

By: Paul Wickenden, Overview, Scrutiny and Localism
Manager

To: Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview and
Scrutiny Committee
29 July 2010

Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEE - UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report advises Members on the progress of the Select Committee on Renewable Energy and invites suggestions for future Select Committee Topic Reviews.

Select Committee: Renewable Energy

1. (1) The Select Committee on Renewable Energy, under the Chairmanship of Mr Ferrin, has now completed its evidence gathering. It has received written and oral evidence from a wide range of stakeholders including the Environment Agency, Energy Saving Trust, Forestry Commission, National Farmers' Union, energy and engineering companies, environmental protection organisations, community groups and individual residents. In addition, a questionnaire has been distributed to Kent schools.

(2) Members of the Committee have also visited the headquarters of a renewable energy company, a national conference (Ecobuild), a regional conference on Combined Heat and Power and Distributed Generation (held at Sessions House) a local conference (Protect Kent's 'Keeping the Lights on') and a Kent primary school which aims to be the first carbon-negative school in Europe.

(3) A first draft of the committee's report, which is currently being written, will be discussed by the Select Committee in early August.

(4) As soon as an agreed draft is available it will be shared with Cabinet Members, Officers and key stakeholders before it is finalised for submission to Cabinet in October 2010.

Select Committee: Passenger Rail Services in Kent

2. This Select Committee met on 22 June 2010 and received a report on progress made with the recommendations since the Select Committee reported to County Council in December 2008. The update on progress on recommendations is attached as Appendix 1 and a copy of the minutes from this meeting is attached as Appendix 2.

Suggestions for Select Committee Topic Reviews

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

Recommendation

3. Members are asked to note the progress on the Select Committee for Renewable Energy and the minutes from the of the Select Committee on Passenger Rail Service and to advise the Democratic Services Officer of any items that they would like to suggest for inclusion in the Select Committee topic review programme.

Denise Fitch
Tel No: 01622 694269
e-mail: denise.fitch@kent.gov.uk

Background Information: *Nil*