

By: Paul Wickenden, Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager
To: Scrutiny Board – 3 November 2010
Subject: **Select Committee work programme**

Summary: To receive an update on the current Topic Review Programme and the resources available to deliver it.

Resources to Deliver the Select Committee Work Programme

1. I currently have two and a half FTE Research officers supporting the Select Committee topic review programme. They are supported by three Democratic Services Officers from the Overview and Scrutiny team who also support the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In addition I have one Research officer who is dedicated entirely to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. There is also the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee Research Officer, who in addition to supporting this Committee also carry's out a number of specific projects to support the development of the Overview and Scrutiny function.

Select Committee Work Programme – 2010

Renewable Energy and Extended Services Select Committee

2. (1) The Select Committees on Renewable Energy, under the Chairmanship of Mr Ferrin, and Extended Services under the Chairmanship of Mr Burgess, have now completed their work and their reports have been finalised and are due to be considered by the Cabinet on 29 November 2010 and due to pressure on the County Council agenda, possibly the meeting of the County Council on 16 December 2010.

Educational Attainment Select Committee

(2) The Select Committee on Educational Attainment of Pupils in Schools in Areas of High Deprivation is due to start its work shortly. Mr C Wells is the Chairman designate. Mr Wells as Chairman designate, and Mr Vye one of the proposers for this review will be meeting with the Cabinet Member and Managing Director on 3 November 2010 to discuss the scope of the review and to narrow its focus into a manageable review. It is now well embedded in the Select Committee process that prior to meetings of the Select Committee to gather evidence from invitees a period of time is spent undertaking desktop research and written evidence is called for. In this way it is easier for the Select Committee to identify those key witnesses whom it wishes to interview and discuss with a number of issues personally. With this in mind it is unlikely that any hearings will take place until February with a report to the County Council in the summer May/July.

Select Committee: Dementia

(3) The Select Committee on Dementia is currently being established and will be starting its work shortly with a view to reporting to the July meeting of the County Council. Mrs Dean is Chairman designate.

Topics for future reviews

3. (1) Based on the current work programme there is one full time Research Officer available to begin work on a new review.

(2) To date one suggestion for a Select Committee topic review has been submitted and assessed. This is for a review on “The Student Journey” which has been put forward by Mr M Dance and Mr Kit Smith. A copy of the assessment form is attached (**Appendix 1**).

(3) Any further suggestions for reviews, which are assessed prior to the meeting, will be circulated to Members of the Board.

4. Recommendations that

(a) the progress of the Select Committee topic reviews on Renewable Energy and Extended Services and the proposed Select Committees on Educational Attainment and Dementia be noted.

(b) the Board decide whether it wishes to establish a Select Committee on “The Student Journey”.

Paul Wickenden
Tel No: 01622 694486
e-mail: paul.wickenden@kent.gov.uk

Background Papers – Nil