecast in the franchise agreement due to the recession and the delays in housing and employment development - particularly at Ebbsfleet and Stratford. Indeed, Government has had to grant Southeastern additional subsidy recently to compensate for this loss in revenue.</p> <p>The opportunity will be taken by the County Council and partners to press the new Government to restore these services.</p>
<p>5. The County Council should work with key partners to ensure a direct pedestrian link between Northfleet and Ebbsfleet stations is created as soon as practicable</p>	<p>Ideally there should be a high quality pedestrian direct link between Ebbsfleet and Northfleet to enable ready access to high speed and Eurostar services from rail passengers from Dartford and stations in south London. The current walking distance between the two stations is around one kilometre and a direct link with an underpass crossing under a number of railway lines would reduce the distance to some 300m.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the cost of providing a direct pedestrian link between Northfleet Station and the Ebbsfleet car park is relatively high, requiring an underpass estimated to cost some £9m. There appeared to be funding available from the HCA and Network Rail to cover this cost, but a reappraisal of the allocation of Community Infrastructure Funding (CIF) by the HCA took away £5m of the funding</p> <p>Additionally, there has been no development in the Ebbsfleet area so that the prospect of developer contributions towards this scheme is limited. It seems extremely unlikely that a good quality direct pedestrian link will be provided between the two stations in the near future.</p> <p>However, the introduction of the high speed services does mean that there is a regular train link between Gravesend and Ebbsfleet and Fastrack bus services do connect Ebbsfleet with Dartford and Greenhithe stations to the west.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date (June 2010)
<p>6. The County Council should produce a review of the stations that will be served by High-Speed rail to identify and prioritise work needed to stations and station access to be ready for or soon after the December 2009 launch</p>	<p>A regular forum is to be set up between KCC and Network Rail to discuss station issues. Meanwhile progress on upgrading High Speed Stations has been mixed and there is considerable uncertainty over available funding from Network Rail, Southeastern, KCC and Medway Council in the future</p> <p>KCC Stations</p> <p>Dover Priory – works are currently underway to radically improve the access for pedestrians to the station and improved facilities for bus passengers</p> <p>Folkestone Central – there are plans by Southeastern to improve facilities for cycle parking and for waiting passengers</p> <p>Folkestone West – access has been improved by KCC with new traffic signals and a controlled parking zone has been introduced by Shepway DC. Negotiations to extend the station car park have proved difficult in the past, but Network Rail is continuing to pursue this.</p> <p>Ashford – the domestic ticket hall has been rebuilt and enlarged by Southeastern and the forecourt has been improved for pedestrians, cyclists and buses by Ashford Futures. Longer term improvements are planned to the international station entrance in conjunction with the Smartlink scheme</p> <p>Margate – Network Rail and KCC plan to provide better pedestrian access, including new crossing to nearby bus stops, improved bus service information and cycle parking, together with a walking route to the town centre and Turner Contemporary Arts Centre.</p> <p>Ramsgate – KCC plans to improve cycling and public transport access to the station providing pedestrian crossings, enhanced bus bays, cycle routes, bus journey information, pedestrian signage, cycle parking and improvements to the adjacent junction of Wilfred Road/Grange Road.</p>
	<p>Canterbury West – Network Rail is currently providing step-free access at the station, including a new footbridge with lifts. Network Rail and KCC plan to improve cycle access</p> <p>Faversham – no plans at present</p> <p>Sittingbourne – Network Rail has plans to provide an additional footbridge at the station with lifts, coupled</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date (June 2010)
	<p>with ramps and disabled toilets to make the station fully DDA compliant</p> <p>Gravesend – Network Rail is planning to improve circulation space in the station building and provide a mobility impaired toilet later this year. Longer term improvements to the station access and lengthening platforms for 12 car trains are tied in with the Transport Quarter scheme</p> <p>Medway Council Stations</p> <p>Strood – Network Rail are developing plans for platform extensions to 12 car, and also to provide a new footbridge to make the station DDA complaint. Medway Renaissance are examining the potential for a new station building</p> <p>Rochester – Network Rail and Medway Council are actively exploring plans to relocate Rochester station further to the west to improve access to Rochester Town Centre. This will also allow 12 car operation, an improved station environment and access to the Rochester Riverside development all of which are difficult at the current location.</p> <p>Chatham – works are being carried to improve some passenger facilities in the near future while the longer terms strategy for this station is being developed</p> <p>Gillingham – Improvements to the station building, forecourt and platforms including the provision of a second entrance on Railway Street will be provided during 2011</p> <p>Rainham – Medway Council and Southeastern are developing plans for improvements to the station forecourt area</p>
<p>7. The County Council should encourage the bus and rail companies to introduce more promotional off-peak fares, joint passes, through tickets (such as the BusPlus pass) and Open Jaw tickets.</p>	<p>Stagecoach in East Kent offers a range of multi-journey tickets on their bus services.</p> <p>The Megarider Gold ticket is just £19 for seven days unlimited travel across East Kent & East Sussex on local Stagecoach buses. Passengers buy their ticket from the driver on the first day they wish to travel and then use their ticket as often as they like for a week.</p> <p>The Dayrider ticket is valid on the day of purchase, and may be used on any bus service operated by Stagecoach or Arriva in Kent or East Sussex. This is a good example of joint-ticketing, but both operators would have to agree to extend this principle to tickets valid for a longer period.</p> <p>Arriva Southern Counties also offer a range of multi-journey tickets on their bus services.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date (June 2010)
	<p>The Arriva Day Saver is valid in a specified zone, and can be bought from the driver on the day. There are also weekly savers and 4-weekly savers which are valid in a specified zone for their respective periods, and can be bought from local Paypoint outlets.</p> <p>The Dayrider ticket is similarly valid on all Arriva and Stagecoach bus services in Kent and East Sussex, and can be bought from the driver on the day.</p> <p>Plusbus is now well established in Kent, and is probably the best example of through ticketing between rail and bus, now available at 24 stations in the county. The Plusbus ticket is bought with the train ticket at the railway station, and offers a discount price bus pass that offers unlimited bus travel around the town to which it applies.</p>
	<p>Plusbus prices start at £1.60 per day, with most between £2 and £3 per day. Further discounts are also available with railcards, which offer one-third off the rail ticket and Plusbus ticket (subject to railcard conditions). Plusbus season tickets are also available, matching the length of the rail season ticket for 7 days, 1 month, 3 months or 1 year.</p> <p>While Openjaw tickets are well established on airline routes, the bus and rail operators appear more wary of the benefits. There are some rail tickets which are partially Openjaw, in that they permit the holder to travel between two stations “by any appropriate route”, but not usually to return from a different station. Local bus operators already offer the multi-journey tickets described above, which effectively offer more flexibility than would be available with an Openjaw ticket.</p> <p>KCC will continue to encourage bus and rail operators to work together in promoting a variety of multi-journey tickets, both within and between each mode of travel.</p>
<p>8. The County Council should work with the bus companies to develop more frequent services serving rail stations, particularly more late services serving returning rail commuters and to assist with the Traveline project for accurate journey planning.</p>	<p>KCC currently works in co-operation with the principal bus operators through its Quality Bus Partnerships (QBP) in seven of the twelve districts. There are plans for further QBPs in two more districts, and eventually it is hoped to have similar agreements throughout the county. Together with the district council, the three parties to each QBP agreement work together to improve local bus services, and included within this remit is the improvement of bus/rail interchange arrangements.</p> <p>KCC encourages bus operators to provide extended peak period services to and from railway stations, but in locations where this is not commercially viable the county may provide revenue support for bus services which provide access to and from employment.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date (June 2010)
	<p>Both principal bus operators, and KCC on behalf of the supported bus network, work very closely with Traveline to ensure that the information used by Traveline accurately reflects bus stop locations and bus timetables to allow accurate journey planning.</p>
<p>9. The County Council should lobby for low introductory fares to ensure early success for the High Speed services.</p>	<p>Lobbying for lower introductory fares before the services started was unsuccessful</p> <p>Southeastern has been reticent about passenger numbers on the high speed trains, saying only that the total numbers of am peak passengers on the high speed services is around 4,000 with around half each travelling on the North Kent Line via Ebbsfleet and half via Ashford. Whereas the services via Ashford are well loaded and are deemed successful, those on the North Kent Line are relatively empty as there is a more regular service on that line. Numbers using Ebbsfleet are particularly disappointing due to the lack of any development in the immediate area and the feared rat-running to Ebbsfleet being overestimated. The survey by Southeastern in the spring also shows that there has been an increase of around 1,000 passengers in the morning peak on the classic network compared to pre-December 2009 figures.</p> <p>The contrasting success of these services is not thought to be mainly due to fare levels but rather to journey time savings. The journey time savings on the high speed services on the North Kent Line (between the Medway Towns and Thanet) to St. Pancras are relatively small compared to the classic services to Victoria, London Bridge etc. so the incentive to switch to high speed is small, when most passengers want to access the classic stations.</p> <p>On the other hand, the journey time savings via Ashford are very significant and therefore have caused switching to High Speed and created new journey opportunities which did not exist before. The premium fares do not appear to have been a deterrent</p>
<p>10 The County Council should decide how best to consider public transport issues in future either through an existing or new board; a formal S101 Joint Committee between Kent County Council and Medway Council; or by establishing a separate or joint Strategic Public Transport Forum</p>	<p>Good liaison between officers of Kent County and Medway Councils on public transport continues on a day-to-day basis and KCC and Medway Council are partners in the North Kent Multi Area Agreement (MAA).</p> <p>It is considered that there is not a current need to establish another forum between the two Councils.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date (June 2010)
<p>11. The County Council should recognise the timescales for influencing rail services and infrastructure provision and begin consideration of the following:</p> <p>a) Potential Thameslink services to Maidstone, the Medway Towns, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks</p>	<p>a) There is a real possibility of this scheme slipping but currently the Thameslink scheme is scheduled for completion in 2016 and offers significantly increased capacity between London Bridge and St Pancras, via Blackfriars, City Thameslink and Farringdon and great potential for direct rail links from parts of Kent to the City.</p> <p>Service patterns for the Thameslink services are not likely to be finalised until 2014/5 even if the scheme does not slip beyond 2016. Current indications in the Kent Rail Utilisation Strategy (RUS) are to extend Thameslink services in Kent to:</p> <p>Maidstone East – all day Sevenoaks, via Swanley – all day Paddock Wood, via Tonbridge – peak hours only Tunbridge Wells, via Tonbridge – peak hours only</p> <p>Whilst the all day services are welcomed, particularly the Maidstone service which will offer a much wider range of direct services to London destinations, including the City, there is much concern that the introduction of peak services to Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks would mean the loss of direct services in the peak to Cannon Street.</p>
<p>b) Network Rail's forthcoming Rail Utilisation Strategy</p> <p>c) The renewal of the Southeastern franchise in Kent 2014</p>	<p>The County Council and its partners need to retain close attention to the development of this scheme and to protect the best interests of Kent residents and businesses</p> <p>b) The Kent Rail Utilisation Strategy (RUS) was published in January 2010. Apart from the indications that Maidstone should be linked to the Thameslink network from 2016 and that there is a good business case for extending the High Speed Ebbsfleet starters to Ashford or Maidstone West, there are few significant new proposals</p> <p>We will continue to work with Network Rail to improve the rail infrastructure in Kent to provide better rail services and improved journey times (see response to 12b)</p> <p>c) The current Southeastern franchise runs from April 2006 to the end of March 2012, with an automatic two year extension if targets are met. The Councils will have to respond robustly to the consultation on the proposed train specification in the new franchise and to consider carefully what the bidders to run the franchise from 2014 are offering.</p>
<p>12. The County Council should consider the feasibility of the following rail services/infrastructure projects:</p>	

Recommendation	Progress to Date (June 2010)
<p>a) direct services from Kent and Medway to Gatwick airport</p> <p>b) rail links to the Kent International and Lydd Airports</p>	<p>a) Discussions are currently underway between KCC, Southern and Gatwick Airport to consider the re-introduction of a through rail service between Kent and Gatwick Airport. The discussions are at an early stage, but all parties recognise the need for a through service, at least to and from Tonbridge and ideally extended to and from Ashford. Such a change would require agreement from the Department for Transport, as it would involve amending the existing franchise agreement by which Southern operates. A new through rail service would also require co-operation with Network Rail for pathing of trains, and would need to utilise some of the additional platform capacity planned at Redhill to facilitate the necessary reversing of trains.</p> <p>However, there is considerable good will on all sides, and officers are optimistic that, provided the business case can demonstrate its viability, a successful outcome of these discussions will deliver a direct rail service between Kent and Gatwick Airport.</p> <p>b) The County Council commissioned consultants to look at how the journey times by rail to Kent International Airport at Manston could be improved. This looked at many options for sections of new high speed line connection with the existing CTRL (HS1), but concluded that the cost benefit ratio was insufficient for the schemes to be built in the foreseeable future.</p> <p>KCC and Network Rail have also commissioned a study to investigate how much the existing Ashford – Thanet line can be improved to reduce journey times. Network Rail has identified potential scope to improve times by about 10 minutes over the length of line and will be finalising the detail by the end of the year.</p> <p>The County Council is currently working with partners to press the case for a Parkway Station to be built near the airport to give better access to Manston Business park, Sandwich and Pfizer, Deal and Westwood Cross as well as KIA. If these journey time savings can be achieved in full, it would mean that the journey time between St. Pancras and a Thanet Parkway Station would be under an hour.</p>
	<p>The planning application for the proposed extension of the runway at Lydd and the expansion of the terminal facilities may be called in by Government. The railway line from the junction with the Ashford – Hastings Line and Lydd is in poor condition and would likely require significant investment to enable its use by passenger trains travelling at a respectable speed.</p>
<p>13. The County Council should engage with Southeastern and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to plan for joint ticketing arrangements to maximise use</p>	<p>The planning of rail services during the 16-day period of the main Olympic Games is at an early stage. Whereas the initial intention was to use all the High Speed domestic trains to run a shuttle service between Ebbsfleet, Stratford and St. Pancras for Olympic-related passengers only, this view has now</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date (June 2010)
<p>of public transport to the Games and to minimise disruption to Kent's residents and businesses during the 16 day period of the main Games.</p>	<p>moderated and the intention is to allow some high-speed services to continue at least to Ashford, although this may not happen during the whole period of the day</p> <p>The Olympic Delivery Agency currently envisages free rail travel within London for event ticket holders but that spectators from Kent would have to purchase rail tickets in advance. The ODA has recently stated that a combined rail/event ticket from Ebbsfleet Station will be available but this situation needs to be monitored over the next two years.</p>

AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER - Summary of progress towards each Select Committee Recommendation

Recommendation	Progress to date
<p>1. The Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Select Committee recommends that the Kent Adult Social Services Directorate, through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for adults in Kent, establishes the most effective way of conducting a county-wide study investigating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the prevalence and incidence of adults with ASD in need of support and not currently receiving service provision • levels of service satisfaction of those adults with autism living at home and currently receiving support. <p>This investigation will inform the planning and commissioning of future services for adults with ASD. The study could involve sponsoring a bursary for a student to carry out a research project at the Tizard Centre, University of Kent</p>	<p>KASS in partnership with Health has used South East Public Health Observatory and National Audit Office data to inform a Learning Disability Joint Needs Assessment which is currently out for consultation. This does not capture the needs of all the people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder as not every person with ASD will have a learning disability.</p> <p>Further work is planned to help us better understand the prevalence as well people's need for Support Services.</p> <p>The prevalence study work commissioned by Central Government will also improve on understanding.</p>
<p>2. KCC should encourage the inclusion of autism-related services, in the form of "care pathways", amongst the services provided by multi-disciplinary mental health teams in the County. The local authority should also explore the possibility of setting up, in partnership with the NHS, a highly specialised autism service in Kent, such as the one offered by the South London and Maudsley Hospital</p>	<p>Self-Directed Support (SDS) Champions are established within the Kent and Medway Partnership Trust (KMPT) as advocates of inclusive services. They are particularly active at social inclusion and recovery meetings.</p> <p>The Autistic Spectrum Disorder Working Group (ASDWG) has investigated the Maudsley Hospital model and found this not to be appropriate for Kent. The first year delivery plan of the National ASD working group is to propose a model that is informed by national research which Kent will take into account.</p> <p>Kent and Medway Partnership Trust has commissioned good quality ASD Specialist Assessments supported by the JNSA, to establish diagnosis, care planning and the commissioning of appropriate services to meet the needs of the person and their family.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to date
	<p>KCC and its partners will be guided by the The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) model Care Pathway expected later this year. This will enable us to develop both referral and care pathway that incorporates all appropriate agencies, statutory as well as voluntary.</p>
<p>3. The Kent Adult Social Services Directorate should ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all its staff involved in the assessment of autism are fully trained to understand the uniqueness, complexity and implications of the condition. This training should be coupled with an increasing number of early interventions aimed at diverting people with autism from care pathways that are inappropriate and expensive. • adequate advocacy services with ASD-specific knowledge are offered to all people with autism 	<p>A training module on ASD is being developed with input from appropriate voluntary sector agencies such as Kent Autistic Trust (KAT). Target training commenced in 2009 with the intention of training the majority of staff start later in 2010. There are also joint training initiatives being planned with Jobcentre Plus</p> <p>In addition, training funded by KASS is already being provided to private and voluntary sector agencies, under contract with South Kent College This will increase awareness and understanding of ASD leading to the commissioning of more appropriate services</p> <p>Any examples of best practice for improving training which may emerge from statutory guidance from the DH, due to be published by end December 2010, will be noted and used to shape existing training modules</p> <p>Kent Autistic Trust (KAT) provides an advocacy, information and support service for Kent and Medway and has secured funding until March 2015</p> <p>KMPT has a Service Level Agreement to improve access to services for people with mental health problems to supplement existing services.</p>
<p>4. The Kent Adult Social Services Directorate should aim to achieve greater access to person-centred planning for, and a greater usage of Direct Payments by, people with ASD.</p> <p>It will liaise with the recently appointed Specialist Advisor for Autism at the Department of Health in an effort to expand its capacity, expertise and leadership on autism in Kent</p>	<p>Self Directed Support (SDS) which places the individual at the centre of support planning was introduced by KASS in October 2009 and by April 2011, everyone eligible for services receives a Personal Budget and be offered Direct Payments as a means of exercising choice and control over the services they receive. This can be managed by the service user or by a third party on behalf of the service user.</p> <p>KCC and NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent are partners in a Personal Health Budgets pilot with the DH focussing on Thanet. If the pilots are successful, merging Health and Social Care Budgets and adoption of Single Assessment Process (SAP) will be a strong possibility, thus delivering even greater choice and control to service users.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to date
	<p>KASS has strong links with the DH Specialist Advisor which was forged during development of the National Autism Strategy and this will continue through to implementation.</p>
<p>5. The Managing Director of Kent Adult Social Services should oversee and ensure the prompt production and implementation of a protocol for joint working between KCC's learning disability and mental health teams, in order to provide a more inclusive and responsive service to individuals with ASD</p>	<p>This is already informing practice between LD and KMPT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transition protocols provides us with the sound basis for ensuring that effective joint team working takes place • Learning Disability and Kent and Medway Partnership Trust joint protocols (covering people who present with joint mental health and learning disability needs) have been developed and staff training carried out to enable better identification of anyone with Aspergers or high level ASD • Protocols are further reinforced through Action Planning so that they are responsive to the needs and issues of individuals with ASD.
<p>6. The Select Committee endorses the production of Transition Protocols, which can enhance data sharing between children and adult social services in Kent, and recommends that the impact of these protocols on service planning and provision for young people with ASD – including those with Asperger syndrome - is specifically monitored</p>	<p>Monitoring and Evaluation are key elements of the strategy.</p> <p>In a joint CFE/KASS survey carried out in Autumn of 2009 with the carrying out of a survey which revealed that 75% of respondents reported that they were satisfied with the service they received during the transition process of from CFE to KASS.</p> <p>With the introduction of Integrated Children's System (ICS) there is now a single system with key data available to both CFE and KASS staff. This has improved the flow of information about individual young people leading to more integrated and person-cantered planning and commissioning of services.</p> <p>Regular evaluation and monitoring of the effectiveness of the Protocols is ensuring that the transition arrangements between the two directorates children is being continuously improved. This is reported as part of the progress report on Target 55 of the Towards 2010 Objectives</p> <p>The monitoring of the Children and Young Peoples Plan also monitor how well people are supported.</p>
<p>7. Kent Adult Social Services should lead on the establishment of a multidisciplinary task group with representation from agencies</p>	<p>A cross agency Autistic Spectrum Disorder Task group has been established to drive forward work on the recommendations. PCTs, KMPT, Mental Health, Gypsy Unit, CFE and KASS are all represented. A housing representative is yet to be secured, although the housing rep on the</p>

Recommendation	Progress to date
<p>including health, social care, housing, employment services, education, independent sector providers and the voluntary sector.</p> <p>The task group - which should liaise with the Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board - will widen and strengthen the interdependence and joint working amongst all these agencies, to provide more efficient and effective services to people with autism and individuals with learning disabilities</p>	<p>County Transition Group can provide an interim link with the group. The group reports to the Transition Executive Group chaired by the Managing Director for KASS.</p> <p>The Group will work closely with the Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board. The thrust of its strategy is to make existing services work better for people with ASD rather than establishing a new specialist service.</p> <p>The Group also has members who have links or sit on key subgroups of the Kent Children Trust Review arrangement. KASS Policy Lead Manager sits on the Change for Children's Teams which is supporting the change programme of Kent Children's Trust. A housing representative now sits on the County Transition Group this will help inform integrated working to meet the particular needs of people with Autism and their families.</p> <p>Terms of reference of the group has been agreed</p> <p>The group will drive the action plan with the "Valuing People Now" Delivery Manager being the link with the LD Partnership Board and Head of Integrated Services for Children with Complex Needs the link for CFE</p>
<p>8. KCC should make sure that transition planning offered to young people with autism should start at the age of 14, and that it should be in place before they reach statutory school leaving age. The local authority should ensure well coordinated, seamless transitions into adulthood, involving person-centred, effective planning and support. Planning should be coupled with a mechanism to monitor progress and to secure a smooth transition</p>	<p>Kent's Transition Protocol ensures that young people with ASD who have complex needs are able to make the move from adolescence to adulthood with the support they need and with their involvement in all decision making processes to achieve the outcomes they want in line with Self Directed Support.</p> <p>A framework for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of Transition planning has been developed and implemented by County Transition Planning and Review group, supported by Good Practice supervisors.</p> <p>It sets out shared policy, responsibilities and agreed roles in the transition process, timelines and paperwork so that everyone can work together effectively.</p>
<p>9. Kent County Council should review the availability of specialist psychology, psychiatry and speech therapy health services to people with autism both during transition and into adulthood</p>	<p>Kent and Medway Partnership Trust has restructured its service arrangements recently. In line with the joint Learning Disability and Mental Health joint protocols, people presenting with autism in the absence of learning disability will be assessed appropriately.</p> <p>The Autistic Spectrum Disorder Task Group has further work to do in response to this</p>

Recommendation	Progress to date
	<p>recommendation.</p> <p>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services commission appropriate services including through community LD teams upon identification of anyone with ASD</p> <p>CFE are able to identify those who are within the education system and who need specialist psychological support.</p>
<p>10. Kent County Council should support a campaign to raise awareness in the community about autism. KCC should also urge internal and partner agencies, including the NHS, the Criminal Justice System, the police and the housing, employment and education services, to enhance awareness amongst their staff about autism, its complexities and the implications for their service delivery</p>	<p>Kent Autistic Trust (KAT) has a good track record of raising awareness and is part funded by KCC</p> <p>KCC sponsored the creation of a DVD of a young person with ASD to tell their story through film and is proving a powerful means of raising awareness.</p> <p>The possibility of creating a network of “Autism Ambassadors” – local volunteers who actively represent and promote the needs of people with ASD will also be explored by the lead manager.</p> <p>Any new ideas that emerge from the National Programme Board for tackling the stigma of Autism within the community will be considered for inclusion the awareness raising campaign across statutory and voluntary sector agencies.</p>
<p>11. KCC should contribute to the development of a website which provides up-to date national guidance as well as local information on all the services and support available to people with ASD and their families in Kent. Information and guidance should be presented in a clear, unambiguous and user-friendly form</p>	<p>Kent Autistic Trust (KAT) provides accessible information about services available locally for people with ASD and their carers.</p> <p>KCC will explore with KAT other means of communication that is more person centred i.e. face to face and linking with Kent’s website.</p>
<p>12. Kent County Council should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review its recruitment practices and selection criteria so that they support and enable the employment of more people with autistic spectrum conditions within the Authority • explore the potential of further education colleges in Kent to maximise the employment opportunities of people with autism in the 	<p>Kent Supported Employment has a good track record of offering supported to people with LD and ASD. KCC is a Project Search demonstration site. The first intake of learners is in September 2010 and brings together Further Education and Supported Employment.</p> <p>As part of Getting a Life, KCC and partners been working on an employment pathway for people age 14, including those ASD. This has involved input from CFE, special schools, FE sector, Good Day Programme, Jobcentre Plus and Connexions. Kent Supported Employment is also working with the FE sector to ensure that courses are better geared to supporting pathways into both supported living and employment.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to date
<p>County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • require the Supporting Independence Programme team to carry out a project, possibly with the Tizard Centre, aimed at helping people with ASD to access employment 	<p>Employability Strategy is due to go to full Cabinet in July 2010 and will ensure that KCC is employing greater numbers of people from socially excluded groups including people with ASD. It will have an outward focus and working with partners, especially those in the public sector to ensure that are also employing greater numbers of people from socially excluded groups.</p>
<p>13. Kent County Council should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carry out an audit involving all Kent District Councils to ascertain accurately the housing options available to people with ASD and those with learning disabilities • urge both District Councils and the Joint Planning and Policy Board to take particular account of the needs of people with autism when discussing and deciding housing options • encourage both District Councils and the Kent Adult Social Services Directorate to consider allocating some of their PFI housing options to people with autism 	<p>All LD teams have arrangements for close working with local Housing Groups</p> <p>Housing Needs Surveys have been carried out in all districts. These will be pulled together to provide a comprehensive picture.</p> <p>Health and Social Care integrated teams have devised Housing Action Plans to support the housing need for people with ASD</p> <p>A series of “How do I” tenancy agreement leaflets help with practical advice to tenants.</p> <p>Private Finance Initiative (PFI) has enabled some people with ASD to become tenants through the allocation of supported living accommodation.</p>
<p>14. Kent County Council should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • start a pilot scheme in Kent in which a drop-in facility providing autism related information and guidance is available one day a week. The Committee suggests using an existing local setting, such as the successful Ashford Gateway, as the base for this pilot scheme. In order to maximise the effectiveness of this initiative, it is essential that the staff working in the premises are made aware both of the initiative and about the condition of autism contribute to the funding of a befriending scheme, using trained volunteers, which may be run in collaboration with The National Autistic 	<p>KASS will explore the idea of using two of these facilities for a pilot scheme and will be guided by both the National Autistic Society (NAS) and Kent Autistic Trust (KAT with regard to setting it up.</p> <p>Consideration is being given to the establishment of a specialist enablement service for people with ASD as part of the roll out of Self Directed Support to all parts of KASS.</p> <p>KASS is currently exploring how together, with partners we can provide different forms of drop-in type support. This may include seeking to very relevant existing service level agreements.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to date
<p>15. The Kent Adult Social Services Directorate should carry out a county-wide audit to quantify the need for respite of people with ASD and their families.</p> <p>The purpose of this study is to inform the planning of future respite service provision in Kent, taking into account the Authority's financial constraints</p>	<p>See comments provided in response to recommendation 1 above which covers this matter.</p>

Provision of Activities for Young People - Summary of progress towards each Select Committee Recommendation

Recommendation	Progress to Date
<p>1. That, as part of the comprehensive review of community library services, Libraries and Archives consider the role of mobile libraries as a means of engaging more young people in positive activities, and whether a change of timetable is a practical way of facilitating this.</p>	<p>The Library service provided strong and most consistent support for the innovative HOUSE project across each of the locations. Library staff have proven to be an exemplar in engaging young people in the potential future design of library services. The Library Service have provided young people with books that have assisted them with particular life events (such as bereavement, family changes) which have been invaluable to a number of young people and had a profound influence on young people's confidence, self-awareness and self-esteem.</p> <p>Library mobile vehicles have recently become singled staffed making the engagement of young people more challenging through this avenue however consultation with over 1000 young people is being used to continually inform design and delivery of services and have produced three specific offers for young people designed to support them in looking for work, learning opportunities and gaining the best value from library services.</p>
<p>2. That KCC particularly through the Kent Youth Service and Extended Services continue to encourage and support schools in their efforts to develop extended services that compliment and supplement those already available in their local communities as an essential part of Integrated Youth Support in Kent.</p> <p>To facilitate this, the Extended Services Team should explore how available funding could be utilised to ensure that schools are supported in their efforts to develop up to and beyond the core level of extended services by, for example:</p> <p>a) making extended school co-ordinators or community youth tutors</p>	<p>During the past year two schools identified that they were unable to continue funding the Community Youth Tutor model, however this has opened the opportunity for other schools to participate in the model which has resulted in new posts at Folkestone Academy and potentially at another school in the Dover area. In addition the Sheppey Academy has reversed its position and recruitment for a new CYT is underway.</p> <p>No further funding has been identified to develop this work, however Kent Youth Service is continually reviewing its service delivery and methods of working. As such funding for new CYT posts during 2010/11 may be identified through a review and reduction in dedicated Detached and Outreach projects.</p> <p>Analysis of which members of staff require training and access to Togogo is underway. Once completed this will allow training on the redeveloped Togogo site for Extended Service Co-ordinators and ensure that local information is kept up to date. This training will take place once the Children & Young People's Services Activities Database has been redeveloped along with Togogo.</p> <p>A review of Youth Advisory Groups was completed, recommending a number of changes which will allow a wider, ongoing consultation with partners and young people about service development at a District level. These groups, which focus on the development of local services, will establish a strong working relationship to advise the new local Children's Trust arrangements on key issues 13-19 year olds, particularly the provision of positive activities.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date
<p>available in more schools</p> <p>b) with colleagues in the Youth Service, developing expertise among School Governors and Head Teachers by providing training/presentations on extended service development and community engagement</p> <p>c) ensuring that information about extended services within Local Children's Services Partnerships (LCSPs) is gathered, recorded and made available to the public through various media (as outlined elsewhere in this report) and taken into account as an integral part of the Youth Strategy in every district</p> <p>d) with Youth Service Colleagues, encouraging and assisting schools to ensure there is effective and ongoing consultation with local communities (beyond the immediate school population) about the development of extended services</p> <p>e) ensuring that the allocation and distribution of funding for extended services (routed LCSPs) is clearly recorded and made available to assist with planning for service provision within local communities.</p>	<p>An offer of bespoke training and guidance has been sent to all Governors and Head Teachers to both promote and respond to interest in how schools can be supported in developing the local offer to young people by working with both Extended Services and the Youth Service.</p>
<p>3. That KCC together with district and borough councils should:</p> <p>a. proactively engage with rail travel providers in Kent to determine the</p>	<p>A report on the progress of the Freedom Card was presented to Cabinet in November 2009. This report identified potential developments for the scheme. At this point in time rail travel remains unlikely to be</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date
<p>feasibility, cost and business benefits of incorporating off-peak rail travel into the Freedom Pass to enable more young people to make use of existing activities and facilities.</p> <p>b. proactively engage with bus travel providers to determine the feasibility, cost and business benefits of adding integrated (perhaps specific nights of the week) later bus services to enable more young people to make use of existing activities and facilities.</p> <p>c. consider the benefits and potential cost savings of combining the Freedom Pass with any (future planned) Leisure Card and for example, Library card. This should be considered alongside the concept of rewards for positive activities (e.g. encouraging use of healthy activities).</p>	<p>included as the cost implications are too great and rail companies are unwilling to participate at this stage.</p> <p>As the Freedom Pass has been rolled out across the county the Environment, Highways and Waste and bus service providers have been continually responding to service demands by putting on larger vehicles and extra services where necessary.</p> <p>The Communities Directorate Finance team has undertaken a scoping exercise to determine the costs involved in implementing a Leisure Pass. Solutions for this could take on a number of formats and include a range of functions. The implementation of a smart card system which both the local authority and parents could contribute funds to would incur administrative costs of £25 per person to run (circa £3.25m for all 13-19yr olds) and could also involve significant capital investment to increase the network of smart card machines at participating venues (an initial investment of £1m was required to equip buses with smart card machines). Whilst this level of investment is unlikely the Youth Service and the Reward Team are currently examining whether the contract with Asperity to provide staff discounts could also source activity discounts with local providers by using the existing Freedom Pass.</p> <p>Kent Youth County Council is currently researching the possibilities for a campaign to support the extension of the Freedom Pass to young people aged 16 and 17.</p>
<p>4. a. That to fully utilise available transport KCC directorates should co-operate to produce a register of passenger carrying vehicles (minibuses) that could potentially be shared with the youth service and/or voluntary sector organisations for individual trips or on a more regular basis and that guidelines be produced for the use of such vehicles.</p>	<p>Resources from Communities Directorate have been identified to undertake this task and work is currently underway to finalise a directory of available vehicles.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date
<p>b. That the Youth Service liaise with the Rural Regeneration Officer to determine whether links could be made to existing community transport schemes to provide assistance with transporting young people to leisure activities, or to investigate whether any joint funding arrangements could be of benefit.</p> <p>c. That there be a drive to recruit certified PC V drivers employed by KCC and partner organisations in Kent to register for occasional voluntary driving duties (subject to satisfactory CRB disclosure being in place) to assist the Youth Service's provision of sports/leisure activities to young people. Once established the Youth Service should assess the viability of extending the scheme to include affiliated and non-affiliated voluntary organisations.</p>	<p>The change in the framework of policy and funding for Rural Regeneration has put significant pressures on existing Community Transport schemes and expansion without considerable investment is not realistic. The Youth Service and Rural Regeneration Team are working together to influence the Integrated Transport Policy in order to reflect the needs of young people in isolated communities.</p> <p>A job description and recruitment process for volunteer drivers is currently being finalised and will be distributed via the Kent Volunteer network and also to partners through the district based Volunteer Driver networks.</p>
<p>5. That the Youth Service and in particular the Diversity Team should liaise with the Analysis and Information Team to determine how Mosaic could enhance their work in terms of community profiling and targeting information. That the Analysis and Information Team determine whether Mosaic could incorporate data on Traveller communities.</p>	<p>The Youth Service is undertaking a pilot examination of two centres using Mosaic to examine its usefulness in supporting Community Needs Analysis processes. Appendix 2 shows the community profile around the two centres and once ContactPoint updates have been completed to the Youth Service MIS system postcodes will be extracted and mapped to examine where the Youth Club Members originate from</p>
<p>6. That KCC (Youth Service and others) should work with district partners</p>	<p>Kent Youth Service remains dedicated to the development of Young People through the arts and during 2009/10 a large number of arts events were hosted and/or supported by Kent Youth Service and its</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date
<p>including those in the voluntary and community sector to build upon the success of events such as Gifted Young Gravesham, those organised by Blade and Youth of Generation and explore opportunities to hold similar events elsewhere in the county.</p>	<p>partners across the county. Gifted Young Gravesham was delivered successfully again this year with plans for a similar event, Dartford Is Gifted, well under way. In addition the Youth Service hosted a Rhythmix weekend residential experience for young people wanting to develop their performance skills. The Service has also hosted 6 Kick Racism Out of Football events and also 6 events to celebrate LGBT history month in February – at each of these events young people are able to take part in forum theatre and practice other performance skills. The Youth Service also hosts 8 Try Angle awards ceremonies each year which both celebrate young people's achievement and provide a platform for young people to perform.</p> <p>On 15th of August 2009 the Youth Service hosted a partnership Summer Diversity Festival which was attended by more than 1400 young people who were able to take part in a number of cultural and sporting activities whilst more than 30 young people's acts were able to perform at the event and take part in talent shows, battle of the bands and workshops. The intention to hold a similar event in 2011 is dependant on securing external funding to do so.</p>
<p>7. That KCC adopts a policy of promoting positive language, perceptions and expectations of young people in all KCC publications and communications and encourages and engages with partners and the media to further this aim.</p>	<p>A code of good practice has been established by the Communications and Media Centre to ensure that all departments recognise the importance of promoting a positive message about young people.</p>
<p>8. a. That meetings which are to involve young people are planned and structured in a young person-friendly format.</p> <p>b. That Youth Advisory Groups focus on strategic planning in their districts and extend invitations to, and renews efforts to engage, private and voluntary sector facility and activity providers as well as potential funders, in order to create opportunities for mutually beneficial discussions at YAG meetings.</p>	<p>The Youth Advisory Group Review established a new set of Terms of Reference for the groups, emphasising the importance of playing a key role in the strategic development of services for young people – and particularly positive activities – at a local level. As part of this review the Terms of Reference also requires the meaningful participation of young people and ensuring that they are able to engage fully in meeting structures.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date
<p>c. That KCC Members be encouraged to contribute towards local young people's transport funds from Members' Community Grants (and other available sources) to finance organised trips for young people from their local area, focusing on those who attend youth groups and projects.</p>	<p>KCC Members Community Grants contributed directly towards work with young people in a variety of ways throughout the 2009/10 year. Full details of the spend of Members grants are available through the Community Engagement Team.</p>
<p>9. a. That projects with an intergenerational theme should receive a high priority in decisions about funding in Kent in order to break down barriers and build community cohesion.</p> <p>b. That KCC should consider how intergenerational activity could be supported in other ways such as through the Staff Club and Staff Discount schemes.</p>	<p>Kent Youth Service and partners prepared a bid for the 'Generations Together' programme which unfortunately proved unsuccessful. As a result the Service has included intergenerational work into its business planning processes. This has resulted in a range of activities taking place such as young people supporting Silver Surfers, Allotment Projects and intergenerational video projects examining the views of local young and older people.</p>
<p>10. That there should be increased opportunities for well motivated young people to shadow community leaders in order for them to gain experience of political life and leadership and that Members of Kent County Council should take a lead in facilitating this.</p>	<p>Workshadowing opportunities to work alongside Council Officers and County Councillors, including Cabinet Members have been taken up by 7 young people and students and this opportunity is on offer through Legal & Democratic Services as well as Kent Youth County Council. An offer for Members to shadow members of the Youth County Council has also been extended.</p>
<p>11. That Kent TV continues to provide young people with the opportunity to broadcast their interests and concerns and gain experience of TV and film production through the apprenticeship programme and the development of a dedicated broadcasting unit.</p>	<p>Kent TV was decommissioned at the end of the 2009/10 financial year and whilst this means that a 'youth channel' is not possible Kent Youth Service continues to offer young people a range of opportunities to engage in media and film activities and develop broadcast and production skills and experience.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date
<p>12. a. Development of Togogo could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear links to leisure listings for specific areas of interest such as cycling, parks, sports ▪ Times dates of meetings/venue contacts ▪ How to contact local Kent Youth County Councillor and Local Members of the County Council (by postcode look-up) ▪ The facility to vote on youth-related proposals ▪ Continually providing the opportunity for and proactively seeking out private and voluntary providers to invite listing ▪ Interactive local maps showing private/voluntary/LA provision ▪ Requesting that schools signpost Togogo on pupil VLEs (virtual learning environments screensaver and enabled in favourite sites) thus reaching every schoolchild ▪ Advertising Togogo on the Freedom Pass/Kent Travel Card/Library Card <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allowing additional and selected advertising on the website (directly leisure related) to generate revenue and 	<p>The re-development of Togogo has been significantly delayed due to the delays in completing the Kent.gov site – Togogo will be hosted on the same platform and by the same provider. The Youth Service has begun working with young people to identify views and opinions on developing the site however specific functional capabilities will not be clear until later in 2010.</p> <p>In order to aid the development of the Togogo and the adjoining database a part-time administrator has been assigned the task of updated and improving data quality. This is particularly crucial as the Kent Resource Directory, which provided a significant amount of the information for Togogo, has been withdrawn from service.</p> <p>A basic, voluntary survey has been running as a Polaroid on the existing togogo site asking for feedback on the ease of use and design of the site and also asking people to give their postcode to allow mapping against the re-developed site.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date
<p>show discount offers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liaising with the Children's Disability Register co-ordinator to ensure that views and experience of disabled young people and their families help to make the site informative and relevant. <p>b. Following an initial reluctance by young people to engage with Togogo its effectiveness in reaching a range of young people from different areas and backgrounds should be measured before and after development of the site by using Mosaic to analyse users registering on the site with a postcode.</p>	
<p>13. That KCC Innovations Team works with young people, supported by professional advisers to produce a policy and guidelines for the safe use of social networking sites (Facebook, Bebo etc) by young people, and that KCC work towards developing protocols for effective and appropriate use of social networking sites by youth work practitioners, other KCC staff and Members as well as members of Kent Youth County Council.</p>	<p>A new policy for Internet Usage in Youth Centres and projects has developed which gives clear guidelines on how young people should be supported to gain the benefits of online communities whilst remaining safe. Additional guidelines support staff in ensuring their own personal and professional usage is appropriate and safe.</p> <p>A dedicated section of Knet gives clear guidance and direction on the use of Social Networking to promote KCC and its activities – in addition training to achieve a 'social media license' has been implemented allowing staff to achieve a corporate standard before using these tools.</p>
<p>14. That KCC should investigate the implementation of an SMS texting service to notify young people of discounts and offers of free access to leisure activities.</p>	<p>An SMS service exists and is available to use with the implementation of data handling processes to gain permission for the use of personal mobile phone numbers, however until such time as Togogo is redeveloped and/or future offers are able to be sourced through Asperity such a service would offer little value to young people. Resource to supply SMS services is yet to be identified.</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date
<p>15. That KCC should consider providing support to Oi! (provided there is a sustainable business plan) to enable more young people to benefit from the work experience and personal development it offers and for the magazine to reach and involve a greater number of young people across the county. This support might take the form of a regular advertising slot paid for by the Kent Youth Service and other directorates/service (particularly CFE Extended Services) to: publicise activities and the availability of other local youth provision, and get across important messages e.g. links to advice on internet safety.</p>	<p>A variety of KCC departments have used SO! to promote activities and examine issues, these include Kent Apprenticeships, CFE Participation team, the HOUSE partnership project, Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Kent Sport Leisure and Olympics and Kent Youth Service. In addition the Try Angle Awards have become a national media partner of the magazine which involves a young person's story and nomination form being printed in each issue.</p> <p>The Youth Service has offered support and guidance to, and material for, Nubia magazine a publication developed with a particular focus on BME young people and currently in it's 10th issue.</p>
<p>16. That the Youth Service increases its engagement with the diverse range of services provided by the voluntary and community sector to ensure that the contribution of this sector can be fully acknowledged, mapped and taken into account in planning positive activities within an area.</p>	<p>The completion of the YAG review and particularly the adoption of new terms of reference will allow an increased engagement with Voluntary Organisations in developing local services for young people.</p> <p>Kent Youth Service has renewed its Partnership Awards with 23 different voluntary sector groups to deliver a range of direct youth work across the County and a further 10 groups to provide a range of support services to other Voluntary Organisations throughout Kent.</p> <p>During 2009/10 the Youth Service facilitated 2 training courses focusing on developing the capacity to manage integrated services with 12 places taken up by leaders from Voluntary Youth Organisations.</p>
<p>17. That KCC, with its partners, considers how to increase the proportion of activities, as well as information advice and guidance, provided to young people in young-person centred surroundings, in locations accessible during evenings/weekends.</p>	<p>During 2009/10 Kent Youth Service took part in the DCSF led 'Open Weekend' during which all areas opened provision during the weekend. Currently some Youth Service Provision in each operational area is open Friday evenings and Saturday in addition to the wide range of residential opportunities offered across the County.</p> <p>Delivery of the partnership project HOUSE on the Move commenced in May 2010 taking advice, guidance and support to young people on Substance Misuse, Alcohol Abuse, Smoking Cessation and Sexual Health to a variety of locations around Kent and delivering services at times convenient for young people</p>

Recommendation	Progress to Date
	<p>to access.</p> <p>Connexions Kent & Medway Ltd has been awarded a new three year contract for the delivery of careers information advice and guidance with a requirement to examine how this can be done in closer integration with other partners and delivered in times and places where young people are keen to engage.</p>