

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager
To: Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee – 14 February 2008
Subject: **Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme – Update**
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To receive an update on the current Topic Reviews and to invite to the Committee to set out its priorities in the Work Programme for the period Spring 2008 – Autumn 2008, including how the Programme should be resourced

Current phase of the Work Programme – Autumn 2007 to Spring 2008

Flood Risk Select Committee

1. (1) The Flood Risk Select Committee report was well received by Cabinet at its meeting on 26 November 2007. The Cabinet agreed that there should be a special meeting of the County Council to look at this Select Committee Report and related issues.

(2) The special County Council solely dedicated to this topic has been arranged for 13 March 2008.

Alcohol Misuse Select Committee

(3) At the last meeting of the Committee, the Committee agreed to the request by the Select Alcohol Misuse Select Committee to an extension in time to complete its report before it is placed in the public domain. The report was completed prior to Christmas and shared with relevant Cabinet Members and Managing Directors.

(4) The Committee will be aware that because of the complexities of the subject matter, and that recommendations will require multi-agency support and ownership the Select Committee have in the last week shared (through a further facilitated discussion with all multi-agency partners) how the recommendations will be taken forward. An oral report on this meeting will be made to this Committee.

(5) The Select Committee report will be presented to the Cabinet on 17 March 2008.

Support for Carers in Kent – Select Committee

(6) The Select Committee report was presented to Cabinet on 3 December and the County Council on 13 December 2007.

Topic Review Programme – Spring 2008 to Autumn 2008

2. (1) The Committee will recall that the Work Programme for the Autumn 2007 to Spring 2008 (in no priority order) is:-

- a) Accessing Democracy;
- b) Vulnerable Children;
- c) Access to Healthcare (a Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Topic Review).

(2) Just to reaffirm for the Committee again the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a dedicated Research Officer so the item relating to access to Healthcare is included in this report as a matter of information, so that the Committee has the overall picture of resources within the Overview and Scrutiny function for completeness and how those resources are deployed.

(3) The Committee recognized at its meeting on 5 November 2007 that the Topic Review Accessing Democracy was the review of greatest priority. I am pleased to report that the Scoping document and Terms of Reference have been prepared and the Select Committee had this at its inaugural meeting on 23 January 2008.

(4) With respect to the Review on Vulnerable Children, the Leader of the Council as the proposer of the Review had indicated to me that he was happy for this Review to commence sometime in the New Year when resources became available. However, having undertaken some research, in conjunction with colleagues in Children, Families and Education Directorate, I have had a further discussion with the Leader of the Council in the light of work which is already being undertaken by the Children, Families and Education Directorate. The Leader of the Council is satisfied that a review at this stage would not be appropriate and he is therefore happy for the topic review suggestion to be withdrawn from the Programme.

Potential two year programme

3. (1) Members will recall that at the Committee's last meeting, it also considered those items which remained on the Programme which should either remain in the Programme or be withdrawn. The majority of items were withdrawn from the Programme, except for the item on 'Provision of Activities for Young People'. Attached as Appendix 1 to this report is a revised proposal form.

(2) At the recent meetings of the Policy Overview Committees, each Committee was asked to identify other topics which might warrant inclusion in the Topic Review Programme. One Topic Review has been proposed on Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Operational Issues for Managing the Topic Review Programme

Programming of Topic Reviews

4. (1) The programming and refocusing the Topics which Members wish to review continues to present my Team with the biggest challenge. We still struggle to

focus clearly on what the Review should cover and the potential outcomes. It is a challenge to ensure that the focus for the Reviews is not so broad that it might result in the loss of impact and added value to the County Council and the county's residents. I need to explore how the preparation stage for identifying and scoping a proposed Topic Review can be improved.

Resources to deliver the Work Programme

(2) I have 1½ FTE Research Officers supporting the Select Committee Topic Review Programme. In addition, I have one Research Officer whose time is dedicated entirely to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(3) As reported to the Committee on 5 November 2007, I have made a bid for a graduate from the Graduate Development Programme. The problem for the Committee is there is no guarantee that this application will be successful. This placement opportunity within my Team has always been recognized as an excellent placement. The Chairman will update the Committee on the meetings he had following the last meeting of the Committee when the view was expressed that a graduate should always be made available to the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee to under Topic Review Work.

(4) In addition to the Research Officer resources, there are three Democratic Services Officers to support the Policy Overview Committee and Select Committee activities.

(5) The Committee's attention is also referred to the report, agenda item 5, which sets out some of the challenges for the Policy Overview Committee's capacity to manage the business as set out in the Policy Overview Committee's Terms of Reference, together with the resource implications.

Monitoring of Select Committee recommendations

5. (1) I reported to the last meeting of the Committee that the Leader of the Council had asked me to prepare a report for consideration at the Council meeting on 13 December 2007, listing the Select Committees over the last three to five years and how the recommendations of those Select Committees had been implemented or otherwise. This report was not at the end submitted to the County Council but instead a selection of the Select Committee Topic Review outcomes for the period 2001 to 2007 was submitted by the Leader of the Council to Cabinet on 14 January 2008 (see Appendix 3).

(2) One of the outcomes of Cabinet's deliberations of this item was to request that this Committee is asked to monitor the outcomes of Topic Reviews, published prior to the formal or adoption of the monitoring process of Select Committee Topic Review recommendations by the County Council in March 2006. Attached to this report as Appendix 3 is a copy of the report which was before the Cabinet on 14 January 2008 together with the document setting out all the recommendations and how they have been or otherwise taken forward (see Appendix 4). The Committee will note that this document contains a variety of styles and is based primarily on responses from the Directorates. A standard monitoring format will be prepared to make this easier to monitor in the future.

Recommendations

6. The Committee are requested to note:-

- a) the progress of Select Committee Topic Reviews, Support for Carers in Kent, Alcohol Misuse and Flood Risk;
- b) the Select Committee Topic Review on Accessing Democracy has started;
- c) that the dedicated Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Research Officer will shortly undertake a review into the transport aspects of 'Accessing Healthcare';
- d) agree to the Topic Review which should be undertaken by the Research Officer resource which will be available shortly once the Alcohol Misuse Select Committee has been reported to Cabinet on 17 March 2008;
- e) identify (although this cannot be guaranteed) a piece a work for a graduate, should one become available during the Spring; and
- f) ensure that the recommendations for Select Committees undertaken by Committees prior to March 2006 when a formal monitoring process was introduced to be systematically reviewed by the parent Policy Overview Committees.

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ASSESSMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC REVIEW

(* - sections to be filled in by the proposer of the topic)

<p>*Subject of Proposed Review :-</p> <p>Activities for Young People</p>
<p>*Reason for the Review :- (see note 1 below)</p> <p>KCC in its agenda for the future have identified that provision and activities for young people should be increased by over 20% in what is regarded as in their leisure times. This means, evenings, weekends and holidays.</p> <p>Young people are being demonised and criminalised for being young and doing what young people have always done. They are being acted against, sooner than being provided for.</p>
<p>*Issues to be covered by the Terms of Reference:-</p> <p>An audit of out of school provision across the county should be undertaken and an accurate mapping exercise provided. This will identify gaps.</p> <p>Proposals to fill gaps should be presented. Young people should be involved at every stage of process.</p>
<p>*Scope of the review:-</p> <p>To identify what activities and facilities are available for young people to access countywide in their free time.</p> <p>Produce local mapping of local opportunities and provisional gaps. To develop a strategy, in partnership with other agencies to plug gaps in provision.</p>
<p>*Purpose and objectives of the Review:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To offer young people positive, real alternatives, to ASB and provide them with an adrenaline buzz through positive activity sooner than negative actions. • To turn young people away from alienation from within their local communities to acceptance as positive contributors to their local communities. • To redirect from ASB and criminality.
<p>Proposer of the review</p> <p>...Geoff Rowe.....July 2006.....</p>

To be completed by the Directorate/Cabinet Member(s)

Are there any reasons why this review should not be put forward for inclusion in the work programme for 2008/9? (see note 2 below)

Some of the mapping work identified in the original proposal has already been completed but we nevertheless strongly endorse the overall purpose and objectives of this review relating to preventing young people from getting into ASB and/or becoming involved in offending. This is a goal to which many parts of KCC can contribute so it will have a strong cross-Directorate focus.

The timescale dovetails well with the Government's requirement for Local Authorities in England to 'secure access [for young people aged 13-19] to sufficient educational and recreational leisure time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities'. Furthermore, the Children's Trust in Kent is responsible for the development of an Integrated Youth Support Strategy in the county and a key element of this strategy is Positive Activities for Young People.

How will the review contribute to corporate objectives and priorities?

The review will contribute to aspirations set out in the Vision for Kent under the headings Learning for Everyone; Stronger and Safer Communities and Enjoying Life

It will also contribute directly to the achievement of Towards 2010 Target 60 and to a number of priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan.

Will the review support the achievement of PSA or LAA targets? If yes, please identify targets :-

Kent Agreement 2 (subject to agreement of the Secretary of State) identifies "Young people's participation in positive activities" as a possible indicator

Does the review need to be completed within a specific timeframe? If yes, please give details :-

No.

How will this review have an impact on KCC policy development and/or help to influence national policy?

Knowing more about what is currently available and why some young people do not get engaged in positive activities at the moment will inform policy discussion locally and potentially nationally, particularly strengthened by the fact that young people will be involved in discussion.

How will this review add value to the County Council and residents of Kent?

This review will need to involve young people whose views are less often heard which

is an area of importance for a number of services, and will also contribute towards establishing a more positive image for young people in the county.

This response and commentary is endorsed by Mike Hill (portfolio holder) and Amanda Honey (Managing Director) for Communities.

Contact Officer :-

Alan Bernstein (for Nigel Baker
Head of Youth Service)

Date :-

5 February 2008

ASSESSMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC REVIEW

(* - sections to be filled in by the proposer of the topic)

<p>*Subject of Proposed Review:- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)</p>
<p>*Reason for the Review:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A survey led by Kent & Medway parents group reported in November 2006 on high diagnosis of ASD in children but low recognition, skills or resources in Kent Adult Social Services 2. There is increasing awareness nationally of growing prevalence of ASD - now estimated at 1% of the population (= 13,000 people in Kent). 3. ASD has been increasingly recognised only over the past 20 years, but ASD (including Aspergers Syndrome) does not fit into existing service structures or skills. Staff do not have sufficient training or understanding, and people with ASD (and their families) feel poorly supported by current services. 4. Expenditure on services is rising, but need to better understand the value they deliver 5. An approach is needed that crosses current services and agencies (i.e. within and across CFE / KASS / NHS / voluntary and independent sector) 5. Government, media and pressure groups (e.g. the National Autistic Society) are pressing Local Authorities to develop better ways of offering support. The government issued a clarification of its guidance in November 2006
<p>*Issues to be covered by the Terms of Reference:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding of: prevalence and incidence; needs and responses; resource impact and implications; agency responsibility; national and local policy 2. Predicting future demand 3. Reviewing good practice and organisational approaches 4. Recommending an approach for Kent.
<p>*Scope of the review:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The population that exists in all parts of Kent - often undiagnosed in adults 2. An emergent population whose needs are not currently met by existing service models or staff training 3. All Directorates of the County Council. Key partners in the NHS and the voluntary and independent sector
<p>*Purpose and objectives of the Review:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To understand the current and future needs of this population and what responsibilities local agencies have in providing support 2. To recommend an approach for KCC and its partners to develop 3. To ensure the best use of current and future resources applied to this population
<p>Proposer of the review</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oliver Mills, Managing Director Adult Social Services</p>

To be completed by the Directorate/Cabinet Member(s)

Are there any reasons why this review should not be put forward for inclusion in the work programme for 2008/09?

(see note 2 below)

No

How will the review contribute to corporate objectives and priorities?

The review should ensure that services better meet the needs of the Kent population and ensure they deliver value for money.

Will the review support the achievement of PSA or LAA targets? If yes, please identify targets:-

Does the review need to be completed within a specific timeframe? If yes, please give details:-

N/A

How will this review have an impact on KCC policy development and/or help to influence national policy?

How will this review add value to the County Council and residents of Kent?

The review should ensure that services better meet the needs of the Kent population and ensure they deliver value for money.

Any additional comments from the Portfolio Holder/Strategic Director:-

Portfolio Holder's Signature:- Kevin Lynes

Strategic Director's Signature:- Oliver Mills

Contact Officer:-

Date:- 6 February 2008

Notes

Note 1 - Possible reasons for the review

1. Key public issue, identified by
 - Focus groups/citizens panels
 - Member contact with constituents/member surgeries
 - Contact with key representative bodies/forums
 - Media coverage – Public interest issue covered in local media
2. Issue highlighted via POC activities or previous reviews
3. Issue recommended to POC by another body e.g. another POC, Cabinet Scrutiny, Directorate, Cabinet or an external body.
4. Poor performing service i.e.:-
 - High level of complaints/dissatisfaction with service
 - Performance standards poor/below target – (evidence from PI's or benchmarking)
 - Identified through external review/inspection (OFSTED/Audit/ CPA etc)
 - Budgetary overspends
5. Key reports or new evidence published
6. County Council priority
7. Central Government priority/New Government guidance or legislation published

Note 2 - Possible reasons why a review should not be put into the next years/ next two years work

1. Issue being examined by
 - Cabinet
 - Cabinet Scrutiny
 - Officer Group
 - another internal body
 - an external body

2. It has been the subject of a topic review by other Councils from which details of best practice can be obtained.
3. New legislation or guidance expected.
4. **NB:** Before suggesting that a review should not be included in the work programme the following should be considered:-

Could consideration of this issue 'add value' without causing unnecessary duplication, for instance by:

- i) Looking at this issue in conjunction with another group,
- ii) Through appropriate timing of the topic review,
- iii) Through considering another group's findings rather than duplicating the same/or similar activity.

By: Leader of the Council

To: Cabinet -14 January 2008

Subject: **MONITORING OF THE OUTCOMES OF SELECT COMMITTEE
TOPIC REVIEWS 2001 - 2007**

Classification: Unrestricted

Introduction

1. In the summer of 2007 a questionnaire which was circulated to all Members of the existing Policy Overview Committees on the effectiveness of the Policy Overview Committees. The outcomes of this questionnaire were reported to the County Council on 18 October 2007. One of the issues which was raised in debate at the Council meeting was the need for a comprehensive report on the Select Committee recommendations for each of the reports and topic reviews which have been undertaken since 2001.

Rules applying to Select Committee Topic Reviews

2. (1) Appendix 1 sets out extracts from the County Council's Constitution applying to Select Committees including the process for monitoring the outcomes arising from the Select Committee Topic Review process.

(2) Attention is drawn to the paragraphs relating to Review Reports in Appendix 1 (paragraphs 5.8 – 5.14)

(3) Relevant Cabinet Members and Managing Directors (depending on the subject of the Topic Review) are invited to comment at the start, middle and end of the review.

(4) Cabinet Members and Managing Directors are also invited to contribute to the Topic Review Proposal Form (see Appendix 2) which the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee uses to determine the Topic Review programme.

Monitoring of Select Committee Recommendations

3. (1) In March 2006 the County Council agreed to a formal procedure whereby:-

- (a) Select Committee recommendations require an action plan to be prepared within three months and for this action plan to be made available to the host Policy Overview Committee; and
- (b) for the Select Committee to be reconvened to monitor the recommendations one year on after the endorsement of the Select Committee report by the Cabinet. Appendix 1 sets out the monitoring process.

(2) The Overview and Scrutiny function continues to evolve and develop as does the Topic Review process. The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee is continuing to explore how the effectiveness of the process can be improved so that the outcomes and recommendations of the Select Committee add value to the residents of Kent.

Impact and Outcomes of the Select Committee Process

4. (1) Select Committees are seen as one of the successes of Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny. Members who have served on a Select Committee often comment that this is a rewarding process. This was borne out by the responses to the questionnaire on the effectiveness of the Policy Overview Committees.

(2) The Cabinet acknowledges that the Select Committee Topic Reviews have added value and made a significant impact and contribution to targets set out in Towards 2010 (formerly the Next Four Years) and a number of the County Council's Policy Framework documents.

(3) It is worth recording that this is not a new phenomenon. Select Committees have been achieving successful outcomes since the inception of Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Government. Here are a few of the highlights:-

Looked After Children - 2001

This report raised the profile of Looked After Children within Kent and the need to improve outcomes and services for this group of children. Recommendations from the review have been progressed and further developed in subsequent work, the most significant of which are:-

- (a) the Looked After Children s52 Action Plan;**
- (b) the Looked After Children Review 2006, and**
- (c) the Kent Pledge.**

Pattern of the School Year - 2002

The Select Committee recommended that Kent adopts a six-term year (or six half terms). The County Council adopted the six half terms and the fixed Easter break in 2005.

Financing of the Health Economy – 2003.

This piece of work has provided a foundation stone for the engagement of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Health Organisations within the Kent and Medway Health Economy.

Sport in Schools - 2005

- **The Select Committee recommended the development of school sport partnerships. Following this recommendation, 13 school partnerships were established and through the revenue funding associated with these partnerships approximately £3m of further funding has been generated for PE and school sport per annum.**
- **Another recommendation arising from this review related to increasing the variety of activities on school sites outside of school hours. The outcome achieved is that the Performance Reward Grant (PRG) funding of £500k over 3 years was allocated to the Sports Development Unit in 2005 to support sports activities on school sites out of school hours. This funding was utilised in several ways to develop school sport. In the first year 72 programmes of activity were offered funding totalling approximately £45k through a grants programme; £39k was provided to the 13 School Sport Partnerships (SSPs) to enhance their out of school hours learning opportunities. Kent's School Sports Council was allocated £16k to support and develop the 22 School Sport Associations in its membership and £45k was provided for 9 primary schools to enhance their playground facilities.**

Tackling Obesity 2006

- **the recommendations of this report was that KCC's Public Health Department should produce a detailed obesity strategy for the whole of Kent in collaboration with partners and stakeholders as soon as possible following the reorganisation of the NHS in Kent and Medway. "Live Life to the Full" – a Public Health Strategy for Kent was agreed by the County Council on 6 September 2007 and includes a section relating to obesity.**
- **further recommendations from the Select Committee report on tackling obesity was that the County Council's NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee should initiate a research programme in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University's Department of Sports, Science, Tourism and Leisure to evaluate the effectiveness of brief interventions in primary care in tackling obesity. This should include evaluation of giving patients pedometers, referral to leisure centres, and referral to health walks. Discussions with Canterbury Christ Church University resulted in a proposal for a study of short term interventions being accepted which will start in the early part of 2008. Funding towards this has been obtained from the Centre for Public Scrutiny.**

Home to School Transport 2006

A recommendation contained within this report was to explore the possibility of becoming a Pathfinder authority by providing all students aged 11-16 years, and living in a selected area of Kent, with an annual bus pass in order to evaluate bus usage and consequent reduction in car use.

The pilot for Kent County Council's "Freedom Pass" started in June 2007 and will run until August 2008 for all 11-16 year olds in Canterbury, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

Climate Change 2006

One of the recommendations related to an explicit corporate acceptance of climate change and how human activity contributes to it, and to clarify political and managerial leadership and accountability on climate change within KCC. Significant highlights from these two recommendations are:-

- **that the Council approved the first set of actions in response to the Select Committee;**
- **the Chief Executive communicated to all staff and has taken on the climate change champion role;**
- **a Cabinet working group on climate change has been established to oversee implementation of the actions;**
- **a project manager was recruited and is in post within the Chief Executive's department (jointly funded from all Directorates);**
- **Director-level leads have been identified to champion action on each of the three work streams;**
- **lead officers have been identifying each action within each work stream with regular reports to the project manager;**
- **additional guidance in place where needed, e.g. working groups reporting into KCC Environment Board;**
- **activity budget jointly funded from all Directorates secure for 2007/08;**
- **approach to Corporate Communications on climate change agreed and in progress, e.g. KNet;**
- **KCC emissions reductions embedded in corporate environmental performance and ISO 14001 delivery with continued improvements in baseline data;**
- **revised KCC Environment Policy, including carbon emissions agreed by Cabinet in December 2007;**
- **the 2008/09 business planning template includes issues for climate change mitigation and adaptation;**
- **revised Cabinet report template includes implications for climate change; and**
- **relevant Towards 2010 targets and indicators now agreed.**

Personal, Social, Health, Education (PSHE) – 2007

An advisory group comprising Members who served on the Select Committee, including the Chairman and other colleagues has been established to take forwards the actions and recommendations arising from the PSHE Children's Health.

Flood Risk 2007

A special County Council meeting has been arranged for 13 March 2008 following Cabinet's consideration of the Select Committee report on Flood Risk.

Recommendations

5. Cabinet is asked to:-
 - (a) note the report and support the ongoing development of the Select Committee Topic Review process which has achieved excellent outcomes for the County Council and the residents of Kent; and
 - (b) request the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee to monitor the outcomes of Topic Review reports published prior to the formal adoption of a monitoring process in March 2006 on a systematic basis.

Extracts from the County Council's Constitution on the Select Committee Topic Review Process

Appendix 4 – Part 5 - Rules applying to Select Committees

TOPIC REVIEW PLANS

5.1 The Topic Review Programme will normally be set out for the year in March to coincide with the publication of the Best Value Performance Plan. This will be determined by Policy Overview Co-Ordinating Committee and reported to the County Council. In setting out the programme, the Policy Overview Co-Ordinating Committee will be mindful of the resources and officer and Member time required to implement it.

5.2 Topic Reviews will not commence before approval by the relevant Policy Overview Committee of a detailed Review Plan covering:

(1) the terms of reference of the review, including the general nature of the expected outcomes.

(2) the names of any co-opted person from outside the Council to serve on the Select Committee (such co-opted Members will not have a vote)

(3) the staff and other resources required to deliver the review including, if required, the ability to appoint an adviser to the Select Committee

(4) an approximate timetable of meetings and final reporting date (normally within 4 months of the review commencing)

(5) the main witnesses and information sources expected to be involved in the review.

MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

5.3 Select Committees shall ensure that:

(1) dates and arrangements for witnesses to attend their meetings (or otherwise give evidence to Committee members) are agreed with witnesses in advance

(2) advance notice is given to witnesses of the areas to be covered in questioning

(3) information is, wherever possible, distributed to the Committee Members in writing before the witness attends.

QUESTIONING

5.4 Members should endeavour not to request detailed information from officers at Select Committee meetings unless they have given prior notice through the Clerk. If, in the course of question and answer at a meeting, it becomes apparent that further information would be useful, the officer being questioned may be required to submit it in writing to the Committee Members through the Clerk.

5.5 In the course of questioning at meetings, officers other than the Chief Executive and Directors may decline to give information or respond to questions on the ground that it is more appropriate that the question be directed to the Chief Executive or relevant Director. Officers may not otherwise decline to provide information except under conditions advised by the Standards Committee.

5.6 Cabinet Members, officers and other witnesses may decline to answer questions in an open session of a Committee on the grounds that the answer might disclose information that would be exempt or confidential as defined in the Access to Information Procedure Rules. In that event, the Committee may resolve to exclude the media and public in order that the question may be answered in private session.

5.7 The Clerk shall electronically record meetings of a Select Committee unless the Select Committee decides it is inappropriate or raises objection. A written summary of evidence given at Select Committee meetings will be prepared by the Clerk and agreed with the witness prior to its publication.

REVIEW REPORTS

5.8 During Topic Reviews, Select Committees shall ensure that relevant Cabinet Members and Directors are kept informed of the progress of the review and have full opportunity to comment and inform the deliberations of the Committee.

5.9 Select Committees shall ensure that relevant Directors are consulted on any statistics, data and information which are to be included in their reports or on which they intend to base conclusions. The report should include all such data and information or state where it is available to Members

5.10 Reports shall include all summaries of evidence given to the Committee during the Topic Review.

5.11 Select Committees may not in their reports criticise or adversely comment on any individual officer by name.

5.12 Once the draft report is prepared with its conclusions and recommendations, the Select Committee must ensure that relevant Cabinet Members and Directors have the opportunity to comment on the draft report before it is published by the relevant Policy Overview Committee.

5.13 The Chairman of the relevant Policy Overview Committee, in discussion with the Leader of the Council, will agree the order of the submission of the report to the Cabinet/Policy Overview Committee/Council/or any other Council Committee.

5.14 The relevant Policy Overview Committee will monitor and review the Executive's response to Select Committee reports.

Appendix 4 - Part 3

Monitoring the Select Committee Recommendations

(8) When a Select Committee has produced its report and Cabinet has endorsed its recommendations, it is essential that monitoring takes place in relation to progress with the recommendations.

(9) Three months after Cabinet has endorsed the Select Committee report, the relevant Policy Overview Committee should receive an action plan from officers setting out how they propose to take the recommendations forward.

(10) One year after Cabinet has endorsed the Select Committee report, the Select Committee will be reconvened to receive a report which details progress with each of the recommendations.

(11) The Minutes from this meeting of the Select Committee will be presented to the next meeting of the Policy Overview Committee by the Chairman of the Select Committee for comments and noting.

(12) It is assumed that once this process has been carried out the recommendations become embedded in the work of the Directorate, or an explanation will have been accepted by Members as to why this is not possible. Therefore, in normal circumstances it should be necessary to receive a further report specifically on progress with the recommendations.

ASSESSMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC REVIEW

(* - sections to be filled in by the proposer of the topic)

*Subject of Proposed Review:-
*Reason for the Review:- (see note 1 below)
*Issues to be covered by the Terms of Reference:-
*Scope of the review:-
*Purpose and objectives of the Review:-
Proposer of the review

To be completed by the Directorate/Cabinet Member(s)

Are there any reasons why this review should not be put forward for inclusion in the work programme for 2007/08? (see note 2 below)	
How will the review contribute to corporate objectives and priorities?	
Will the review support the achievement of PSA or LAA targets? If yes, please identify targets:-	
Does the review need to be completed within a specific timeframe? If yes, please give details:-	
How will this review have an impact on KCC policy development and/or help to influence national policy?	
How will this review add value to the County Council and residents of Kent?	
Any additional comments from the Portfolio Holder/Strategic Director:- Portfolio Holder's Signature:- Strategic Director's Signature:-	
Contact Officer:-	Date:-

Notes

Note 1 - Possible reasons for the review

7. Key public issue, identified by:-
 - Focus groups/citizens panels
 - Member contact with constituents/member surgeries
 - Contact with key representative bodies/forums
 - Media coverage – Public interest issue covered in local media
8. Issue highlighted via POC activities or previous reviews
9. Issue recommended to POC by another body e.g. another POC, Cabinet Scrutiny, Directorate, Cabinet or an external body.
10. Poor performing service i.e.:-
 - High level of complaints/dissatisfaction with service
 - Performance standards poor/below target – (evidence from PI's or benchmarking)
 - Identified through external review/inspection (OFSTED/Audit/ CPA etc)
 - Budgetary overspends
11. Key reports or new evidence published
12. County Council priority
7. Central Government priority/New Government guidance or legislation published

Note 2 - Possible reasons why a review should not be put into the next years/ next two years work

5. Issue being examined by:-
 - Cabinet
 - Cabinet Scrutiny
 - Officer Group
 - another internal body
 - an external body
6. It has been the subject of a topic review by other Councils from which details of best practice can be obtained.
7. New legislation or guidance expected.
8. **NB:** Before suggesting that a review should not be included in the work programme the following should be considered:-

Could consideration of this issue 'add value' without causing unnecessary duplication, for instance by:

- iv) Looking at this issue in conjunction with another group,
- v) Through appropriate timing of the topic review,
- vi) Through considering another group's findings rather than duplicating the same/or similar activity.

Appendix 4

Monitoring of Select Committee recommendations

Committee	Final Report Produced	Progress with Recommendations reported back to Select Committee/ (POC)	Page Nos
Looked after Children	2001		27
Flooding in Kent	2000/2001		39
ICT in Schools	2001	4 December 2002 (POC – Jan 03)	40
Behaviour Support	2001	9 December 2002 (POC – Jan 03)	41
Nursing Care	February 2002		42
Modernising Hospital Services East Kent*	March 2002	(Response to a NHS Consultation response)	N/A
Pattern of School Year	April 2002		43
Rail, Airports, Ports (RAP)	September 2002		44
Residential Special Schools	December 2002		46
Early Years Education	January 2003	(26 January 2006)	47
CTRL Domestic Services	January 2003		55
S E E R A	February 2003		58
Domiciliary Care	March 2003		60
Rail Freight	June 2003		61
Drug Use & Misuse	Summer 2003		63
Renal and Vascular*	September 2003	(Response to a NHS Consultation response)	N/A
Financing of the Health Economy	Autumn 2003	Ongoing	N/A
Vocational Pathways 14-19 Year Olds	November 2003	2 December 2004	64
Residential Care	December 2003		73
Arts & Museums	February 2004	23 March 05 (15 April 05)	74
Procurement of Construction contracts	July 2004		80
Women's and Children's Services (Joint Select Committee with	December 2004	(Response to a NHS Consultation response)	N/A

Committee	Final Report Produced	Progress with Recommendations reported back to Select Committee/ (POC)	Page Nos
East Sussex)*			
Sport in Schools	March 2005	10 January 06 (26 January 2006)	82
Transport Policy – 25 –30 year time horizon (interim)	April 2005		87
Trauma and Orthopaedics – the future of services (Joint Select Committee with East Sussex)	April 2005	(Response to a NHS Consultation response)	N/A
Regeneration of Coastal Towns	August 2005	20 December 06	90
Water and Waste Water	September 2005	31 October 07	95
Financing of the Health Economy	December 2005	Ongoing via NHS O/S	N/A
Gypsy and Traveller Sites	January 2006	31 May 07 + 29 Nov 07 (4 July 07)	109
Home to School Transport	March 2006	27 April 2007 (5 July 2007)	115
Tackling Obesity	April 2006	7 Sept 07 (NHS O/S)	128
Climate Change	Oct 06		132
Transitional Arrangements	May 2007	<i>Due May 08</i>	139
PSHE/Children's Health	April 2007	<i>Due April 08</i>	
Flood Risk	November 2007	<i>Due November 08</i>	
Carers in Kent	December 2007	<i>Due December 08</i>	
Alcohol Misuse	Due early 08		
Access to Health Care	2007/08 (tbc)		
Accessing Democracy	2007/08 (tbc)		
Vulnerable Children	2008 (tbc)		

	<p>2006. Real effort needs to be put into meeting the needs of ethnic and religious minorities.</p>	<p>assessed in relation to sensitivity to minority issues.</p>
<p>1.16</p>	<p>The fostering capacity should also be increased by approving some waiting adopters as foster carers; to preclude queue jumping only children not available for adoption would be placed, e.g. those receiving respite care.</p>	<p>Achieved through Staying Together 1 and 2 that supported foster carers to adopt foster children and support PSA2.</p>
<p>1.17</p>	<p>The ratio of fostering social workers to fostering households should be based on the upper quartile of local authority practice, with phased implementation over five years (to March 2006).</p>	<p>Not progressed due to budgetary constraints.</p>
<p>1.21 to 1.31</p>	<p>Perceptions of children and families social workers and foster carers about each other need to be assessed; if misconceptions or lack of clarity is found, representatives of both should prepare a draft convention; similarly a joint group should devise a list of agreed expenses to reduce the potential for conflict.</p>	<p>A guide was produced for social workers on working with foster carers.</p> <p>District Forums were set up in which foster carers and social workers could meet.</p>
<p>1.25, 1.35 and 1.31</p>	<p>Social Services, education and health should seek to agree some ring-fenced capacity, for easy access by foster carers, to education psychologists and health professionals. Where a child's needs are so complex or there is unacceptable delay accessing health or educational specialism the County Council should pay for the child to "go private", or be placed with an appropriate independent fostering agency (IFA).</p>	<p>Two specialist schemes, Treatment Foster Care and Therapeutic Re-parenting, provide multi-disciplinary support to include psychologist input to our most complex and challenging children.</p> <p>The CAMHS Strategy Board has prioritised Looked After Children for access and new service development.</p>
<p>1.38</p>	<p>The relationship with IFAs should be regularised through a formal contracting process with a small number of the best.</p>	<p>Mental Well Being screening is planned for all Looked After Children.</p> <p>Peter Gilroy and Oliver Mills met with IFAs. Following discussions, this was not progressed.</p>

<p>2.8 to 2.10 and 2.15</p>	<p>Improvements to the accommodation at Swattenden Centre should be made whilst maintaining the valuable networks built up in the present location. As a local authority children's home, Members should visit monthly and report back</p>	<p>situation although at the time of writing it is not expected that some key components will be implemented.</p> <p>The Swattenden Centre (now known as Appledore) has been rebuilt and refurbished with a grant of £1.5m from the Home Office. It continues to provide an holistic assessment of need including health and education, assessment of age being a key component. Appledore also provides an induction, orientation and life skills training programme to ensure the young people can live safely in the community. Councillors are encouraged to, and do, visit.</p>
<p>Chapter 3 – Preventative services 3.5 and 3.7</p>	<p>The policy on and priority given to family support should no longer be left to individual areas; henceforth there should be a county approach based on the ethos and practice in West Kent and Dover. Destabilising events (cuts, staff vacancies and management changes in both family support and fieldwork teams) should be avoided as looked after numbers seem to rise as a consequence.</p>	<p>The strategy to increase preventative child and family support county wide has been progressed through the creation of Clusters and Consortia. Budgets have been devolved to support this objective. The recommendations are now absorbed by the Every Child Matters agenda for change and the government objectives around Children's Centres, Early Years, extended schools and improvements in emotional well being services. There is evidence to show family support is available to more children and families than before the topic review. The needs of vulnerable children within communities will be a priority for Local Children's Trusts.</p> <p>The numbers of Looked After Children have decreased during the PSA1 period (2001 –2002), and since.</p>

<p>Chapter 4 – Social work environment</p> <p>4.1 to 4.3</p> <p>4.13</p> <p>4.4 to 4.6</p> <p>4.8</p>	<p>The messages derived from discussions with guardians ad litem (GALs) form a package which should be heeded.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is generally a high quality of social work in Kent – that opinion should be welcomed. 2. Blanket instructions about avoiding expenditure will be obeyed by staff – precluding staff from meeting essential needs makes both the child and Directorate vulnerable. <p>Each Looked After Child needs a long term attachment to a named social worker to promote their interests and to act as a powerful advocate for them. Achieving this should be a central goal for the County Council.</p> <p>The mixed message from staff found in the 1999 MORI research needs to be re-tested by a new survey. Staff concerns must be acknowledged and, so far as resources allow, responded to.</p> <p>There should be a serious drive to ensure that good practice can be shared across teams.</p>	<p>Regular liaison meetings were set up with CAFCASS and CFE policy and operations staff in order to identify pressures and address practice issues. Links to the courts have also been strengthened through participation in various court liaison meetings.</p> <p>It has not been possible to achieve a consistent adult for looked after children through a social worker, however the L.A. has addressed this issue by introducing extra support within schools and foster homes to prevent breakdown and provide meaningful attachments. More recently, a mentoring scheme has been introduced and piloted and actions to address this are part of the Looked After Children Review 2007 action plan.</p> <p>A strategy to improve the ‘performance culture’ was introduced with success within CSS. District Teams have an annual meeting with data staff and managers to discuss strategic and local performance. PAFs are covered in these sessions. Good practice is shared within District Consortia Chairs meeting and various</p>
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<p>4.12</p> <p>4.14 to 4.17</p> <p>4.20</p> <p>4.28</p> <p>4.30</p>	<p>A major cultural change is needed so that Members are seen as a resource and as allies with whom management can have an open dialogue.</p> <p>A Directorate-wide time-tabled strategy is required to consistently drive forward the re-energising of tasks in children and families services. Staff taking on tasks should be differently but appropriately qualified. The proposal to have differently qualified staff as named social worker for Looked After Children with settled plans and stable placements should be endorsed in principle.</p> <p>Technology should be adopted to reduce the time spent on form completion by social workers and secretaries – especially the Department of Health materials for Looked After Children.</p> <p>Family group conferencing should be promoted as a means of avoiding children becoming looked after; there should be an initial two years pilot involving and independent provider in one Area.</p> <p>As the other measures recommended improve the workloads of social workers a serious effort should be made to practically develop fallback strategies (twin tracking, concurrent planning).</p>	<p>staff forums at all levels and involving all staff – admin, social workers, and managers.</p> <p>The Children’s Champion Board has fostered improved dialogue.</p> <p>Social Work Assistants were employed specifically to support Looked After Children with stable placements. A qualified social worker retains responsibility and oversight of the case in these circumstances.</p> <p>A Family Group Conference Service was established in 2003. It provides a FGC for all children up to age 13 years and will be expanded further to include adolescents. The service is also available to some children who are not attending schools</p> <p>Concurrent planning for adoption was developed as a service in Thanet in response to very high numbers of young babies coming in to the care system.</p>
<p>Chapter 5 – Residential care</p> <p>5.5</p>	<p>Officers, or Cabinet Members themselves, should seek to achieve inter-agency agreement between Social Services,</p>	<p>A joint planning and funding panel was established between Health, Education and Children’s Social</p>

5.8	<p>Education and Health on the criteria and process for joint funding of residential placements.</p> <p>The new 'executive arrangements' from (probably) June 2001 offer a creative means to delegate to designated officers authority to commit Education and Social Services funding at inter-agency meetings – facilitating swifter decision making.</p> <p>The move towards regional purchasing of residential places may offer price and quality advantages and the strategy is endorsed.</p>	<p>Services for complex case planning and decision making. This is under review now that Education, Children's Social Services and Children's Health Commissioning are in one directorate.</p>
<p>Chapter 6 – OLA LAC placements</p> <p>6.6</p> <p>6.6 and 6.7</p> <p>6.8</p> <p>6.9</p>	<p>Given the lack of routine compliance with the duty to notify out-of-area placements, the Social Services Inspectorate should carry out its own survey of local authorities adherence to the requirements – including compliance with statutory reviews, promotion of each child's education and maintenance of links with their family and local community.</p> <p>Quality Protects and the Joint Guidance on the education of Looked After Children should be drivers to raise standards of purchasers and providers, however the SSI should specifically monitor whether outcomes for children placed out-of-area are as good as for those placed within the originating borough/county.</p> <p>The County Council should advocate the SSA to include a weighting in recognition of the substantial cost to the authority arising from the net import of Looked After Children.</p> <p>The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 will phase out the "Cadell judgement", however the County Council should lobby for the</p>	<p>The Local Authority developed a strategy to persuade other Local authorities not to place children in Kent. It also lobbied DCSF and government to introduce measures to prevent other Local authorities placing out of area. Ref. The Thanet Report.</p> <p>The Care Matters Looked After Children White Paper is proposing legislation to prevent placing out of county except in exceptional circumstances.</p>

	Act's revision so that all children ceasing to be looked after beyond October 2001 remain the responsibility of the placing authority.	
Chapter 7 – Adoption		
7.2, 7.4 and 7.5	The recent steps to rebuild the adoption service in the County Council are welcome – as is the ambitious target of 150 adoptions per annum by March 2004 as contained in the Public Service Agreement. The increase in quantity must be at no compromise to the quality.	All of these recommendations have been achieved.
7.1 and 7.9	There should be a substantial shift in favour of making adoption allowances, from the unusually low rate of 11%, as these are more cost effective than fostering allowances and might attract more potential adopters from less affluent backgrounds.	
7.13	<p>The County Council should respond welcoming the White Paper proposals for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) timescales for the child; (ii) timescales for would-be adopters; (iii) the improved wording on the assent form signed by birth parents; (iv) the intention to speed up court processes and to create judicial adoption centres; and (v) the removal of inconsistencies between the Adoption Act 1976 and the Children's Act 1989 with a shift towards the ethos of the latter. 	

<p>Chapter 8 – Education</p> <p>8.6</p> <p>8.13</p> <p>8.14</p> <p>8.17</p> <p>8.18</p>	<p>The Joint Guidance on Education of Young People in the Public Care is to be welcomed.</p> <p>Educational statements for Looked After Children should be fast tracked to ensure further ground is not lost and facilitate catching up.</p> <p>There should be an LEA policy on the education of Looked After Children to challenge stereo-typing.</p> <p>Central government should be lobbied to secure changes to the Pupil Retention Grant to ensure schools feel confident to commit the money whilst retaining some sanctions for in-year exclusions.</p> <p>To avoid children just outside the care system getting the worst deal a rigorous system involving both social services and education should be put in place to monitor and promote the education of children in need.</p> <p>The extension of voluntary services for the educational nurturing of children in need, where that encouragement is not provided by parents, to cover the county should be considered.</p>	<p>Children’s Social Services and Education have worked closely to achieve improved education outcomes for looked after children. Reference the S52 Action Plan. This collaboration has progressed considerably since the creation of the Children, Families and Education Directorate and has recently come under review as part of the Looked After Children 2007 Review.</p>
<p>Chapter 9 – Corporate Parenting</p>	<p>KCC Members should re-establish their role as an active element in ensuring good outcomes for Looked After Children; the joint member body should undertake a range of tasks, monitoring services and facilitating progress.</p>	<p>The Children’s Champion Board was extended to include Looked After Children as well as Child Protection. There are twice yearly Looked After Children meetings to discuss progress.</p>

<p>11.2</p>	<p>been so poor compared to the general population of children. That logic indeed flows through this report, it is why a great deal of emphasis has been placed on building up preventative service equitably across the county, as well as wanting to improve the lot of those who unavoidably do need to be looked after.</p> <p>Core group Members came to the conclusion that being looked after or otherwise was not an oil and water divide when it came to good experiences for children – there are some in the community, just the other side of the care barrier, who may well receive less adult nurture, have poorer education and career opportunities compared to Looked After Children (and far worse than the general population of children) because no one looks out for them. There is thus the risk that for the best of intentions success in preventing children becoming looked after may actually produce worse outcomes in the medium to long term, because they miss out on the improvement opportunities provided by good foster carers. It is also clear that the threshold at which children become looked after is not a static point determined by policy but a shifting line, a different points in different parts of the county at any one time, dependant on the availability and flexibility of family support services, and the experience and stability of social workers and their managers which provides the environment for managing risk. A child will become looked after in some places but in virtually identical circumstances stay with their family in other places where there is fieldwork stability combined with support flexibility.</p>	
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(information supplied by C, F & E December 07)

Flooding in Kent (2000/01) and Flood Risk in Kent (2007)

This has been the subject of a further Select Committee review in 2007 on Flood Risk.

A special meeting of the County Council has been arranged for 13 March 2008 entirely dedicated to the recent report on Flood Risk in Kent. This topic review did relate its work to the previous review which took place after the flooding events across the County in 2000/01.

ICT in Schools

2002

This was an early Select Committee which had a remit to look at progress in implementing the Strategy for ICT in Schools and the continuing impact of (National Grid for Learning) NGfL.

It was agreed by Education and Libraries POC that monitoring reports would be submitted to members on the NGfL.

This Select Committee acted more as an Informal Member Group held a meeting in October 2003 to receive feedback on aspects of the development of ICT in Schools. The Minutes of its meetings were reported back to the Policy Overview Committee.

As well as commenting on ICT in Schools another outcome was that a Seminar on ICT in Schools was held on 23 January 2004.

Behaviour Support

2000/01

This was an early Select Committee topic review which was carried out under the initially under the remit of the Education and Libraries (E & L) Scrutiny Committee. In November 2001 the E & L POC agreed that the Select Committee should be reconvened in 2002 to monitor the strategies which had been put in place.

The Select Committee met in December 2002 and received a presentation by the Head of the Attendance and Behaviour Service on the considerable changes in the Attendance and Behaviour Service as a response to the behaviour review.

This Select Committee helped to inform and monitor Behaviour Support Strategies and also led to a Seminar being held for all County Councillors in January 2004 on Behaviour Support.

Nursing Care

February 2002

Future Developments

Since the publication of the report, Kent Adult Social Services (KASS) has developed a range of admission avoidance, rapid response and recuperative/intermediate care services across the county in partnership with the NHS, which have proved effective in support people in the community.

With the implementation of Fair Access to Care Services (FACS), those entering nursing homes have had the benefit of multi-disciplinary and comprehensive assessment which has meant that only those who are unable to be supported in the community have been admitted to care

KASS continues to work in partnership with home care providers to ensure value for money through a strong Contracting Arm.

Cost

KASS continues to lobby Government for increase in social services element of the Revenue Support Grant and or for allocation to social services authority for unclaimed person credit.

Contract Price and Third Party

The arrangements with regard to gross payments to care homes and the application of third party payments mechanism remain in place and have proved effective in managing limited funding available.

KASS has been and, continues to work in partnership to drive up the take up of attendance allowance benefit. This is reflected in our efforts to achieve the 2010 objectives of benefit maximisation. In addition, we have set up Specialist Finance Teams, who work with the Pension Service to provide a one-stop service.

Discharge Planning

KASS has developed a number of effective arrangements and initiatives which facilitate timely and safe discharges from hospital. Since the Review, there have been a number of important developments in the Continuing Care criteria. From 1 October PCT's are required to work to a National Framework for Continuing Care designed to avoid the postcode lottery and to give transparency and openness to the whole procedure for practitioners, patients and their families.

KASS is in a very good position to work in partnership with health colleagues to implement these changes having arranged a total of 8 workshops for staff across the county. We are also working closely with Primary Care Trust (PCT) colleagues to organise joint training with KASS staff and PCT staff which will ensure closer working relationships and a better understanding of this complex area of work which will have a positive impact on discharge planning. From 1 October 2007 there is only one band of "free" nursing care.

Pattern of the School Year 2002

This was a very early pilot Select Committee and therefore its recommendations have not gone through a formal monitoring process.

Its major recommendation was that the school year consist of six half terms and that there be a fixed Easter break which was adopted in 2005.

Rail, Airports, Ports (RAP)
SEPTEMBER 2002

1. Continue lobby at a national and regional level in support of the development of both LAA and Manston Airport.

1. The County Council has continued to lobby for Manston and Lydd (LAA – London Ashford Airport) in the response to the Government's Aviation White Paper and to the Regional Assembly's SE Plan. Funding has also been used to pump prime passenger services from Manston

2. Continue to support the development of surface links to Lydd Airport and Manston Airport

2. The County Council has continued to press for improved surface links to Manston. CTRL Domestic Services will improve journey times to and from London from Canterbury and Ramsgate and KCC is currently looking at the viability of a new parkway station at Minster. Road access to Manston from the west is good (via M2/A299) and from the east will be improved when East Kent Access Phase 2 scheme is built. Road access to Lydd will be improved when M20 Junction 10a is built, but there is little prospect of a direct rail service.

3. Continue to take positive action towards economic regeneration in deprived wards and support proposed airport development projects in an appropriate manner.

3 The Joint Venture between KCC and Thanet District Council aims to bring forward two major employment sites in Thanet and along with key projects in Margate and the London Array windfarm project off Ramsgate improved employment prospects for all areas of Thanet including the most deprived.

4. Liaise with Ashford Borough Council in compiling a Traffic Impact Assessment based on potential increased use of the A2070 between Brenzett and Ashford M20 J10.

4 Not done, but LAA has had to do as part of its planning application for extending the runway and enlarging its terminal building

5. Investigate the need for improved vocational training opportunities in relation to the economic opportunities and potential in South and East Kent.

If necessary represent concerns to the Kent and Medway Learning and Skills Council (the Committee believe that vocational training in secondary schools is a necessary complement to post-sixteen training opportunities).

Any investigation should also consider how the County Council could encourage the development of links between schools and the Further Education sector).

5. East Kent Partnership is in the process of commissioning a Learning and Skills Strategy which will include consideration of the potential synergy in needs and provision between the aeronautical, marine, and wind farm industries skills.

6. Consider joint work with Manston Airport and Lydd Airport to identify sustainable estimates of predicted growth.

6. Each airport has produced a masterplan outlining potential growth in passengers

7. While accepting that both Airports are at different stages of development the County should continue to lobby government to recognise the potential for development at Manston and Lydd.

7. See response to 1.

8. Continue to lobby government to provide the necessary infrastructure improvements to support growth.

8. See responses to 1 and 2.

Residential Special Schools

2002

The work of this Select Committee helped inform the Special School review. The value of the work carried out by the Select Committee was acknowledged by the then Cabinet Member for Education Standards and Pupil Services, at the Policy Overview Committee in November 2002.

Early Years Education

January 2003

On 26 January 2006 the Education and Libraries POC received a report updating them on the progress made with the Select Committee recommendations as set out below:-

Current context of Early Years in Kent

1. The Committee welcomes the introduction of the Kitemark Quality Assurance Scheme, and recommends that all necessary steps be taken to ensure that the Kitemark is accessible to all providers, and that its relationship to other schemes of Quality Assurance, particularly that offered by the Pre-School Learning Alliance, is made clear.

1. The Kitemark self-evaluation framework has been cross referenced to Every Child Matters and Index to Inclusion.

First annual survey questionnaire distributed July 2005. 73% felt Kitemark had improved outcomes for children and families. 72% stated teamwork had been improved. Providers and mentors felt that the Kitemark was too paper based.

Early Years Advisers, School Advisory Service have received training as Kitemark mentors. 1 maintained nursery was accredited October 2003, a further 2 are expected to be accredited in March 2006, 2 nurseries are in the process of joining the scheme.

Developed a 'fast-track' programme for settings previously accredited through the Pre-school Learning Alliance scheme. Funded 5 settings to re-accredit through the Pre-school Learning Alliance Accreditation scheme.

The numbers of non-maintained providers, including childminders and out-of-school provision total 161. 14 settings have gained full accreditation status.

Successful workshops were implemented to support managers and leaders with Module 5 – Business, Management and Teamwork. The self-evaluation process within the scheme continues to support Ofsted inspections

The Foundation Stage

2. The Committee recommends that the LEA actively encourage all primary schools in Kent to have a champion for Early Years, and where appropriate a Foundation Stage co-ordinator, as a member of the school's Senior Management Team, and a governor with a special responsibility for the Foundation Stage.

3. The Committee endorses the LEA's initiatives to inform all primary headteachers about the philosophy and methods of the Foundation Stage, and expresses the wish that this become universal if not compulsory.

2 & 3. Regular up – dates to inform senior managers about Foundation Stage developments have been provided for Head Teachers and Governors via breakfast

briefings in 12 “double cluster” venues. This has resulted in increased understanding about the philosophy of the Foundation Stage and the key Elements of Effective Practice.

Early Years Governor training in the three areas of Mid East and West Kent continues to take place with a total of nine sessions in all provided each year across the county. The theme was Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) in Foundation Stage for Autumn 2005.

The Self Evaluation Tool developed by Leading Early Years Teachers and SAS advisers has been completed. It has been evaluated by schools and adjusted accordingly. It is published on Cluster web. It is supporting schools with the new Self Evaluation required for OFSTED inspections.

Integration and Continuity

4. The Committee is pleased that Kent has its first designated Early Excellence Centre (EEC), and hopes that it will be an effective beacon for excellence in service integration the County.

4. Hythe EEC has continued to be used as a beacon of good practice and to support the achievement of excellence elsewhere.

5. The Committee recommends that the County seeks to find flexible and workable solutions to the problem of providing high-quality care and education that working parents will be able to use. This could include both extending maintained provision into wraparound care, and qualified teachers practising in non-maintained settings.

5. Kent's 2004-06 childcare place targets were achieved by the end of 2005. However, the DfES has now removed new place childcare target nationally.

All Neighbourhood Nurseries are now operating.

6. The Committee recommends that ways of making individual children's experience of Early Years care and education more coherent be explored, including ways of tracking children's progress across the settings.

6. Kent's own Record of Transfer document is now well established and used successfully as a means of communication between non-maintained and maintained provision. By making observation part of their daily routine, practitioners are able to identify what a child 'can do' and highlight /recommend their next steps in learning.

7. The Committee advises of the need for further research to establish how services for the birth to 3 age group in the County can best be developed

7. Work completed on original Best practice document (see recommendation 15 for additional information).

A senior U3 Training and Quality Officer was appointed in June 2004, together with a further six U3 officers during 2005. They have rolled out a training programme across the County, introducing practitioners to the Birth to Three Matters Framework. This

county programme has been supported by workshops delivered in clusters. They have also responded to providers requiring advice and support on providing a quality experience for children under the age of three. The senior U3 Training and Quality officer, is currently working with Canterbury Christ Church University College (CCCUC) on a programme to include the B23 framework on their Foundation degree course.

Cluster based liaison meetings to consider a seamless and consistent programme of support to pre schools has been developed, attended by multi agency partners

Early Years as a Profession

8. The Committee recommends that the County make a commitment to removing barriers to accessing training and professional development across Early Years sectors, and investigate all the steps that are necessary to realise this.

8. Unblocking Barriers to Training evaluation completed and recommendations presented to the Training and Quality sub group by Kim Clark (November 2004).

9. The Committee advises that 'cascading' is not an appropriate or adequate means of delivering training to practitioners; if resources will not allow any other model of delivering training, steps must be taken to support the practitioners responsibilities for the 'cascading'.

9. The delivery of training in clusters has proved to be popular and successful. This model of delivery will continue wherever possible, although there will always be the need to target or tailor certain training to specific practitioners e.g., First Aid/ Child Protection/ leadership programmes.

An early education working group has been established. This group coordinated a successful early years conference in September 2005, with Lesley Staggs as the key note speaker. The use of training vouchers is not being taken forward.

10. The Committee recommends that the Partnership and the LEA continue to investigate ways of facilitating the sharing of practice between practitioners of all sectors.

10. The Working Together project, which involved teachers who have completed an MA module has now been drawn to a close. To continue the facilitation of sharing good practice 23 Leading Early Years Teachers (LEYTs) have been appointed.

Schools Advisory Service (SAS) LEYT project co-ordinator in post.

Three cluster based extended courses have been delivered successfully. These were, Writing in the Air, Literacy and Numeracy Outdoors and Listening and Speaking. Another, Continuing the Learning Journey, which focuses on transition between YR and Yr 1 is planned for Autumn 2005.

Training on the use of Ferre Laever's work on Well Being and Involvement continues to be part of the SAS county INSET programme. Bespoke training is also provided for clusters.

The DFES has accepted that Laever's work be used to support the early years PSA target.

Six conferences have been delivered in the PSA areas of Gravesham, Swale and Dover. Training the trainers programmes provided by SAS took place on 8th and 9th September for Early Years SENCOs and Early Years Advisory Teachers.

Training for pre-school providers has taken place in the second half of the Autumn term 2005 delivered by Early Years Advisory Teachers from the Early Years Unit and Early Years SENCOs

Training for the record continues to be provided by Early Years Advisory Teachers from the Early Years Unit.

11. The Committee recommends that a statistical picture be built up of the numbers and qualifications of staff that will be needed to sustain expansion in the Early Years sector in Kent in coming years.

11. The data required has already been collected by means of an annual workforce survey for the past three years and has been analysed and used to inform both the DfES and the Early Years Development and Childcare Plan (EYDCP) planning strategy.

12. The Committee recommends that the support available to non-maintained providers in non-curriculum matters be reviewed, to ascertain whether it is possible to restore the benefits of a dedicated officer.

12. The post of Retained Functions Co-ordinator was established and appointed to in September 2005. (The postholder is currently on Maternity Leave until April 2006).

13. The Committee asks that the County review the pay and conditions of the team of Early Years Advisory Teachers, with the aim in mind of securing the best possible curriculum support for non-maintained providers.

13. The post of Early Years Advisory Teacher (EYAT) was reassessed in summer 2004 but the grade was unchanged. In recognition of the particular market conditions in recruiting and retaining EYATs, as advised by personnel, an annually reviewable Market Premia was added to the salary for this post.

The Early Years Curriculum

14. The Committee recommends that training currently offered for practitioners in all sectors should be evaluated, bearing in mind the need to develop the skills necessary to 'embed' learning and to use 'play' as a constructive tool for learning.

14. Training is now evaluated centrally. A generic evaluation form has been recommended and a final decision on its format is expected shortly.

A framework for tendering for training providers has been established and is expected to be implemented in April 2006.

15. The Committee welcomes and supports the ongoing work of the Kent Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership to produce 'good practice guides' for use in all Early Years settings alongside the Foundation Stage guidance.

15. Effective Practice guidelines have been completed. The initial document has been aligned to the 5 outcomes from Every Child Matters.

A collaborative working document between CCCUC and the EYDCP, outlining effective practice in Kent, was completed in Spring 05. A decision was taken to align it to the most recent Government legislation, the five outcomes of Every Child Matters. This work was carried out in the Summer and Autumn terms, and an updated version is currently in its final stages of edit. The publication date for this document is March 06.

16. The Committee recommends that the County's Literacy and Numeracy consultants should be involved in the planning and delivery of Foundation Stage training and materials for practitioners in all sectors, in order to resolve any impression of inconsistency between the Foundation Stage and the Literacy and Numeracy Strategies, and improve practitioners' understanding of how literacy and numeracy should be incorporated into the Early Years.

16. Literacy and numeracy consultants have received up-dates on Foundation Stage.

Shared training for numeracy undertaken in cross county course during 2002.

To address this recommendation Literacy and numeracy teams have been working in partnership on many early years training initiatives over the past three years, – currently initiatives are, Continuing the Learning Journey and Foundations Stage ISP. Consistency of messages secured.

17. The Committee endorses the LEA's efforts to emphasise that the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage is the core curriculum document for all Early Years settings, including primary schools.

17. Recommendation in place. The Curriculum Guidance continues to be used as a base for all planning and training course content.

18. The Committee recommends that the child development content of Early Years training available in Kent be reviewed and, where necessary, additional training developed.

18. Recommendation taken forward. Child Development training courses have been included in the tendering framework.

19. The Committee recommends that further ways to support the development of oral language skills in all Early Years settings be explored.

19. "Writing in the Air" – this was action research carried out by teachers, with support from Schools Advisory Service and early years tutor Christ Church University. The research focussed on boys' writing/early writing in general by ensuring that oral compositional skills were developed to each child's full potential.

The resulting publication was sent to all schools and pre-schools. Training has been offered to all clusters on the project.

Speaking Listening and Learning", a cluster INSET training package was also delivered last year with the aim of improving oral language development. There are plans to deliver further training on "Communicating Matters" as a cluster based project in collaboration with Speech and Language therapists and other staff from Education and Libraries.

20. The Committee recommends that, alongside the Early Learning Goals, the County develop a definition of 'school-readiness' that is based on behaviours and attitudes rather than acquisition of formal skills. This could be used to focus the aims of Early Years provision.

20. No specific progress to date.

21. The Committee does not wish Foundation Stage learning in any setting in Kent to be adversely affected by pressure to achieve results in certain skills in Key Stage 1 Standard Assessments Tests.

21. Training for teachers in observing and documenting children's learning against the curriculum guidance for Foundation Stage has been provided.

Programme also in place for training Teaching Assistants on observing and documenting children's learning.

Training for teachers in the use of the Foundation Stage Profile for both formative and summative assessment has been offered to all schools.

Moderation (LEA statutory duty) has been carried out by SAS

Development and trailing of work with schools which tracks progression for individual children throughout the year has been carried out.

Work on tracking progression in writing and reading is included in all projects and training as appropriate.

Transition

22. The Committee recommends that the County undertake an assessment of the effects of single-term entry policies, and investigate the practical implications and potential benefits or pitfalls of greater flexibility in admissions.

22. The school admissions code of practice came into force on 31 Jan 03. It says that where places are offered to children who are not of statutory school age that they should offer the parent the option of deferring admission until the child reaches statutory school age. This clearly gives parents flexibility in deciding when their child starts school. The decision on a single point of entry is not one that the LEA can impose on a school, it is for the Head and Governors to decide.

23. The Committee recommends that the County explore the possibility of allowing schools who wish to extend a less formal, experiential learning

approach into Key Stage 1, and who can demonstrate that they have the necessary expertise, facilities and parental support, to do so on a trial basis.

23. Early Years Team briefed all DAOs and SDAs about schools requests to move Foundation Stage into Key Stage 1 and have provided some insights into possible ways forward with this.

Cross county INSET courses have been provided in all areas of the county to support schools in considering the implications of this way of working and taking it forward. For example, the time issues linked to the development of a more experiential approach, the necessary learning environment, and the teacher's skills in assessing learning via observation.

DFES/ QCA INSET package – Continuing the Learning Journey now published and being delivered (see point 16 above).

24. The Committee welcomes the introduction of the Kent Foundation Stage Record of Transfer, and emphasises the importance of accurate and considered information about every child being passed on and utilised by schools, and the desirability of face-to-face contact between the practitioners concerned.

24. Recommendation in place. Record of Transfer training continues as an ongoing activity. It continues to be received well by both pre schools and schools. Moderation has taken place.

Outdoor Areas

25. The Committee endorses enthusiastically the forthcoming work of the Kent EYDCP in drawing attention to best practice regarding the set-up and use of outdoor areas.

25. The initial project with Learning through landscapes (LTL) has been completed and a book documenting the work is due to be launched in Spring 06. The project has now been extended to one group per cluster. These groups will become cluster 'hubs' and a series of networking activities developed. Focus for the next round of activity will be outdoor art/music/ photography.

26. The Committee expresses a desire to see use of outdoor areas addressed in the Partnership's forthcoming good practice guides.

26. The outcomes of the LTL project will be illustrated in a separate publication,(see above activity) however effective use of outdoor areas will be included in the guidance published in March 2006.

27. The Committee recommends that an audit be undertaken of the existing facilities in maintained settings in Kent to assess the current quality of provision.

27. CSDMs are currently undertaking research with schools and the results of the research will be made available to the EYCU.

28. The Committee recommends that curriculum-appropriate facilities of the highest possible quality be incorporated as a matter of course in the design of new maintained nursery units in Kent.

28. The building specification for new nurseries has been completed and is illustrated with photos. This is available to all schools on the SAS Early Years web site and cluster web. The specification is used by architects, who are contracted to build new nurseries, in the county in order to ensure quality buildings that impact positively on the curriculum. The dimensions in the specification should also be used for reception classes and their attached outdoor areas.

As new nurseries come on stream Heads are provided with an information pack which includes suggested furniture/resources and information to support recruitment of teacher and other staff. Visits to all completed new nurseries are made by Early years team and feedback given to Property Services of any concerns

Parental Involvement

29. The Committee recommends that consideration be given to producing for providers in all sectors in Kent a 'toolbox' of suggested strategies for engaging parents, perhaps as an element of the Partnership's forthcoming good practice guides.

29. As a result of the provision of Government funding through its Excellence in Cities initiative. Work is currently in progress to develop a manual and tool kit to ensure 'whole family engagement in the Children's Centres experience'. This will be complete by March 06.

30. The Committee recommends that consideration be given to a County-wide initiative, or the production of suitable materials in accessible formats, to inform parents of young children about the Foundation Stage and enable them to participate in their children's learning in the home

30. A cluster based pilot project on working with parents is taking place during Autumn and Spring 2005/6 involving pre-schools and schools. The outcomes of the project will be used to disseminate good practice across county. Courses based on outcomes of this pilot are already advertised in SAS training schedule for summer term 2006.

Publication linked to project due to be completed during Spring 2006

1. Having heard all the evidence the Joint Select Committee believes strongly that CTRL Domestic services have the potential to improve the lives of thousands of people in Kent and Medway and should provide the best possible benefit to the people of Kent and Medway. Specifically, the Committee:-

- (i) welcomes the consideration of options for enhancing services through CTRL Domestics including a spur to the North Kent Line at Ebbsfleet and also to Canterbury and Folkestone via Ashford but would also**
- (ii) urge the DfT to run extending CTRL Domestic services on the North Kent Line to Medway and Swale (including the enhancements necessary to increase capacity at Rochester Bridge as referred to in Recommendation 3 below), thereby unlocking the market of areas served by the North Kent Line beyond Gravesend, and would also**
- (iii) urge extension of services on the East Kent Line to Ramsgate via Canterbury.**

1. CTRL DS will start in December 2009 and will serve Canterbury, Folkestone, Medway, Swale and Ramsgate

2. Any option to extend services to Gravesend should include enhanced services to Rochester and Medway failure to do this only would increase congestion on the roads from Medway/Sittingbourne/Faversham to Gravesend/Ebbsfleet/London. The Committee believes further research needs to be done to identify predicted levels of traffic congestion as a consequence of not extending services to Medway and beyond.

2. CTRL Domestic Services will extend to Medway and beyond

3. Increasing train capacity at Rochester and Strood through capital improvements in the form of a new bridge across the Medway and improved track layouts and signalling is fundamental to opening up the potential of the North Kent Line to the East and relieving existing pressures. Further research should be undertaken as a matter of urgency to identify amounts and sources of capital funding necessary for these improvements.

3. KCC and Medway jointly commissioned consultants to press the case for more capacity at the Medway Towns. The proposals were not accepted by Network Rail who considered the costs involved were significantly underestimated by the Councils' consultants

4. We would expect the SRA's investigation of options for CTRL Domestic services to take the benefits of regeneration into account. KCC/Medway's role in the consultation scheduled to take place in 2003 should emphasise the benefits of regeneration in the extension on CTRL Domestic services and also the benefits to the network, passenger and freight services which would result from capital improvements at Rochester Bridge and its approaches. Regeneration

supported by CTRL Domestics could also have a positive impact on demand for services; this should also be recognised in any future cost-benefit analyses.

5. The Department for Transport should also consider regeneration benefits alongside the best value-for-money options identified by the SRA. Regeneration in East Kent and in the Thames Gateway should be considered as a major driver in any decision on CTRL Domestic services.

4 & 5. The regeneration effects of the CTRL were taken into account to justify putting public money into the scheme. The direct regeneration effects of the CTRL DS have not been taken into account.

6. The 'Union Rail' option identified in the Joint Select Committee's terms of reference does not include an analysis of existing and anticipated demand. Further work should be carried out to assess potential demand for CTRL Domestic services.

6. Only very recently has the Train Operating Company, seriously started to assess the potential demand for CTRL DS at individual stations

7. The Committee recognises that people, business and the environment in Kent and Medway have suffered for several years, and will continue to suffer, as a direct result of the work necessary to complete the CTRL and the disruption caused to the rail network. Recognition of this factor should be considered in future service patterns, and agreements. People have accepted the impact of the CTRL project in the expectation that CTRL Domestic Services would be available.

7. Generally there is acceptance that the proposed CTRL DS coverage is good, linking those towns in Recommendation 1:3:1 and also including through to Dover which was not mentioned in these recommendations

8. CTRL domestic services should not be considered in isolation, but the opportunity should be taken to upgrade and enhance the rail network throughout Kent and Medway to complement the introduction of CTRL Domestic services. Further work should be carried out with the Rail Passenger Committee to ensure that service patterns reflect the needs of consumers in the short term and longer term.

8. Existing services have also been considered in the new service patterns from December 2009 but the big 'loser' is Maidstone which will lose its off-peak service to London Bridge. Conversely there will be more trains in the peak period from Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Dartford

9. It is understood that the Department for Transport will publish its recommendations on CTRL Domestic Services in the near future. The Joint Select Committee, the County Council and Medway Council should be advised at the earliest opportunity of the timetable and mechanism for this consultation.

9. Have been published many years ago. Revised timetable from December 2009 will be produced mid December 2007.

10. The number of lorries carrying cross-channel freight traffic through Kent and Medway doubled in the years 1995-2001, and is set to double again in the next 15 years. The Joint Select Committee should now explore the relationship between freight and the necessary rail links to major ports such as Dover, Sheerness, Medway, and Ramsgate.

10. Railfreight to Kent ports has not grown. Linkage to Dover still not restored

11. Where possible, without detriment to existing services and without the need for infrastructure upgrades, there should be domestic use of unused Eurostar pathways from Folkestone to Waterloo via Ashford, the CTRL phase 1 (when completed) and Fawkham Junction.

11. This did not happen. It would have required new Eurostar trains to operate on this route - the only train equipped to travel on the CTRL and existing lines (overhead/third rail power and advanced signalling on the CTRL).

South East England Regional Assembly (S E E R A)

February 2003

Addressing structural imbalance – Impact on East Kent

The Select Committee's report pre dates the Regional Assembly's preparation of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East – the South East Plan. This now has statutory force as a strategic planning document following the 2004 Planning Act and when finalised (in 2008) will replace county level policy currently contained in the Kent and Medway Structure Plan 2006. It incorporates an update and roll forward of the Regional Transport Strategy (2004).

The draft South East Plan aims to address intra –regional economic disparities within the South East region identifying a broad coastal belt as underperforming economically. This includes the sub regions of East Kent and Ashford and Kent Thames Gateway but also the Sussex Coast, South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Since 2003 changes have also been introduced to the mechanisms for assessing regional priorities for transport investment with the Assembly's Regional Transport Board now advising Government on investment priorities to be reflected in regional funding allocations. The latter currently prioritise East Kent Access and, for the longer term (post 2016), the Ashford Smart Link Bus Priority Scheme. M20 Junction 10A is now within the national highways programme (Targeted Programme of Improvements).

The East Kent Sub Regional Investment Framework accompanying the draft South East Plan identifies other projects important to regeneration and improved accessibility (particularly at Dover) or to supporting growth at Ashford but their funding has still to be determined.

Assembly Resources and Relationship with GOSE

Since 2003 the Assembly's staffing resources have grown in part supported by central government revenue streams directed at supporting preparation of the RSS.

With the demise of the Government's original intent that the regional assemblies should evolve into directly elected bodies the direct influence of central government (GOSE) in regional strategy remains strong – for example it is Government that ultimately approves the content of the RSS.

In developing the South East Plan the Assembly, with the support of its local authority members and in response to public consultation has sought to assert a distinctive and independent view notably in relation to future levels of housing provision in the region and the need for adequate infrastructure funding to support growth.

Monitoring SEEDA 's responsibilities

Through bespoke select committees the Assembly carries out a scrutiny role in relation to SEEDA undertaking three topic investigations each year. Recent investigations addressing the economic responsibilities of SEEDA have included its

role in promoting urban renaissance (2004) , poverty and inclusion (2005), business support and business links (2006) and responding to the global economic challenge (2007).

Advisory Groups and Co-ordination

The advisory group structure within the Assembly has evolved with recognition of the need for greater cross topic coordination during the formative stages of the RSS prior to its submission in 2006 and to reflect the Assembly's assumption (from GOSE) of responsibility for the Regional Housing Strategy. There is a recognition within the Assembly of the need to improve the involvement of advisory groups at key stages in the policy development process and the closer working relationship that now exists between the Assembly and its member local authorities should assist this in future.

The Assembly and Democracy

The membership and voting structure of the Assembly remains as that in place at the time of the Select Committee's original report. There are 112 members with 74 nominated by member local authorities and 38 nominated by the Assembly's partner organisations in the social, environmental and business sectors.

Economic development and transport responsibilities

The current division of roles between the Assembly and SEERA will be substantially altered by the Government's proposals under the 2006 sub National Review to pursue a single regional strategy under the aegis of the regional development agency and to abolish regional assemblies by 2010. However it is envisaged that this will be accompanied by a stronger emphasis on partnership working at a sub regional level and a clearer role for local authorities in economic and regeneration strategy.

Domiciliary Care

March 2003

Strategy/Policy

KASS has continued to forge links with the Health Service to develop Intermediate Care Schemes.

Operations

Systems are in place to monitor care services and that service users receive the total amount of care time allocated to them through a joint approach from care management and contracts.

The uptake of Direct Payments has greatly improved and KASS staff are required to offer a direct payment to all service users who would be eligible.

Support for older people using Direct Payments has been improved with the development and expansion of the Support Team.

KASS continues to provide support for these with moderate levels of need and this ensure that essential preventative work can be effectively undertaken.

External Policy

KASS has consistently lobbied Central Government to provide adequate funding for Social Care, including domiciliary care.

Communication/PR

KASS has developed Integrated Community Equipment Stores in 3 areas across the county. KASS now has met its targets to deliver 85% of all equipment and minor adaptation within seven working days of assessment.

County Duty Service plays an important role in providing information to service users, carers and members of the public.

The complaints leaflet has been redesigned in line with government guidelines.

The work of Area Benefit Officers has been enhanced and supported by the introduction of Specialist Financial Teams who as well as undertaking financial assessment work for the purpose of charging will also be able to identify benefit maximisation opportunities.

The Future of Rail in Kent (Freight)

June 2003

1. Greater emphasis must be placed on the significance of rail freight in national, regional and local strategies

1. There is greater emphasis placed on the significance of rail freight in national, regional and local strategies and overall, domestic rail freight has grown since privatisation. However, rail freight through the Channel Tunnel has declined due to a combination of poor service quality (particularly in mainland Europe), high charges through the Channel Tunnel and severe competition with road haulage across the Channel

2. The SRA must bear the responsibility to build confidence in the future of rail freight. There is a clear case for greater investment in rail infrastructure. The Committee urges the SRA to support the re-introduction of Freight Facilities Grants at the earliest opportunity.

2. SRA abolished. Grants for freight projects on rail and waterways have been reintroduced.

3. The Committee would support a thorough appraisal of the development of the North Kent Thames-side area that considered the potential for road, rail and sea interchanges.

3. Nothing happened.

4. The Committee recognises that Kent should not be the site for a national, inland road/rail interchange facility and efforts should be directed to increasing the efficiency and flow of freight from facilities at Daventry.

4. KCC has supported Howbury Park proposal in Bexley and is resisting proposal in Hollingbourne (KIG)

5. The Committee would welcome the development of a coherent strategy to reconsider the potential of the North Kent Line and other routes through North Kent and Medway. In this context the Committee supports LaFarge's plans to develop interchange facilities at Holborough.

5. KCC supported Lafarge's proposals at Holborough for cement works and rail connection and planning permission was granted. Provision of road infrastructure allowing rail access in site constructed but change in company's policy has meant not developed

6. The Committee does support road/rail/sea interchanges at the major ports in the Kent; however development will need to consider the potential of the existing road infrastructure and contribute to a shift from road to rail, and not cause an overall increase in road use.

6. No proposals have come forward

7. **On the North Kent Line and the East Kent Line, to Dover and Thanet, the Committee would urge the SRA to consider the potential benefits to freight of any upgrades necessary to accommodate CTRL (D) services**
7. Alterations to tunnel to allow CTRL Domestic Services to Dover will have regard to future possibility of freight services
8. **The Select Committee supports moves to develop train-ferry facilities at Dover and welcomes the news that the SRA will carry out enhancements to increase the loading gauge on the tunnels between Dover and Folkestone when demand has been demonstrated.**
8. Train ferry services from Dover have not been developed
9. **The Committee and the business sector would welcome clearer guidance from the SRA on the technical constraints that inhibit the freight movement in the County and greater openness from Union Rail over their plans for the operation of the CTRL.**
- 9 Union Railways attitude on freight on the CTRL still not clear. it is likely that if freight does travel on the CTRL it will have to travel at night and the track access charges will be significantly higher than use of existing network. Economics of the services would have to weigh track higher access costs against more cost-effective loads being carried on the CTRL with higher loading gauge
10. **The Committee urges the SRA to support the enhancement of capacity on the Hoo Branch line, which serves the regionally and nationally significant facilities at Thamesport.**
10. Freight loop scheme on Hoo Branch Line still not constructed
11. **Where track and signalling need to be renewed, this should not be considered on a simple 'like for like' basis, but the opportunity should be taken to explore how enhancements to the infrastructure can support other complementary projects and facilitate wider strategic objectives.**
11. Track and signalling improvements being carried out simultaneously on East Kent upgrade scheme
12. **Debate over Central Railway should not detract from efforts to optimise the potential of the existing network.**
- 12 Central Railway scheme seemingly not being pursued
13. **The potential to develop rail links to East Kent should recognise the potential growth in passenger and freight services at Manston Airport, Ramsgate Harbour and in the future Lydd Airport.**
13. Nothing proposed at present and unlikely to be unless significant growth is more certain.

Drug Use and Misuse

Summer 2003

There has been no formal monitoring of this report since it was published. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will need to build this into their work programme.

There is an inter-relationship between this topic review and the topic review to be published shortly on Alcohol Misuse.

Vocational Pathways

November 2003

On 2 December 2004 the Select Committee was reconvened and received a report updating them on the progress made with the Select Committee recommendations as set out below:-

1. Policy

1.1 The LEA should actively involve a broad range of young people in all stages in the development of a 14-19 Strategy.

Improve student's attitudes, motivation and attendance

- Focus work of the KS3 Behaviour Strategy.
- Work with schools and colleges to develop behaviour and attendance strategies to meet needs of schools and students.

Commission a survey of young people's perceptions and expectations of learning through the 14-19 phase of education.

2. Transition

2.1 The LEA should investigate as soon as possible the use and potential benefit of research into emotional intelligence within Kent schools, noting the current work being done through pilots.

2.2 The LEA in partnership with Connexions must ensure that an improved level of pastoral support and careers guidance based on best practice is provided in the early years of secondary schooling, and throughout the 14-19 period.

2.3 The LEA should take steps to encourage sufficient pastoral care in Year 7 in order to avoid the onset of disaffection in this Year.

Pilot of Emotional Intelligence in Channel and Hugh Christie schools could be extended to other schools if found to be helpful to students and improves learning motivation and achievement.

Improve the advice and guidance to students at the key transition points in the 14-19 phase.

- Provide support and training for young people and staff in using Fast Tomato; a computer-based careers package that illustrates routes to employment, starting with Year 9 students.
- Improve the capacity of all staff in schools to deliver high quality impartial information, support and guidance by designing and implementing a CPD seminar programme, improving 1-1 delivery skills e.g. identifying and addressing barriers to learning and achievement and the effective use of ILPs.

Ensure all learners are well prepared for further study, training or employment at transition points.

- Improved Careers Education and guidance at KS3 & 4 through Adviser support and KS3 strategy.

Improve the levels of learner support to increase awareness of options, retention and achievement.

Develop and extend the work of Pas

3. Increased Flexibility

3.1 The LEA must actively encourage schools to introduce some learner choice in Years 8 and 9 in order to avoid disaffection.

Improve the advice and guidance to students at the key transition points in the 14-19 phase

- Encourage greater use of Fast Tomato, a web based guidance system which links a self-assessment/future planning guidance programme to local and national opportunities databases.
- Provide support and training for young people and staff in using Fast Tomato starting with Year 9 students.
- Support schools in the process of completing an ILP for each learner.
- Raise awareness and appreciation of vocational progression routes, including MAs.
- Improve the capacity of all staff in schools to deliver high quality impartial information, support and guidance by designing and implementing a CPD seminar programme, improving 1-1 delivery skills e.g. identifying and addressing barriers to learning and achievement and the effective use of ILPs.

Ensure students have accurate and accessible information, allowing them to make informed choices on achievable goals at points of transition.

In collaboration with partners, publish an Opportunities document in all 14-19 collaborative areas so that young people from Year 9 onwards have a broad menu of flexible learning pathways to choose from.

3.2 The LEA should encourage the taking of GCSEs when it is appropriate for the learner (earlier or later).

Put in place mechanism to ensure that all institutions recognise previous levels of learning and qualification students have achieved.

Implement Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) so that all records of achievement (including Progress Files) follow the learner to enable progression and avoid repetition.

3.3 The LEA in partnership with the LSC (Learning and Skills Council) should encourage the spread of the Increased Flexibility Programme (IFP) throughout all secondary schools in Kent at Key Stage 4, involving FE colleges and employers.

Establish an inclusive and flexible curriculum matched to the needs of all 14-19 Learners. Strengthen the structure, content and profile of vocational programmes

- Use findings from the Increased Flexibility Programme to inform future curriculum development.

Share curriculum development expertise and resources within and between Clusters/Collaboratives, identifying appropriate mechanisms for sharing information.

- Disseminate IFP findings as a result of LSC evaluation.

Evaluate and disseminate findings from the Increased Flexibility Programme to inform future curriculum development.

Sustain and improve the IFP Programme. **Establish an inclusive and flexible curriculum matched to the needs of all 14-19 Learners. Strengthen the structure, content and profile of vocational programmes**

- Use findings from the Increased Flexibility Programme to inform future curriculum development.

3.4 The 'Strategy for 14-19 years' must ensure that vocational options should be available as a right to learners of all ability ranges and through this age range.

Develop a network of Vocational Skills Centres to delivery training in vocational and key and basic skills. To be delivered between schools, colleges and training providers, linking provision to local regeneration needs.

- Project brief to VSC Project Manager, with clear lines of communication to LEA, LSC, FE and Connexions.

Extend curriculum choice and improve cost effectiveness, in particular for Levels 2 and 3 vocational courses.

- Vocational Skills Centres established from September 2005. Rolling programme of increased provision.

Effectively deliver the KS4 WRL entitlement to develop positive attitudes to life long learning, motivation for progression and employability skills.

- Evaluate Enterprise pathfinder projects and disseminate results to schools and EBPs.

Link the Enterprise Advisers working with schools to the Vocational Skills Centres

Deliver additional Levels 1, 2 & 3 vocational courses, to be rolled out across the Clusters/Collaborative Partnerships to improve and increase choice.

Vocational Skills Centres established from September 2005. Rolling programme of increased provision

3.5 The LEA should play an active role in raising the status of vocational education amongst parents, teachers, employers and learners to achieve parity with academic subjects.

Use the outcomes from the National 14-19 Pathfinder Projects as models for collaboration to broaden and make more relevant the 14-19 curriculum offer.

- Through CPD and Adviser visits.
- Publication of recommended timetabling and curriculum structures on website and publication to schools.

Extend curriculum choice and improve cost effectiveness, in particular for Levels 2 and 3 vocational courses.

Evaluate the work of the Vocational Skills Centres to inform future provision.

3.6 The LEA in partnership with LSC must monitor the profile of learner uptake on vocational courses, and encourage learners to cross gender-based boundaries, in following vocational pathways.

Establish a climate of acceptance of all students. This will include those who have distinctive needs to ensure the student entitlement is realised for all. We will also work towards breaking down traditional gender barriers in some occupational areas.

- AEN adviser support to Collaboratives and individual schools.
- LEO support for Cluster/Collaborative planning for inclusion.

All partners providing pastoral support and careers guidance to actively promote non-traditional career opportunities via mentoring, work tasters and placements.

3.7 The LEA should extend the existing '16-19 learner entitlement' to 14-19 years.

Ensure all learners are well prepared for further study, training or employment at transition points.

LSC and Kent Student Entitlement document adopted by all schools

4. Implications of Flexibility

4.1 The LEA must encourage the broadest possible choice for all ages in the 14-19 group, and positively engage in the LSC's StAR review (Strategic Area Review).

Provide strategic leadership and take responsibility for development and implementation of activities, which support the 14-19 phase.

- Work with the LSC to ensure the outcomes of the STAR reviews to ensure the most effective disposition of providers in terms of cost and quality to meet student and employer needs.

Extend curriculum choice and improve cost effectiveness, in particular for Levels 2 and 3 vocational courses.

- Vocational Skills Centres established from September 2005. Rolling programme of increased provision.
- Negotiate and implement provision based on StARs outcome

Build exemplar case studies in curriculum provision, timetabling etc Disseminate via web sites, CPD events and advisers.

4.2 KCC should encourage the strategic development of new 'skills centres', starting in Ashford and Kent Thameside.

Develop a network of Vocational Skills Centres to delivery training in vocational and key and basic skills. To be delivered between schools, colleges and training providers, linking provision to local regeneration needs.

Vocational Skills Centres established from September 2005. Rolling programme of increased provision
Develop a network of Vocational Skills Centres to delivery training in vocational and key and basic skills. To be delivered between schools, colleges and training providers, linking provision to local regeneration needs.

4.3 The LEA should in the planning of new Secondary Schools give consideration to the provision of vocational facilities on site.

Improve the quality of accommodation and teaching resources where shortcomings are affecting the quality of teaching and learning.

Audit current resources and accommodation, informed by StARs and Building Schools for the Future/ PFI programme/VSC programme.

4.4 The LEA should conduct further research into the funding arrangements of vocational provision at Key Stage 4 in order that the increased cost of vocational training is reflected in future funding allocations.

Provide strategic leadership and take responsibility for development and implementation of activities, which support the 14-19 phase.

- With the LSC, secure resources and target areas most in need of support and build 14-19 provision.

Sustain support and engagement of KCC Members in extending vocational skills pathways/provision.

- Encourage members to lobby Cabinet for prioritisation of resources for Vocational Skills development (14-16).

Develop the Forum's partnership structure to provide for an Executive Group with a number of Sub Groups reporting to it on finance/ data analysis

Appoint a 14-19 Strategy Manager to be responsible for coordinating joint LSC/LEA planning and funding of provision according to learner and skills needs, reporting to the Executive Group.

- 4.5 The LEA should encourage schools to establish a Kent pilot project wherein providers pool all 14-19 budgets.

Develop the Forum's partnership structure to provide for an Executive Group with a number of Sub Groups reporting to it on finance/ data analysis

Appoint a 14-19 Strategy Manager to be responsible for coordinating joint LSC/LEA planning and funding of provision according to learner and skills needs, reporting to the Executive Group.

5. Transition to the Workplace

5.1 The LEA in partnership with Connexions should take a leading in promoting labour market awareness amongst teachers and learners.

Develop capacity, relevance and quality of work-based learning (WBL).

- Map KS4 to modern apprenticeship progression routes.
- Develop progression routes to WBL from 14-16 by increasing the opportunity for extending vocational provision in the Vocational Skills Centres and extending WBL occupational tasters for young people at risk of entering the NEET group.

Effectively deliver the KS4 WRL entitlement to develop positive attitudes to life long learning, motivation for progression and employability skills. Ensure experience of enterprise education for all students

- Disseminate case studies on good practice, through website, Advisers and CPD in collaboration with EBPs.

Evaluate Enterprise pathfinder projects and disseminate results to schools and EBPs.

- Further develop the work of EBPs.

Ensure there are sufficient specialist teachers and tutors to meet the needs of the 14-19 curriculum offered in Kent educational institutions.

- Implementation of the Teacher Recruitment Strategy.
- LDSA/LSC training for vocational GCSEs.
- KCC CPD programme drawing on the expertise of Kent Leadership and Innovation Centre (KLIC).

Improve WRL provision through a focus on training teachers involving exchange programmes with FE tutors and WRL providers.

- 5.2 The LEA should encourage secondary schools to take up new ways of providing work experience, other than the common provision of a one-two week block at the end of Year 10.

Ensure educational provision is informed by the needs of employers and encourage improved participation in and quality of work placements.

- Provide framework for good practice in work experience through Work Experience Quality Standard.
- Disseminate information on employment and skill needs in the local and national labour market.

Liaise with EBPs on provision and organisation of work experience to link more effectively with curriculum and needs of students and employers.

5.3 Targets for work placements (including Modern Apprenticeship).

Develop capacity, relevance and quality of work-based learning (WBL).

- Map KS4 to modern apprenticeship progression routes.
- Exploit the growth potential of MAs amongst employers by undertaking a review of training and advice on MA's to employers.
- Develop progression routes to WBL from 14-16 by increasing the opportunity for extending vocational provision in the Vocational Skills Centres and extending WBL occupational tasters for young people at risk of entering the NEET group.

Carry out evaluation of e2e provision and develop strategy to deliver in schools.

5.4 The LEA and the LSC should conduct an audit of the whole of vocational and work-related Key Stage 4 provision (FE colleges and schools). The LEA should develop a set of targets and indicators for these areas.

Establish an inclusive and flexible curriculum matched to the needs of all 14-19 Learners. Strengthen the structure, content and profile of vocational programmes.

Implement recommendations of the 14-19 Audit of Provision which incorporates: Audit of learners needs, Audit of curriculum, Audit of current and future skill needs, Assessment of the quality of provision.

6. Learner Support and Personal Development

6.1 The LEA should give a high priority to promoting the quality and availability of physical, spiritual and value-based education given in schools for 14-19 year olds.

Ensure that there is high quality physical education, spiritual and value level education across Kent schools.

- Implementation of Kent Sports Strategy and development of physical education in Kent schools, building on good practice.
- Implementation of Study Support Programme for the development o RE and Citizenship across Kent schools, drawing on best practice.
- Implementation of Next 4 Years targets which focus on developing healthy living through support for healthy schools initiative. **Ensure that there is high quality physical education, spiritual and value level education across Kent schools.**
- Implementation of Kent Sports Strategy and development of physical education in Kent schools, building on good practice.
- Implementation of Study Support Programme for the development o RE and Citizenship across Kent schools, drawing on best practice.

Implementation of Next 4 Years targets which focus on developing healthy living through support for healthy schools initiative.

- 6.2 The LEA should encourage Connexions to produce area-based information on education and employment options and offer independent advice to learners to assist them with their post-16 choices.**

Ensure students have accurate and accessible information, allowing them to make informed choices on achievable goals at points of transition.

- Support development of comprehensive publications in language and formats accessible to all students on post-16 opportunities to inform young people of the full range of education and WBL opportunities across all post-16 providers in local areas.

- 6.3 The LEA should promote the wider benefits of teachers undertaking secondments or placements in the workplace and vice-versa for employers.**

Promote the uptake of secondment and placement by teachers in workplace as part of Kent's CPD programme

- 6.4 The LEA should in partnership with schools explore the success of alternative forms of aptitude testing as a tool in raising attainment and helping students decide their progression routes.**

Provide teachers with support and training in the use of aptitude tests and careers guidance tests.

7. Collaboration or Competition?

7.1 The LEA, alongside the LSC, must promote the joint planning of 14-19 provision with clusters/areas, including FE colleges

Implement the Cluster and Collaboratives 14-19 plans for significantly more accessible provision from all stakeholders, especially in terms of balance of individual and shared 14-19 specialism and curriculum pathways.

- Implement recommendations of StARs
- Implementation of the LEAs Strategic Vision for Secondary Schools.
Require schools to collaborate in order to access VS Centres provision

- 7.2 The LEA should have a named officer co-ordinating collaborative activities between the maintained and independent sectors at cluster/area level.**

Officer not yet in place

- 7.3 Improved collaboration with business community.**

Develop capacity, relevance and quality of work-based learning (WBL).

- Map KS4 to modern apprenticeship progression routes.
- Exploit the growth potential of MAs amongst employers by undertaking a review of training and advice on MAs to employers.

- Develop progression routes to WBL from 14-16 by increasing the opportunity for extending vocational provision in the Vocational Skills Centres and extending WBL occupational tasters for young people at risk of entering the NEET group.

Carry out evaluation of e2e provision and develop strategy to deliver in schools.

8. Progression Routes

- 8.1 The LEA should monitor attainment and progress of 14-19 year olds as a whole, in addition to the attainment at the end of Key Stage 4.**

Increase the aspirations of young people and their parents.

- Monitor the outcome of the annual Leaver Destination Survey to match aspirations against outcomes and monitor gaps.
- Link with Aimhigher to provide a broad range of experiences both in and outside the learning environment focusing on:
 - Making sure young people understand the range of opportunities available to them
 - Addressing barriers to access
- Challenge the aspirations of young people and parents by providing information on options available at key transition points, to show parity of esteem between vocational and educational frameworks.
- Enable parents to understand the opportunities and support available in 14-19 progression routes including access to HE, through parents' events and targeted information and literature.

Track all students in the 14-19 phase and use the information to assist planning of AEN provision, including expanding students' access to vocational training to national accreditation.

- All partners (LSC/KCC/Connexions) to work together in newly established data management group to refine student-tracking mechanisms.

8.2 Simplification of qualifications system.

Support the implementation of Tomlinson proposals to bring about simplification of qualifications system

Residential Care

December 2003

Residential Care

Care at Home

KASS has developed a number of schemes for recuperative care both in residential settings and in the person's own home, including specialist services for people with dementia.

KASS in partnership with Home Improvements Agencies and Homesafe Services has provided minor adaptations to older and disabled people to enable them to live safe and independent lives.

Arts and Museums

February 2004

Feedback on the recommendations to the Select Committee on 23 April 2005 - which sets out under each recommendation what will be done and how.

1. That the budget level and source for Arts events be clarified. The level of funding should reflect the aims of the Cultural Strategy

1. Since the Select Committee report there has been a complete review and overhaul of the Arts and Museums Unit. From 1st January 2005, the Museums function has moved to Libraries and Archives in line with national policy and to facilitate funding. Arts staff from within the library service have been re-deployed in new roles within the newly created Arts Development Unit. A new Head of Unit took up post on 21st February 2005. The funding for the new Arts Development Unit is clear, with sufficient funding to fulfil KCC's strategic objectives.

2. The strategy for Arts officers is to be commended and encouraged. Where there are User groups in Libraries they could be extended to embrace Art Galleries and Museums to involve the community further in the programme and to provide feedback on events.

Following consultation, the Arts Officers and Assistants have been re-deployed in new roles within the new Arts Development Unit in order to ensure a co-ordinated strategy for the Arts in Kent. In order to highlight the learning, creativity and community focus of the new Unit, a new Arts and Creativity team has been created incorporating the following new posts: two Community Arts Officers, three Learning and Creativity Officers and three Arts and Creativity Assistants.

3. KCC should continue to deliver Arts programmes. Delivery of Arts programmes should be a priority, taking every opportunity to link with District Councils. The up dating of buildings should be subject to a separate review, preferably looking for funding from external partnership sources.

KCC is continuing to deliver Arts programmes and this is now more co-ordinated following the redeployment of the Arts Officers into new roles within the new Arts Development Unit. The new strategic direction of the Arts Development Unit will ensure enhanced co-ordination with District Councils. £995,000 has been obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the updating of the Sevenoaks museum, gallery and library (the Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope project) and funding is being sought for a new library/gallery museum building in Ramsgate to replace the building that was destroyed by fire in August 2004.

4. KCC should work with partners to seek local solutions to immediate storage problems as outlined in the cultural strategy.

As part of a partnership with Canterbury City Council, SEMLAC and the University of Kent, KCC in the form of the Museum & Heritage Development Manager and John Williams are currently financially supporting a feasibility study into the creation of an Archaeological Resource Centre for Kent. Once this report has been completed it is hoped that an HLF application will subsequently be made to create this store and if

successful this will provide space for the Channel Tunnel excavations as well as archaeological collections from small independent museums with cramped stores. A further development is that KCC has agreed to progress the development of a Kent History Centre to accommodate Kent's archival collections. A schedule of accommodation and costs has been produced and a bid for central government PFI credits submitted for a facility that will incorporate library and adult education provision; enhancing storage along with access, education and information.

5. KCC Arts and Museums to lobby SEMLAC, South East Arts Council, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and all relevant government funding agencies to set aside funds for a national strategy and implementation plan to solve the problem of museum storage.

No action on this due to the fact that at present the government is reviewing the MLA and it is likely that SEMLAC and the other Single Regional Agencies may be replaced by regional MLA offices, following the format used by the Arts Council in England.

6. To assess the Best value of Arts and Museums it is recommended that after the Transforming Kent Libraries project is complete a Best value review should be undertaken.

A comprehensive review of the Arts and Museums Unit has been completed

7. An evaluation should take place by KCC officers of the lasting effects of the Creative Partnership Project.

KCC remains in close contact with Creative Partnerships and in July 2004 and received copies of the first independent evaluation of their work. The work of Creative Partnerships is evaluated nationally and KCC has contributed to this evaluation. One of the Arts Development Unit's business plan targets for 2005/06 is to examine and learn from evaluations of Creative Partnership's work.

8. Arts officers to approach Creative Partnerships to offer their venues and facilities to become involved in projects.

The Unit has held several meetings with Creative Partnerships and more formalised training is now under way. The new Arts and Creativity team are working more closely with Creative Partnerships and will continue to complement their work across the rest of Kent. Furthermore, both the new Head of Arts Development and KCC's Assistant Director for Policy and Community Services are on the Creative Partnerships Board.

9. The Arts officers are encouraged to work across Directorates with the community development officers, the Arts and Museum unit and the County Archaeologists to strengthen the links with Education.

The new Head of Arts Development reports directly to the Head of Community Development, who also leads the Community Schools Development team. Furthermore, the Unit is a key player in the formation of Cross-Directorate Community Service Forums, which are now being rolled out across the County.

New posts of Learning and Creativity Officers have been created as a result of the review. These are arts professionals who will work directly with learning providers.

10 Kent has shown admirable initiative in co-ordinating the Kent Connects Network and beginning the project to digitise its archives.

Once SEMLAC's ICT Strategy for the South East, 2004' is published, a representative from Kent should become involved in the implementation of the strategy, forming partnership relationships and seeking external funding where possible.

The ICT policy is part of the three domain-specific strategic programmes governing SEMLAC work. The strategic programme for museums is *Renaissance in the Regions*. Kent is represented in the developments related to the SEMLAC ICT Policy directly through the Museums Development Officer; an employee of SEMLAC based in KCC arts and museums office and paid for by funding from Renaissance in the Regions. As part of this work the Museums Development Officer has visited nearly all the registered museums in the County and completed a database of information about each site. This will serve as the foundation for sector improvement initiatives linked to all SEMLAC policies, including the ICT policy as part of the Renaissance in the Regions strategic programme. Her work involves establishing partnerships between museums in the County and providing information to and seeking external funding for museums in Kent.

11. Kent should seek to provide links to the National Grid for Learning for its museum sites whilst in Kent's care, working in partnership with the KMG and Kent Medway Museums Partnership.

Due to the fact that there was a gap in museum officer provision in KCC until April 2004 the KMMP had lapsed as a functioning body. It is now beginning to establish some idea of the role it should be providing and possible ideas for joint working. In addition, KMG has also had management problems due to the departure of the chair and it is currently reviewing how it can become more active in the museum environment. The Museum & Heritage Development Manager and the MDO are members of the management committee of both organisations and are currently working with both bodies to develop these organisations.

12. Further work to be done to seek external funding for regeneration. The considerable external funding knowledge which exists throughout the County and District Council's should be pooled to avoid duplication

The Arts and Museums have an admirable record of securing external funding (illustrated by their recent achievement of £995,000 HLF for Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope) and also have the support of the Education and Libraries External Funding team.

13. Tourism unit should co-ordinate with Arts and Museums unit and further partnership links should be developed with District Council Tourism Officers.

As part of the Kent Big Read, the Arts Development Unit has established working relations with many of Kent's tourist attractions. A new post of Creative Industries and Marketing Manager has been created as a result of the 2004 review, and the Job Description for this post includes links with tourism and using the arts to boost tourism.

14. Arts and Museums, Arts officers in Libraries, and Adult Education should collaborate closely, especially where they do not share the same facilities.

The Arts Officers have now been re-deployed in new roles within the new Arts Development Unit and are no longer situated within the Libraries service. However several of the new Community Arts Officer and Learning and Creativity Officer posts are still based in libraries. Furthermore, close working with the Libraries Service is written into job descriptions and a Strategic Manager from the Libraries and Archives service was a key member of the Project Team that implemented the review.

15. Art therapy and reminiscence works are valuable tools in involving sections of the community with KCC's museum resources. Arts Officers should co-ordinate across the Directorates and to the Health Authority to offer access to their resources to support this work.

There is expertise in this field within the Arts Development Unit and the Unit plans to explore the possibility of working in this way over the coming year.

16. A database of qualified curators within Kent should be compiled, together with their specialist interests, who would be willing to give formal and informal advice to independent and voluntary museums. This work could be done through the Kent Museum group and/or the Kent Medway Museum Partnership.

The Kent Medway Museum Partnership distributed a questionnaire along the lines of the above in August 2004 and the database is currently being established.

17. Kent Museum Group should be encouraged to explore the options for training courses, especially in marketing, display and conservation, using best practice from throughout the SE region.

As part of the Museum Development Officer work several training events have been arranged for museums in Kent and seven are currently being advertised covering cultural diversity, fundraising, accreditation, forward planning, disability awareness, disaster planning and family learning. The KMG are now looking at their programme for the year and it is hoped that expert speakers will be included in this schedule which will increase training opportunities considerably for all Kent museums.

18. Kent should work to divest itself of the ownership of its museums by initiating talks with District Councils and interested groups.

Due to the staffing changes in libraries the Honorary Curator based at Folkestone has taken early retirement and this post is no longer part of the library service at Folkestone. This has meant that the Hythe Service Level Agreement is currently being reviewed and discussions have taken place with the Town Clerk. It is likely that within six months this service will cease to be provided by KCC.

19. While the long-term strategy should be as recommendation 18 above, KCC should continue to support the development of the Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope project.

The Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope Project is remaining within the Arts Development Unit, following the 2004 review. A further £995,000 was obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the end of 2004 and is currently being project-managed by an external consultant. The Kaleidoscope is on course for its formal opening in 2006.

20. A long-term objective should be as recommendation 18 above, but in the interim, KCC should begin the task of designing integrated museum functions to build on the excellent work done so far at Folkestone Library.

No action has been taken. Due to staff changes in libraries the library member of staff, described as the Heritage officer, employed at Folkestone who effectively ran the museum has left and currently there is no library staff involvement in running the museum. This matter is being reviewed at present.

21. That the Arts and Museum business plan target should be reinstated to complete an outline project plan for the whole building housing Ramsgate Library, Art Gallery and Museum, to co-ordinate with regeneration plans for the area.

The building housing Ramsgate Library and Arts Gallery was destroyed by fire in August 2004. Plans are being put in place for a new building with new facilities that will be accessible to all and also co-ordinate with regeneration plans for the area.

22. A working party to assess the options for Gravesend Museum, co-ordinating with Gravesham Borough Council to rationalise resources.

No action has been taken due to the staffing changes taking place in libraries. It is likely that the Honorary Curator role currently provided by the library will not continue and discussions will need to be arranged to discuss what help KCC could offer Gravesham Borough Council regarding their museum once staffing issues at the library have been settled.

23. Arts and Museums foster and build on their partnerships with District Councils and other district and County Councils outside Kent, accepting that some have greater skills and resources invested in the sector than KCC.

The three new Local Arts Partnerships (involving district councils, KCC and the Arts Council) are now well established. With the appointment of a new Head of Arts Development we anticipate that KCC will build on these established relations with District Councils.

24. A medium term strategy be drafted for Art Galleries, including their future use.

Officers from the Project Implementation Team that led the 2004 review visited a selection of the County Council's art galleries as part of the review. Plans have been started and discussions have taken place with the Libraries and Archives Service about responsibility for the Community Art Spaces and some of the smaller galleries remaining with the Libraries and Archives Service. The aim is for the smaller spaces to be managed as a community resource by the Community Librarians. The larger galleries will showcase local, national and international talent.

The newly appointed Community Arts Co-ordinator is now taking this forward in consultation with staff from both the Arts Development Unit and Libraries and Archives. The review aims to ensure branding, marketing and programming of the highest quality in the main galleries.

25. The value of the Arts programmes has been proved to improve the quality of life for communities and contribute to educational achievement. Options for the Arts Officers working as Library staff should be reviewed, including closer collaboration with other units and organisations.

This recommendation has driven the creation of the Arts and Creativity team whose focus is on learning and creativity in schools, colleges and the wider community. This team will generate a wide range of arts events and projects to enhance learning, creativity and regeneration throughout Kent.

Procurement of Construction Contracts

July 2004

(i) KCC Property Group should be empowered to procure building contracts using frameworks and partnering arrangements.

i) Property Group is empowered to procure building contracts using frameworks and partnering agreements. It does this in collaboration and dialogue with client directorates whose capital projects are managed by Property Group. However, the use of partnering agreements as defined in the report has been minimal, since this is considered to offer less competitive advantage to KCC. The use of frameworks has been more common.

(ii) KCC Property Group should undertake an audit of existing SKILLS in order to establish a team within the Property Group to manage the County Councils building programme in a cost effective manner.

ii) I inherited in August 2005 a dedicated team for managing the County Council's building programme. Therefore I assume an audit of existing skills was undertaken prior to this being established.

(iii) KCC's Property Group should, drawing from other County Councils experience, work with constructors in Kent to establish an appropriate benchmarking system that includes the client, for construction work.

iii) The precise meaning of this recommendation is a little obscure to me, but we do benchmark and monitor the performance of the contractors we use.

(iv) KCC to commit to a systematic two stage framework and partnering approach, given the willingness of the construction industry to adopt this way of working.

iv) KCC has committed itself to the use of frameworks. As explained in answer at i) above, use of the partnering approach as defined by this report has been minimal. It is considered to offer less competitive advantage to KCC than frameworks, and Property Group's experience would question the "willingness of the construction industry to adopt this way of working" in terms of proven value for money to KCC as the client body.

(v) A standing committee to be established and to include:-

- (a) a representative of each political party;**
- (b) Key officers in each of the Directorates**

This group will monitor the Property Group in the execution of its function as and when required, and the oversight of the review, inclusion and

structuring of the approved contractors list, including the financial banding of construction work.

v) No such standing committee has existed so far as I know.

(vi) Members should be given a clear understanding of both the role of the Property Group within KCC and how it executes its function.

vi) I assume this may have been implemented between publication of the report in July 2004 and my taking up post in August 2005.

(vii) Property Group to market their services to internal clients, and where appropriate school boards.

vii) Yes, this is carried out where appropriate.

(Information supplied by Mike Austerberry – Director of Property – November 07)

Sport in Schools

March 2005

Feedback below on recommendations submitted to a reconvened meeting of the Select Committee on 10 January 2006.

1. PE & sports training should be offered to all teachers as part of their initial training and their Continuous Professional Development (CPD).

National CPD implementation plan in place. 100% of evaluations rate CPD opportunities as good or better. Higher Education Institutes have been invited to participate in CPD strategic planning group.

Ongoing dialogue between KCC and Partnership Development Managers (PDMs), facilitated by the six regular meetings between PDMs.

Kent Faculty of Tutors has established 70 trained tutors who are active in supporting delivery, of Primary Link Teacher training and other CPD opportunities.

2. The LEA should offer access to coaching courses for governors, parents and young people as well as teachers.

41 coach education courses offered between April and November 2005. The "Coaching for Teachers" programme is now under the national CPD "umbrella" and available to teachers and adults other than teachers.

Intention to pilot a Sports Leadership project in North West Kent - appointment of a full time Co-ordinator due in December 2005 (start date in January 2006).

3. School clusters and School Sport Partnerships should be co-terminus as soon as possible.

Plans in place for PE, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) news update. Regular network meetings in place and PDMs, Directors of PE & Sport supported regularly.

School Sport Partnerships & Clusters not co-terminus but (PDMs) meet six times a year with partners and an induction programme has been organised for the 7 new PDMs

4. The programme for all schools to be included in school sports partnership should be completed as soon as possible and sooner than currently planned

Action completed - all 13 partnerships now in place generating annual funding of approximately £3 million for county schools.

Two partnerships now fully expanded - (Angley & Hayesbrook). 11 further bids will be with DfES by 27th January 2006, with all partnerships due to be fully expanded by September 2006.

5. The LA and schools should encourage Advanced Skills Teachers (ASTs) to specialise in Sport.

The Schools Advisory Service continues to deploy a team of Advanced Skills Teachers (ASTs) across Kent. Four new primary school ASTs with PE as their main focus and 10 secondary school ASTs with PE and Dance as their main focus.

6. The LA must provide information to schools, through the clusters that clarifies the differing roles of the School Sport Partnerships (SSPs), the Sports Development Unit and the PE Advisory Service, including their responsibility to promote participation in sport.

Clusterweb being used more frequently with weekly bulletins and updates including information on Performance Reward Grant (PRG) funding, Schools Olympics and the Big Lottery Fund. School Sport edition of Sports Voice newsletter distributed to all schools via cluster web to enhance clarity of roles.

7. Clusters should be encouraged to always include sport in schools on their boards agendas.

PDMs encouraged to look at Cluster Plans. Increased collaboration, including cluster training days, occasionally being used to raise PE and school sport agenda

8. Schools within the same cluster should be encouraged to co-ordinate their timetable by year group, so they can compete against each other and co-ordinate the shared use of resources.

Raised at PDM meeting. No resolution reached due to impracticality, however, “soft” and “hard” federations of schools are developing where resources are jointly planned e.g. Cornwallis School, Senacre and Oldborough Manor Schools, (the New Line Learning - South Maidstone Federation) and the PE courses available to young people at post 16 federations such as Hayesbrook and West Kent College.

10. The LA should strongly encourage schools to listen to their pupils’ sporting and activity preferences and widen the choice of activities on offer, particularly at age 14+ to increase participation, competitiveness and to develop fitness.

Meetings in place with PE Associations, PDMs (six annually) and the Directors of PE and Sport. PE conference held in July 05.

11. Head Teachers should consider introducing flexibility in the way PE teachers are employed (later start and finish time or flexi-hours).

British Association of Advisers and Lecturers in Physical Education (BAALPE) guidance on workforce reform has gone to schools via e-bulletin, including input from Kent Leadership and Innovation Centre (KLIC) with reference to Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time, and flexibility of TAs, Adults Other Than Teachers and coaches. BAALPE (British Association of Advisers and Lecturers in Physical Education) Safe Practice in PE guidance document is used and promoted to all schools.

12. As part of the “extended schools” concept, all schools across Kent, including the independent sector, should be encouraged to make a commitment to share facilities and expertise.

Ongoing – Sevenoaks School facilities used for Basketball programme and Kent Disability Youth Games Ongoing – Sevenoaks School facilities used for Basketball programme and Kent Disability Youth Games.

Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Community Schools team in place. 65 schools advised on facility development/ community use with a further 51 on other school sport matters.

PE and School Sport festivals and other local arrangements for using facilities are in place.

13. The collection of baseline activity levels of children's exercise should be continued and extended across the County.

PESSCL Survey results have been analysed for 158 schools so far and indicate that 64% of 5 – 19 year olds are meeting the target of 2 hours high quality PE and school sport per week.

Sport England has launched a national survey to ascertain participation rates. A Kent and Medway Physical Activity Survey is also underway.

14. All schools should be encouraged to include sporting as well as academic talent on their Gifted and Talented register.

Sports Colleges working with National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to establish programme of academies and master-classes. Canterbury High School (Athletics), Hayesbrook (Basketball) including Gifted and Talented summer schools; master-classes are examples of work undertaken.

Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator provided with information on Kent Free Access for National Sports-people Scheme (FANS). 8 sports colleges now running Junior Athlete Education programme. Sports colleges provide Gifted and Talented summer school programmes.

15. KCC should press government to remove the requirement to achieve 25% A* - Cs at GCSE before being allowed to apply for Specialist Sports College status, as this discriminates against Kent's High Schools.

Continue to build links with national agencies such as the YST and DfES so that at the time of application, consideration of bids from Kent schools takes into account the local context.

Angley has been successful in its bid for a second specialism (as a high achieving school) and Hayesbrook are in the process of bidding for their second specialism (vocational) and have also been identified as a high achieving school.

3 Special Schools interested in bidding for Sports College Status. A meeting between YST and special schools is scheduled for January 2006. Angley has been successful in its bid for a second specialism (as a high achieving school) and Hayesbrook are in the process of bidding for their second specialism (vocational) and have also been identified as a high achieving school. 3 Special Schools interested in bidding for Sports College Status. A meeting between YST and special schools is scheduled for January 2006.

16. KCC should show that current national and sport specific structures do not maximise participation and urge government to simplify the system to enable funding to reach grass roots athletes.

KCC submitted comments on the current structure of sport to the national Independent Review of Sport, which has been published and reflects the comments made. Recommendations have yet to be taken forward by central government. September 2005 announcement that all elite work will go to UK Sport & English Institute of Sport with Sport England's primary focus on community sport from April 06.

17. The LA must maximise funding through sponsorship of schools leagues, competitions and sports kit, Private Finance Initiatives, matched funding, funding for small projects etc, in order to increase participation and raise standards.

Continued implementation of Big Lottery Fund programme and out of schools hours activity programme funding.

Supporting schools with "Sports Match", "Awards for All" and "Sports-saver" bids. 7 Awards for All bids school sport have been successful in the last year totalling £26,147, with Sportsaver and Pfizer funding totalling £5,215.

18. The LA should contact County and National Governing Bodies (NGB's) of sport and School Sport Associations to discuss ways of improving relationships and raising coaching standards.

Encourage School Sports Associations and NGBs to work more closely together. A condition of funding for School Sports Associations is that they work closely with NGBs.

Ongoing discussion with KSSC regarding use of this condition as part of School Sport Association (SSA) funding. Governing Body Whole Sport Plans to take account of this. Kent County Football Association (KCFA) and Kent Sports Football Association (KSFA) both sit on Charlton Athletic Steering Group to encourage co-operation.

19. The LA should increase the variety of activities, skill levels, shared facilities and involvement in the community, especially outside school hours and in school holidays by strengthening links with local sports clubs.

Targeted funding to support out of school hours sport on school sites, began in March 2005 and has benefited 72 organisations via a grants programme with 18 more selected for the next round of funding, bringing the total funds allocated to approximately £45,000 across the schemes. £45,000 has been provided to 9 primary schools as playground development grants and £39,000 has been allocated to the 13 SSPs to enhance their Out of School Hours Learning (OSHL) programmes. Kent School Sports Council has also received funding to support its 22 School Sport Associations.

Clubmark accreditation programme being rolled out county-wide. 87 Clubs attended Club Development forums since April 2005.

Community Sports Coach scheme (CSC) rolled out with school links as a priority. 27 CSCs appointed in Kent with a further bid for an additional 17 due in November 2005 (all with school links). DfES funding for CSCs is in place for next year via SSPs

20. As school sport partnerships develop, they should work with the Community Development Unit to increase the diversity and extent of community use of both school and clubs' facilities.

General Community Use Agreement is being drafted with legal services.

21. (a) The Sports Development Unit should make every effort to extend participation in sport or coaching activities throughout post school life.

(b) The Health and Education Partnership should be requested to advise on Healthy Eating in schools.

(a) Ongoing, and see KSDU 6 monthly monitoring report for KCC (BKC 76).

(b) Physical Activity (including food & diet) Alliance launched in Kent in October 2005. Healthy Schools Programme has 4 themes including one for Healthy Eating. 138 schools currently have the Healthy Schools Standard with a target of 310 by December 2006. Schools are supported by the partnership across all the 4 themes including Healthy Eating & Physical Activity. Ongoing, and see KSDU 6 monthly monitoring report for KCC (BKC 76).

22. The LA should encourage the development of the National Coaching Certificate and the establishment of coaching as a professional, structured career.

The Community Sports Coach scheme is being rolled out in Kent. January 2006 - 27 appointed, bid for further 17 in November 2005. Coach Development Officer appointed by Sportscoach UK to support professional development of coaches in Kent.

23. The Public Service Agreement targets 2 hours per week of PE and School Sport. In addition, the LA should challenge all schools to arrange for all pupils to participate in sport or physical activity for a further 2 hours a week in or outside the school day.

See above (e.g. PESSCL Survey results (64%), Funding for activities on school sites, Community Sports Coaches, CPD, development of facilities, PDM and Sports Colleges Network.

Transport Policy – 25-30 year time horizon (interim)

APRIL 2005

1. To meet the anticipated challenges of Kent's growing population and economy:

- **It is of paramount importance that planning for a coherent transport network and its effective management must be undertaken now.**
- **Kent's policies can not be taken forward in a vacuum and must take account of policies at all levels.**

1. Requires a Transport Strategy which is adequately funded and as part of a holistic strategy. This is proposed by Managing Director as an element of an overarching Regeneration Strategy

2. The Committee supports the principle of road pricing as a priority as soon as a national system has been agreed, and if supported by evidence of benefit.

2. National system for Road Pricing has not been agreed and Government is trying to encourage local authorities to establish pilots. The County Council supports pricing of lorries entering the country by a Britdisc or Vignette system.

3. The Committee supports measures to improve traffic management where appropriate to achieve free flowing roads.

3. Traffic management in towns will improve with Urban Traffic Management Control. This is currently being developed in Maidstone but will be extended to other towns in the county. On motorways, the Highways Agency will be introducing automatic traffic control with variable speed limits on the M20 around Maidstone.

4. The current method of national funding of transport, especially highways schemes, needs reviewing urgently.

4. In June 2006 in response to Government consultation, KCC formally objected to the Government's proposal to introduce a 10% "Local Contribution" requirement for major schemes; unfortunately, the Government have decided to adopt this requirement.

5. It is recognised that when planning major improvements to transport infrastructure it will be necessary to have a constructive dialogue with neighbouring local authorities.

5. On Lower Thames Crossing, in dialogue with Essex County Council

6. There will be a need to achieve more modal shift away from the private car*

***The Committee identified that if congestion is not to overcome Kent's roads, it is essential to encourage and persuade people to use transport means other than the private car. The move towards using public transport, cycling or walking is called modal shift.**

7. The Committee recognises that more use must be made of public transport that is cheap, safe, reliable, available and accessible, and to achieve that will need high levels of investment by the public and private sector.

8. All modes of public transport must be improved and integrated.

6, 7 and 8 The County Council has improved bus patronage from 43.4m journeys in 2003/04 to 47.1m in 2006/07, exceeding the target of 46.1m. This has been achieved through promoting the award-winning Fastrack system in Kent Thameside and Quality Bus Partnerships in Canterbury and Maidstone with recently introduced frequent, well defined services with high quality buses in Dover, Canterbury and Thanet.

The County Council continues to promote walking and cycling schemes, spending one-fifth of its Integrated Programme on walking improvements including flagship walking routes in Folkestone and Thanet. Urban cycle networks continue to expand, especially in Ashford and Kent Thameside.

9. The Committee supports the extension of high-speed train links across Europe and the United Kingdom, which should be re-examined to maximise the benefits to Kent.

9. High speed rail links are being improved throughout Europe with extension to Strasbourg and Cologne already built and to Amsterdam next year. There is a lobby for high speed rail links to link London with the Midlands and North of England, but funding has not been granted. Overall Kent has gained in access to high speed rail services, but the start of services from Ebbsfleet has meant a cut in services from Ashford

10. Where possible, local domestic services must be integrated with high speed rail lines.

10. There is some integration of domestic and high speed services, but this will diminish as Eurostar services from Ashford are cut as Ashford IPS is well served by domestic rail services. Ebbsfleet is only accessible by rail from the North Kent Line and then requires taking a Fastrack bus from Greenhithe unless a good link with nearby Northfleet Station can be forged. It appears that CTRL Domestic Services from Ashford in the peak period towards London will not stop at Ebbsfleet (due to lack of capacity) meaning that existing Ashford - Brussels passengers will not be able to access early Brussels services from Ebbsfleet unless they drive.

11. Transport links for passengers and freight to Manston Airport must be improved.

11 Road access to Manston Airport is good from the west and will be from the east when the East Kent Access Phase 2 scheme is completed in 2011/12. Rail access to the area will be improved when the CTRL Domestic services start in December 2009, and currently looking at the viability of a parkway station in the proximity of the airport. There is no likelihood of freight to and from Manston being taken by rail as in volume terms there are relatively small and double handling of the freight (without a direct rail link into the airport) would make the operation uneconomic.

12. If in this time period of 25-30 years Lydd airport is up-graded, it is essential that transport links to it are improved.

12. Current planning application contains only limited transport improvements - improvement to road junctions in the local vicinity

13. Foreign heavy goods vehicles must be charged for using UK roads.

13. The County Council supports a Britdisc system. Government currently exploring a vignettes whereby all lorries entering the country would have to pay

14. In order to ensure that more freight moves from road to rail, there must be sufficient investment in infrastructure.

14. There has been no investment in infrastructure to encourage more rail freight in and through Kent

15. Freight distribution systems must be re-examined to eliminate unnecessary travel, which is environmentally unfriendly.

15. The road haulage is highly competitive and seeks to be as efficient as possible with, for instance, trying to eliminating empty running

16. All Kent ports must be better integrated into the road and rail system.

16. Recent improvements to road access to Sheerness (Second Swale Crossing) and road access to Ramsgate planned with East Kent Access Phase 2 proposals. No other schemes for road and rail improvements to ports currently approved.

Regeneration of Coastal Towns
AUGUST 2005

Economic Regeneration - (Chapter Three)

1. KCC Strategic Planning Directorate (SPD) to lead, support and encourage Districts and key stakeholders to develop a long term (for example 30 years) vision or strategy to improve the overall long term prosperity of the coastal towns. (3.9)

1. The R&E Division (formerly R&P) developed a Coastal Action Zone Plan defining a range of existing and potential projects and initiatives and has continued to provide up-dates on this activity to the Committee. With the new Managing Director's proposal to develop a Regeneration Strategy for Kent the issue of a strategy for the Kent Coast will be re-visited.

2. KCC and SPD to continue to lobby for and support the establishment of a new enterprise gateway/hub in East Kent. (3.19)

3. SPD in partnership need to proactively consider the issue of availability of business space and to develop a joint strategy and action plan to target this issue with appropriate stakeholders or partners. (3.21)

2 & 3. The purchase of Manston Business Park in Thanet and the subsequent joint venture being established with Thanet District Council will see this park and nearby Eurokent Park being brought forward in a complimentary way to provide more employment space. Kent Highways has undertaken work at Whitfield Business Park in Dover to help bring forward the availability of that site. In all three cases the East Kent Spatial Development Company, Chaired by the KCC Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Supporting Independence, has engaged with utility companies to support the necessary forward infrastructure development.

4. KCC members and SPD to continue to lobby for and encourage Kent archives and the government agencies needing to move out of London to relocate to the coastal towns. (3.26)

4. Exploratory discussions are now being undertaken with English Partnerships and other partners since the recent acquisition of Connaught Barracks and the adjacent Fort Borgoyne in Dover with a view to utilising part of that site for ARC and associated community benefit.

5. There is a need for both Members and Officers of the Council to lead and raise the profile of EK coastal towns, promoting the positive and the successes, and develop a strategy to raise the profile of EK as part of the regeneration initiatives (3.27)

5. KCC gave evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee report on Coastal Town published earlier this year but, with others, has been disappointed at the Government's initial reaction. Officers are now liaising with other English Coastal areas to explore ways of raising the profile of coastal towns issues and opportunities to ensure an appropriate focus in future.

KCC has been actively engaged with SEEDA and partners as it develops its emerging coastal framework for the region with a view to ensuring the necessary profile for the Kent coastal area.

In the meantime, the East Kent Coast is seeing regular positive press coverage on a number of fronts including:

6. KCC and SPD to consider the development of the entrances and approaches, and to consider the option of holding a national design competition to raise the profile and image of EK coastal towns (3.28)

6. A public realm strategy for Dover town has been developed and resulted in very positive community engagement. The project will shortly see specific improvements at a number of locations in the town including the approaches to Priory Train Station. Other work is progress in Margate linked to the Turner Contemporary and Rendezvous Developments to improve the public realm and linkages between the seafront and old town.

7. KCC SPD, in partnership with Highways, to review signage within Kent with a view to promoting a vision of connectivity and the coastal towns, linking to London, Paris, Brussels etc. (3.30)

7. No specific action to date.

8. KCC and partners need to consider the issues raised in relation to Partnerships (Area, Local and economic/regeneration). (3.44) SPD need to:-

- **highlight the importance of building stronger links between the LSP and the AIF/ASP**
- **support the development of these partnerships to reflect best practice**
- **monitor/challenge the partnerships on outcomes and value added to ensure they are delivery focussed – Filleting, merging or refocusing where necessary.**
- **produce information document detailing the partnerships, their roles and responsibilities, membership etc.**

8. KCC Members and officers have been active at Board level in a number of partnerships in East Kent. The nature of partnerships in the area will now change from April 2008 following SEEDA's review of partnerships this year. East Kent Partnership will not longer exist but the five local authority Leaders are meeting with a view to establishing an East Kent LSP. In terms of the town centre partnership which have also enjoyed SEEDA financial support, the Margate Renewal Partnership will continue with SEEDA holding the Chairmanship and work is ongoing to ensure the continued development of Dover Pride with KCC in the chair.

9. KCC to lobby government to support and in consultation with Districts for the retention of monies arising from the changes to the 2nd home incentives for reinvestment. (3.45)

?

10. KCC should encourage and support the wider use of section 106 in promoting the regeneration of EK coastal towns. (3.46)

10. The Developer Contributions team works extensively across the county in working to ensure that S106 opportunities are maximised for the local long term benefit.

Chapter Four: Regeneration & Tourism.

The key points highlighted in the Tourism phase of the review are listed below and are reflected within recommendation 11 as a whole.

- All towns should seek to involve local partners in developing a vision.
- Tourism should have an independent voice at LSP level.
- Statutory agencies should take a lead role in working with train operating companies to identify priorities.
- The potential for tourism as a vehicle for community development, as well as structural social change, should be explored.
- Opportunities for product development should consider the involvement of local people.
- Statutory agencies and businesses should, at the earliest opportunity, identify a marketing strategy that meets the aspirations, and finds the support, of all partners.
- All parties with a stake in the future of the Dreamland site at Margate should seek to resolve the uncertainty over its future in the best interests of local people.
- Where there are concerns over brown tourist information signs these should first be addressed to Babtie as the responsible agency.
- Whitstable's success in developing a niche market has come at a cost to the local environment in terms of congestion and overcrowding. TSE and the County need to work with the Harbour Board and the Area Members Panel, and District Tourism team to develop strategies to manage the growth of tourism potential and ensure that this potential can be optimised rather than dissipated with the support of nearby towns, in particular Herne Bay.
- Following concerns that privatised tourist information centres (TICs) are promoting accommodation not included within star-rating quality schemes the Committee strongly recommends that the County and KTA establish a dialogue with privatised TICs to ensure that this situation is remedied.
- To maximise the benefit to the County of the Channel Tunnel, districts and KTA will need to work together to develop products that attract visitors from mainland Europe.
- The Committee found some evidence that small businesses and local agencies experienced some difficulty in keeping up to date with developments the range of grants that are available to support projects. The Committee hopes that through the mechanism of the

“Tourism House” any information regarding financial support will be readily available.

11. KCC should seek to explore with key stakeholders/partners the best way to deliver a cohesive approach to tourism in relation to regeneration of the coastal towns and consider the key points highlighted. (4.55)

Chapter Five: Transport and Infrastructure

12. The Select Committee welcomes and supports the proposed development of Kent International Airport. KCC (Officers and Members) should continue to lobby government for investment in the infrastructure to support this growth and consider promoting and encouraging the development of an express bus service to the airport (in partnership) to link with CTRL development. (5.7)

13. The Select Committee endorses and supports the response to the SRA especially improvements to the reliability and punctuality of services and the provision of CTRL domestic services to the Kent coastal towns including Dover, and supports the continued lobbying from KCC SPD to this aim. (5.10)

Chapter Seven:

14. The Committee recognise the significant achievements of the PSA partners (Police, Fire, Social services, Education). KCC to promote success of PSA 1, and highlight the benefits through the reinvestment of reward monies and development of more multi-agency working as part of PSA 2. (7.10)

15. KCC SSD/SPD and Members should lobby government to maintain future funding for Sure Start (and similar schemes) and that future savings to other services are reflected, providing successive funding enabling these schemes to continue and evolve. (7.13)

16. KCC and SPD need to lobby Government and other authorities to tackle issues of placements of looked after Children in coastal towns and promote preventative strategies and share practice with other authorities. (7.18)

11 – 16. An ongoing process for KCC and highlighted in this year's Parliamentary Select Committee Report on Coastal Towns

Chapter Eight Environment

17. KCC SPD to ensure the benefits of the environmental asset (both historic and natural) are promoted in support of regeneration of East Kent and attracting a broader socio & economic group. (8.7)

17. KCC's heritage group continues to work closely with colleagues and partners to ensure that opportunities are maximised. For example, the recent purchase by English Partnerships of Connaught Barracks includes the ancient monument of Fort Borgoyne which presents opportunities for social and economic enrichment. Wetland sites are still being actively pursued and the Natural East Kent project is gaining pace as a mechanism for drawing the many assets in East Kent together to present a more cohesive offer in economic, environmental and access terms.

18. KCC to lobby government for exclusion of VAT to repairs on historic buildings. (8.13)

?

Chapter Nine: Funding

19. KCC in partnership with Districts should actively seek to identify the low – high risk level of SRB schemes, provide a strategic overview and provide appropriate support and identify possible sources of alternative funding where appropriate. (9.12)

SRB now at an end.

(Information supplied by E & R Directorate – Nov 07)

WATER AND WASTE WATER

SEPTEMBER 2005

The Select Committee was reconvened on 31 October 2007 to receive a report on progress made with its recommendations.

1. The Context for Ashford's Growth

2.1 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 1

(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 possible, with the economic and social dimensions of growth. 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. 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."

2.2 Progress on Recommendation 1

(2) The challenge of sustainable development – integrating social, economic and environmental considerations, and giving equal weight to each in the way the Committee recommended – was an important principle in the development of the IWMS and in subsequent policy development for the Ashford Integrated Water Strategy (AIWMS). Since the Select Committee's report, the commitment to sustainable development has been reinforced in the adopted Kent and Medway Structure Plan, and a new water policy statement adopted by Kent County Council in December 2006. The latter signalled a high level recognition by KCC that we need a greater focus on sustainable management of water resources, and set some clear principles against which we can test forthcoming proposals which may affect the water environment. The challenge now is to ensure that these principles are put into practice through, for example, the Ashford Integrated Water Strategy, the Environment Agency's water resources strategy and forthcoming water quality strategy, water company investment plans and the Local Development Frameworks being developed by Kent's district councils.

(3) This challenge should not be underestimated and it will be important to ensure that robust sustainability appraisal (which is a statutory requirement for such plans) is applied to these plans and to specific proposals for water resource development which may come forward in future. At the core of this, as set out in KCC's water policy statement, should be a focus on demand management, as using less water will always be the most sustainable option of first resort. KCC will need to work with EA, water companies and district councils to ensure that such appraisal is indeed robust and reconciles social and economic needs with the need to remain within the limits of what the water environment can sustain.

(4) KCC officers inputting to the IWMS were mindful of the principles set out in the Kent Environment Strategy throughout, and have sought to reflect them in the IWMS. The Kent Environment Strategy is to be reviewed and relaunched in 2008, which provides an opportunity to revisit the question of how to manage Kent's water environment sustainably, to clarify the priorities for achieving this and, crucially, to secure the commitment of a wide range of partners in Kent to making more efficient use of water. This review will be informed by lessons learned from the IWMS and related work, and its conclusions will in turn inform follow up work from the IWMS and other proposals affecting Kent's water environment.

2.3 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 2

(5) ***“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.”***

2.4 Progress on Recommendation 2

(6) The Environment Agency responded positively to this recommendation of the Select Committee and convened an Upper Stour Stakeholder meeting in early 2006. Following that event, discussion with the EA concluded that the event had been useful in widening the awareness of the issues addressed by the IWMS and highlighting the concerns of stakeholders.

(7) As part of the Water Framework Directive the EA is currently establishing a stakeholder communication programme. Kent is covered by two of the River Basin Districts (RBD) that have been established as part of the Water Framework Directive (see www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd). The Thames RBD includes the River Medway surface water catchment and the South East RBD covers a large number of smaller catchments that generally drain south and eastwards. The EA is the competent authority responsible for implementation of the WFD and KCC has been one of the partners in the River Basin Planning process. The EA is managing public engagement through a structured process of consultation that is now underway. This will include catchment-based groups. These will cover cross issue- cross sector work at the local level involving co-delivers. Nine catchment groups are proposed for the South East RBD, including the Stour. The first catchment workshops are planned for January/February 2008. The EA are also establishing issue work groups. For the South East RBD it is proposed that these groups will cover issues including rural diffuse pollution, urban and transport diffuse pollution, point source pollution and flow problems. Issue work groups will commence in November 2007.

(8) In April 2006, water resource planning came under statute (Water Act 2003). This required water companies to place their draft quinquennial plans out to public consultation whilst they are being evaluated by OFWAT. This is expected to take

place in March 2008 for 3 months. The consultation will present their preferred approach to ensure supply of water for the next 25 years. It is expected that the final plans will be approved in April 2009.

(9) KCC has been pro-active in the development of the complementary “Natural East Kent” initiative in the lower reaches of the Stour catchment from Canterbury to the sea. This initiative is currently managed by the East Kent Partnership and involves a range of stakeholders concerned with management of the land and water resources as well as those concerned with nature conservation, tourism and rural regeneration.

2. Ashford’s Aquatic Environment

3.1 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 3

(1) ***“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 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.”***

(2) ***“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. The Environment Agency’s resources should be increased as appropriate to enable this research.”***

(4) ***“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 all key stakeholders in the Stour Catchment should be an overall improvement 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 improvement 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.”

3.2 Progress on Recommendation 3

(5) The extent to which the EA has been able to respond to this recommendation has obviously been constrained by national policies and funding constraints. Although there has been no change to its mandate the EA is now charged with implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the very strong compliance requirements of this Directive will effectively start to drive the EA's position on river water quality in the near future. The WFD makes clear that its objective is the improvement of water quality in the environment up to what has been defined as "good ecological status". Although there are some caveats for "heavily modified water bodies" the principle of "no deterioration" is an absolute requirement of the WFD.

(6) The concerns underlying this Select Committee recommendation have been addressed in a number of ways:

- Water quality at sampling sites in and downstream of Ashford show compliance with River Quality Objectives.
- In summer 2007, the EA, following a DEFRA request, submitted a case to DEFRA that the reach from Bybrook to Wye on the River Stour should change in designated under the Freshwater Fisheries Directive from cyprinid to Salmonid.
- Modelling of pollution loads on the river system using SIMCAT software formed part of the IWMS consultants' work and, since then, has been developed further by the EA and used to calculate indicative consent standards for Southern Water's proposed flows. Following the study and a successful bid for Growth Area funds, the EA commissioned the Ashford River Health Toolkit (ARHT). This integrated wastewater management planning tool, will help determine the effect of the development growth of Ashford on the sewerage and surface water infrastructure of Ashford and ultimately on the chemical, including temperature, and biological quality of the River Stour. This is expected to be fully available by March 2008.

(7) Since 1998 water quality in the Stour has shown improvement in phosphorous concentrations due to phosphorous removal taking place at Bybrook WWTW. But modelling work has recently identified that pressures arising from the growth of Ashford are likely to compromise the river environment unless significant additional investment is committed by 2011. One of the problems is phosphorous concentrations throughout the Upper Stour catchment and, although diffuse agricultural pollution does contribute to the problem, this, through investigations conducted through the Catchment Sensitive Farming Programme, has now been found to have a relatively small contribution. The problem is primarily caused by phosphorous levels in the effluent from wastewater treatment works (WWTWs).

(8) The main incremental phosphorous loading will occur at the Bybrook WWTW, however the phosphorous levels are already elevated upstream of Ashford as a result of discharges from the WWTWs at Lenham, Charing and Sellindge. Securing a long-term improvement of river water quality will require investment in phosphorous stripping at these upstream works and enhanced phosphorous stripping at Bybrook.

(9) The upstream WWTWs serve population centres that fall below the threshold at which the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive would drive this investment. And,

since there are no designated environmental features immediately downstream, there is also no conservation driver for improvements at these works. This means that the required investment of approximately £9m falls outside the scope of normal water industry funding.

(10) At Bybrook WWTW the problem is slightly different. Here established water industry drivers are in place but the level of treatment that is considered to be required by the EA (to meet a mean phosphorous concentration of less than 1mg/l) goes beyond what is regarded as 'Best Available Technology' in the UK and will have high capital and operational costs.

(11) Implementation of the Water Framework Directive requires no deterioration in polluting substances and also the preparation of a Programme of Measures to achieve defined environmental standards for substances, including phosphorus. The draft phosphorus standard for rivers such as the Great Stour is 120 µg/l. The Great Stour currently exceeds this standard significantly. Whilst details of WFD implementation are yet unconfirmed, it is clear that deterioration resulting from growth carries a clear risk of non-compliance with the Directive.

(12) A paper was presented to the Ashford's Future Board on 20th September discussing these issues and suggesting ways forward.

4. Water Resources and the Supply-Demand Balance

4.1 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 4

(1) "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."

4.2 Progress on Recommendation 4

(2) This recommendation highlights an important issue that has been a source of some tension throughout the development of the Ashford Integrated Water Strategy. Disagreements have tended to centre on alternative projections of future household occupancy rates and ultimately Mid Kent Water have continued to rely on their own processes and projections to assess this. MKW use a consultancy company that provides this service to several water companies and they maintain that the consultants gather information from a number of sources including census data and local authorities population estimates using a process that has been approved by OFWAT. MKW commission this work at an early stage of each round of water industry planning and, since the preparation of the Ashford Integrated Water Strategy did not coincide with that timetable, it proved impossible to gain agreement on a future water demand profile.

(3) Since the processes that the water companies go through to develop their water demand profile and the data that this relies on are both subject to the scrutiny of the industry regulator, it appears that the issue is adequately addressed.

(4) In Kent Thameside a similar Water Cycle Strategy is currently being scoped by consultants. KCC is supporting this and it appears that, in this case, it might be possible to synchronise this to some extent with the industries' PR09 planning.

4.3 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 5

(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."

4.4 Progress on Recommendation 5

(6) Since completion of the consultants' work on the IWMS the EA has produced the Ashford Integrated Water Strategy (AIWMS). This was adopted by the Ashford Future's Board in July 2007. This strategy outlines how the organisations responsible for planning and managing water will meet Ashford's growth challenges. The strategy includes policies to meet the vision and aims of the strategy and an action plan to co-ordinate existing activities and projects recommended by the Ashford Integrated Water Study.

(7) The strategy and action plan is monitored by the Waste, Energy and Water (WEW) Working Group for Ashford's Future. The second annual monitoring report was discussed by the WEW working group at its meeting on 6th September 2007.

(8) The AIWMS includes a policy that 'individual water demand should be reduced' (M2). The EA are currently identifying more robust indicators for these policies as part of a review into how policies in the Ashford Integrated Water Strategy are measured and monitored. Mid Kent Water, as a member of both the WEW working group and the KWDMG, could be asked to identify and present data on actual water demand

(9) Two projects were identified by the IWMS to address non-mains water abstraction. These are included in the Ashford Action Plan of the AIWMS as 'potential/recommended projects' since there are currently no identified leads for this work. More importantly, there is currently no mechanism to allow a conclusive assessment of non-mains demand. Following implementation of the Water Act 2003, all abstractions of less than 20m³/day are now exempt from licensing regulation and therefore not quantifiable. Moreover, until the new authorisations part of the Act is implemented it will not be possible to measure the demand for currently exempt purposes (including trickle irrigation and de-watering activities). Sensitivity analysis for the Stour Resource Assessment for the Stour Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy showed that the effect of abstractions of less than 20m³/day was minimal and therefore that the risk of environmental impact from these abstractions was low.

4.5 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 6

(10) ***“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”.***

4.6 Progress on Recommendation 6

(11) Mid Kent Water is leading on a process of water resource investigations that is designed to establish all the feasible options for meeting future water needs including reservoir development, wastewater re-use, desalination and improvement of output from existing sources. Phase 1 has identified 41 feasible options.

(12) Mid Kent will produce their draft water resources plan in April 2008. This will promote actions which will satisfy its water resources supply/demand balance for the period 2010 to 2035. The plan has to be approved by OFWAT (the EA is statutory consultee for OFWAT) before it is endorsed. This is likely to be in April 2009. It should be accepted that this timetable may be delayed due to the proposed merger of Mid Kent and South East Water in January 2008. Early indications are that OFWAT will expect only one plan to be produced and thus the companies will have to spend time adjusting their proposals to accommodate the merge.

(13) Strategic Environmental Assessments will be completed for the water companies' final water resource plans. These will provide assessment of environmental, public health and acceptance issues.

(14) An effluent reuse study, to assess the potential for effluent reuse in Southern Region was commissioned by the EA in August 2006. Findings will be reported in late October 2007 and will be used to influence water resource option appraisal.

4.7 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 7

(15) ***“The Select Committee recommends that investigations should continue as to the most effective 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.”***

4.8 Progress on Recommendation 7

(16) Since 2005 the issue of demand management has been gradually gaining attention and there have been several encouraging developments.

(17) Folkestone & Dover Water Services (FDWS) has been granted Water Scarcity Status and have started to implement their plans for 90% metering by 2015. The company has started with the compulsory metering of the whole town of Lydd (using New Romney as a control). Through the Kent Water Demand Management Group KCC has been in discussion with F&DWS about extending this to include a banded tariff and retrofitting water saving measure in existing homes.

(18) KCC has been working with Mid Kent Water and Hillreed Homes to deliver the "Savings on Tap" project. (www.savingsontap.co.uk). The project includes a seasonal tariff that has been in operation since May 2007. Customer survey and monitoring work in November 2007 will provide a first indication of the impact of this. The project has won several awards for Hillreed Homes.

(19) The EA believe that with appropriate social safeguards, metering is the fairest way to pay for water. Metering needs to be central to water resources strategy and should be vigorously promoted in areas of serious water stress. For this reason, the EA expect all houses in the south east of England to be metered by 2015. In January 2007 the EA produced a report identifying areas of water stress. This report provides water companies and other organisations with a classification of relative levels of water stress and allows them to target water efficiency measures in areas of greatest need and greatest potential benefit. The EA believe metering will influence purchasing decisions and so help develop the market for water efficient goods. The EA are examining the effects of tariffs, demand effects and affordability.

4.9 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 8

(20) ***"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."***

(21) ***"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."***

4.10 Progress on Recommendation 8

(22) The national Waterwise project was established in 2006 with the aim of reducing per capita water consumption by 2010. (See <http://www.waterwise.org.uk>). It is an independent NGO set up by the UK water companies and has been active on the issue of water efficiency rating and accreditation. The KWDMG has been liaising with Waterwise from the outset and the director is an informal advisor during the development of new Kent projects.

(23) A number of trials and pilots are in progress around the country on retrofitting water-saving measures into existing housing stock. These are generally led by the relevant water company and, although the fittings used have generally performed well, the results have shown a rather poor take-up rate by customers. Take-up rates have typically been in the range of 10 to 20% and this is said to be too low to offer any economies of scale for retrofitting operations. Although data from these pilots suggest that savings of between 5 and 20% as possible, concerns have been expressed by some Kent water companies about whether these initiatives will give actual reductions in demand at the water supply mains level and whether any such savings will be sustained over time.

(24) KCC is now leading the development of a pilot project that is being designed to answer these questions. In partnership with MKW, the EA and Ashford Borough Council, suitable areas are currently being identified in Ashford for a 500 home pilot project. The homes will be part of a discrete neighbourhood (called a District Metered Area) that is supplied by a specific water main where MKW have detailed historic monitoring data. The approach would to intensively target the neighbourhood with a package of information, home water audit, advice, voluntary water metering, free retrofit water saving fittings and behavioural change messages and to monitor the impact on overall water demand relative to a neighbouring control area.

(25) The costs of rolling out this project have been included in the Ashford's Future Cost Plan with a view to possibly accessing Strategic Tariff funds for this in future. This could raise the possibility of Ashford's growth becoming water-neutral through a combination of high standards in new buildings and offsetting the remaining additional water demand through investments in the existing local housing stock.

4.11 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 9

(26) ***“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.”***

4.12 Progress on Recommendation 9

(27) The water consumption standards that have been included in the Ashford LDF Core Strategy will be very difficult to meet without the inclusion of rainwater harvesting systems and, even in its draft form, this strategy has started to generate interest in the technology. Nevertheless, the approach that has been adopted by central government, and now by ABC, is to specify a level of performance that buildings should attain rather than to specify particular technology that should be used.

(28) Discussions have been held with the County Showground management about the possibility of establishing a demonstration rainwater harvesting system on the site. This was initially very encouraging but has since run into problems.

4.13 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 10

(29) ***“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.”***

4.14 Progress on Recommendation 10

(30) This recommendation appears to have fallen on fertile ground as there have been a number of encouraging developments since 2005.

(31) Government has consulted twice on the proposed Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH). The first consultation document took a very weak approach, it was heavily criticised by many organisations, including KCC, and was withdrawn. The CSH consultation was later re-launched in a much-strengthened form.

(32) Although the CSH is not mandatory for private sector buildings to achieve any particular CSH level, 61% of respondents to the CSH consultation expressed the view all new homes should have to state their CSH rating. A follow-on consultation is currently underway on the question of making a CSH rating mandatory on all new build¹.

(33) In July 2007 DCLG / DEFRA committed to bringing forward proposals for revising the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 to set new performance standards for key fittings (toilets, urinals, washbasin taps etc).

(34) The EA is currently consulting on a new Water Resources Strategy that appears to give a renewed emphasis on water demand management².

4.15 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 11

(35) ***“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.”***

4.16 Progress on Recommendation 11

(36) No information to report against this recommendation.

¹ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/Makingaratingmandatory>

² <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waterres/981441/137651/?version=1>

4.17 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 12

(37) *“The Select Committee encourages local authorities, DEFRA and the Environment Agency to take forward the following actions:-*

- *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”*

4.18 Progress on Recommendation 12

(38) All abstractions of over 20m³/day, except for exempt purposes (most notably trickle irrigation and de-watering), must be metered as part of their licence conditions. Details of abstracted quantities are submitted to the EA on a regular basis.

(39) KCC started working with East Malling Research and Mid Kent Water to set up a centre of excellence on agricultural and horticultural water use and to develop a pilot project focusing on the soft fruit sector in a priority location for Mid Kent Water. The project was dependent on a bid to the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) programme but this was unfortunately unsuccessful.

(40) The EA are currently sponsoring field trials in water efficiency at Brogdale. This work is ongoing.

4.19 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 13

(41) *“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.”*

(42) “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.”

(43) ***“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).”***

(44) ***“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.”***

(45) ***“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.”***

4.20 Progress on Recommendation 13

(46) KCC is taking a proactive stance in addressing water demand management. However, given our dependence on water industry funding, the piloting and roll-out of projects is constrained by the pace of change within the industry and, ultimately, by OFWAT's view of best value for customers.

(47) KCC has been active on public education through leading a successful water festival in Ashford on 27th May 2006. This event was supported by a number of partner organisations and attracted some 1000 people. However, it is questionable how many of those have changed their behaviour as a result.

(48) Hampshire CC has been running a programme of water festivals for some years now but are unable to demonstrate any impact on per capita consumption. However, during the drought of 2004 to 2006, awareness raising messages in combination with the hosepipe ban was estimated to have resulted in 15% reduction in water demand.

(49) Behavioural change is a complex issue of which public education is part. KCC is currently developing a more focused approach to this as part of the retrofit project for existing homes.

(50) The KWDMG won a national commendation under the “Inspiring Change” category of the 2007 EA National Water Efficiency Awards for its programme of work that included the Savings on Tap project, the water festival and the Kent Design Guide Appendix.

(51) The KWDMG held a Water Efficiency Seminar on 2nd March 2007 to explain the early results from the Savings on Tap project and to raise awareness of amongst housing developers of emerging water efficiency standards and the technology that can help them to deliver these. Six companies exhibited their water efficiency technology at the event. One company that specialises in rainwater harvesting systems is known to have expanded into Kent using an established distributor.

(52) KCC has also given presentations at a number of conferences including an international “Global Water Efficiency Strategies” conference in June 2007.

5. Wastewater: Completing the Cycle

5.1 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 14

(1) ***“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.”***

5.2 Progress on Recommendation 14

(2) The EA will influence Defra and OFWAT through its Water Resources Planning Policy Group. The EA have started the process of reviewing their Water Resources Strategy (‘Water Resources for the Future: A Strategy for Southern Region’) and in July 2007 initiated consultation to establish what the new strategy should include ([http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEHO0707BMXQ-e-e.pdf?lang= e](http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEHO0707BMXQ-e-e.pdf?lang=e)). Over the next year the EA intends to publish a series of working papers for further consultation. These will look more closely at some of the major water resources issues under a range of scenarios. These modules will provide the analysis and supporting information that will feed into the strategy. The scope and content of the papers will be influenced by the responses received from the consultation exercise, but are likely to include impacts of climate change and impacts of growth areas with reference to the South East.

(3) Between April and September 2008, all external stakeholders will have the opportunity to influence OFWAT through the consultation process of each individual water company water resources plan.

5.3 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 15

(4) ***“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).”***

5.4 Progress on Recommendation 15

(5) Section 2 of the AIWMS Monitoring Report lists the major development schemes that are currently being implemented and provides a helpful assessment of their likely impact on aspects of the water environment including flood risk and environmental water quality. This highlights some concerns regarding drainage issues for the Town Centre developments and the Junction 10 improvements.

(6) The EA work on modelling the river water quality changes that are expected with development is beginning to provide a strong advance warning on potential impacts on the river system and will also help identify what is needed to secure improvements. However, there is currently no mechanism for funding improvements and the only mechanism for preventing damage to the river is for the EA to object to planning applications. It is unlikely that a computer model would be seen as robust evidence of certain damage and there are many precedents that suggest that the only proof that is accepted by the water industry is that damage has already occurred.

(7) Whilst this situation is clearly unsatisfactory, it is perhaps one that should not cause too much alarm as the EU WFD will, over the coming years, begin to exert a powerful influence for the good of the river environment. Concern should probably focus on whether the full development of Ashford will result in pollution loading that that cannot be mitigated sufficiently to both accommodate growth and secure environmental enhancements. The Ashford River Health Toolkit will be modelling this particular scenario as a priority and will be able to indicate the discharge consent standards and runoff controls that will be required.

(8) Although there remains no established mechanism for restricting growth according to anticipated environmental constraints there are other growth centres around the SE region the situation is more critical than at Ashford. The EA report "Planning for Water Quality and Growth in the South East" offers a first step in this but, because of the prioritisation system used, it does not highlight any particular capacity issues for Ashford (see <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/southern/955496/1661262/?version=1&lang=e>).

5.5 2005 Select Committee Recommendation 16

(9) ***"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."***

(10) ***"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."***

5.6 Progress on Recommendation 16

There appears to have been no action against this recommendation.

Gypsy and Traveller Sites

January 2006

The following feedback on progress made with the recommendations was presented to a reconvened meeting of the Select Committee on 29 November 2007.

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 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.

The two required planning advice options were submitted by Kent and Medway planning authorities to SEERA by the due date of 15 October 2007, and will very soon be available on the KCC web site, including the full versions of all four Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments for Kent and Medway. All the authorities agreeing the submission (only Medway Council voted against it) reserved their rights to comment and challenge on any of the options that SEERA consult on. That consultation will take place between 6 May and 29 July next year, and SEERA will decide on the consultation options at a meeting scheduled for 5 March 2008. About twenty-five public meetings may be organised across the South East Region, funded by SEERA and which may be hosted jointly by planning authorities, subject to agreements being reached.

An announcement is expected, before 29 November, on the funding available for the South East Region for the three financial years 2008/11, following the Comprehensive Spending Review. Bidding guidance is expected in December or January.

Recommendations on transit site need were included within the partial review advice submitted. These are very tentative, but based on a mixture of the results of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and the results of nearly four completed years of data on unauthorised encampments across Kent and Medway.

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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.

The Housing Corporation are producing a paper on this subject, which will act as a basis for increased RSL involvement. The South Eastern Director of the Housing Corporation, Fiona Cruickshank, visited the Kent Gypsy and Traveller Unit in August, including some site visits, and also attended the second Kent and Medway stakeholder meeting on the Partial Review of the South East Plan.

The Communities and Local Government Department have now produced revised guidance on Accommodation Assessments. The KCC GTU have developed closer working relationships with Amicus Housing, and are keen to hold an event which involves RSLs operating in Kent, once there are Housing Corporation or CLG new proposals to discuss.

The paper for the Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board will now be prepared once the Housing Corporation have produced theirs.

3. 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.

The results of the GTAAs in Kent showed that the following percentages of various Gypsy and Traveller Groups had been included in the samples surveyed:

Table 5.2: Gypsy/Traveller Characteristics (% of respondents on authorised and unauthorised sites): GTAA Interview Surveys

Gypsy and Traveller Group	North Kent	East Kent*	West Kent	Sevenoaks
Romany Gypsy	71.4	73.5	93.3	42.6
English Traveller	21.3			38.0
Irish Traveller	5.5	11.8	6.7	11.9
New Travellers	None found	None found	None found	N/A
Welsh Travellers	None found	None found	None found	N/A
Scottish Travellers	None found	None found	None found	N/A
Travelling Showpeople	Not included	14.7	Not included	3.1
Other	1.8	None found	None found	4.4

Gypsy and Traveller Group	North Kent	East Kent*	West Kent	Sevenoaks
	100	100	100	100

* unweighted data

4. For KCC to facilitate the sharing of best practice between Kent local authorities, over the needs assessment processes, including addressing future needs.

Since the last meeting, KCC has facilitated the sharing of best practice through the Countywide Member Group considering the various Accommodation Assessments produced to cover the whole of the Kent and Medway area.

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.

The weblink for the CLG draft site design guide is:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/guidancedesignsites>

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.

That offer remains in place, to facilitate the provision of transit sites which operate successfully.

7. For all Kent local authorities, to increase the involvement and responsibility of Gypsy and Traveller residents in site management arrangements.

The issue of site management, and the CLG draft guidance, was discussed at a special GTAB in July 2007, and we now await the final version of the guidance from CLG. There is, as yet, no date set.

Engagement with Gypsy and Traveller residents of managed sites continues to develop, and numbers of them attended each of the Partial Review stakeholder events in August and September, for example.

8. For KCC, in consultation with district authorities, to consider having a residential 'gatekeeper' on transit sites in Kent.

There has been further discussion of transit sites, both at the Countywide Group and over the production of Planning Advice Options for SEERA.

Rough estimates of transit site need in Kent have been produced as part of the advice to SEERA.

It is then an issue for District Council and Medway Council planning and housing authorities to cater for in Local Development Frameworks for their respective areas, and the KCC GTU will work closely with councils, when they wish it, over management

arrangements for transit sites, including the involvement of RSLs as potential partners or site managers, too.

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.

Considered in general terms at earlier Countywide Officer Group (CWG) meetings, including a review of information from other authorities, especially in two-tier authority areas.

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 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.

Ministers at the Department for Work and Pensions are currently considering proposals designed to produce equity in the treatment of all public site providers over Housing Benefit, as well as to take into account the higher cost of managing sites, compared to the Local Reference Rents which is all the rent that many County Councils receive for many of their site licensees. No decisions have yet been made, but implementation is aimed to begin in April 2009.

As result of the decision to extend the Mobile Homes Act 1983 to publicly-run sites specifically for Gypsies and Travellers, there would be restrictions on the raising of rent on public sites in future.

The National Association of Gypsy and Traveller Officers has suggested that there should be a system of rent-setting across England, brought in over a number of years (as happened with housing rents), so that rents could be directly related to the quality of facilities provided.

If a new system is introduced, it could be helpful to KCC in ensuring that a fairer rate of housing benefit is paid towards the maintenance and management costs of sites than is currently the case.

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.

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.

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.

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.

11 – 14. A letter has recently been sent to the Kent Planning Officers Group, on Recommendations 11-14, and their response will be circulated to members of the Select Committee.

Since the last meeting, the KCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit 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 our managed sites as a fly-tipper, including on the access road to the site itself, and prosecution is now expected shortly.

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.

In place. Gypsy and Travellers Unit and Trading Standards liaise closely on Unauthorised Encampments of concern.

16. For KCC, with district authorities, to lobby the government, to ensure that there is stronger multi-agency working to tackle any criminality or tax evasion in transient populations.

A letter has recently been sent to the Communities and Local Government Department, asking what further support they can provide on multi-agency working, and pledging our support for promoting multi-agency working, which is being practised extensively in Kent.

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.

A Countywide Group with nominated representatives from all local authorities and other agencies has been established and has met 4 times.

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.

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.

The Group is the key to future progress with partnership working on the remaining recommendations.

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.

Achieved.

Home to School Transport

March 06

Feedback on the recommendations submitted by officers to a reconvened meeting of the Select Committee on 27 April 2007. The comments made by the Select Committee are set out in bold.

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 14).

Officers Response

Description and explanation of school transport has been enhanced in Admission to Secondary School booklet for 2007. This year the booklet featured a dedicated section spanning four pages that clearly explains transport eligibility.

The Transport team has developed a new transport booklet explaining transport assistance in detail. This booklet has been distributed to Primary schools during April 2007 in time for May applications. 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.

Officers within Admissions & Transport will also be attending 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.

Select Committee's comments:

- **Members welcomed the production of a separate transport booklet explaining transport assistance in detail, copies of which were given to Members of the Select Committee.**

Mrs Dean raised the following issue, which come to light since the Select Committee Review. The Appeals Panel had heard three cases recently where parents had phoned KCC Admissions in relation to casual school vacancies and were told that KCC did not hold this information and were advised to contact the schools direct. Parents had then made their admission choice based on the information given by the school but apparently they were not given any information about entitlement to transport either by the Admissions Team or the school. Also as the casual admissions team did not keep a record of these phone calls, neither side could prove whether advice in relation to transport had been given. Mrs Dean suggested that when parents contacted the Admissions Team in relation to a casual admission, they should automatically be sent a copy of the transport booklet explaining transport assistance. Dr Craig agreed to look at this issue in more detail.

2. To consider the provision of online systems that supply school admission and transport information and that enable electronic applications and payments (Page 14).

Officers Response

On-line admissions became available to the public from September 2006 for applications for Secondary school places. The on-line Primary applications also went live in December 2006 both of these receiving an impressive uptake far exceeding government targets. In year one, Local Authorities were expected to achieve between 5 - 10% of applications on-line. KCC had an uptake of 17.8% of the secondary cohort and 18.9% of the primary cohort on-line. This was a significant success that resulted in several days inputting being saved. Effectively on-line resulted in the reduction of over 5300 CAF forms being manually inputted by agency personnel.

The system while operating effectively did encounter a number of problems on 1 March when parents tried to log onto the KCC website for their results. Many parents experienced difficulties in getting through as a result of the sheer volume of demand. The system had been tested to cope with up to 1000 hits every 20 seconds but 9 am on 1 March the servers were unable to cope with the demand and whilst not crashing, it did stall and slow down. This problem was compounded by local radio stations advising all parents they could log on and view their result when in fact this was restricted to people who had applied on-line.

As part of the initial on-line projects, consideration was also given to Transport applications being available online. eGov targets prioritised online Admissions ahead of Transport and it became apparent Admissions would take up all the allocated resources for delivering an online scheme. There are also significant changes in transport legislation relating to home to school transport provision and with central government still to finalise the legislation officers consider developing an on-line transport system with so much uncertainty about the extent of provision would not be prudent at the present time.

Select Committee's comment:

Mr Bagshaw explained that in relation to on-line applications for transport assistance, there were changes due in the legislation and the guidelines had not been yet be published. Officers were therefore awaiting the publication of the guidance before progressing to a system of on-line applications for transport assistance.

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 17).

Officers Response

Denominational transport has been granted on a discretionary basis by KCC for many years. The new Admissions Code of Practice that came into effect on

28 February 2007 now requires local Authorities to ensure that transport is provided to the nearest school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief, where this is between 2 to 15 miles for low income families. Transport to denominational schools is generally no more expensive on an individual journey than to any other Kent school. The criteria are the same but also include a confirmation on the form from a priest/vicar that the child is a regular and practising member of a church of the same denomination as the school. For some pupils the church school can be their nearest school and therefore transport would be granted without the confirmation from the Church. Ceasing of transport for faith reasons has been offered within the MTP on a regular basis but has been dropped on each occasion for political reasons. The new code will mean that any such removal of denominational transport could only be for pupils who are not regarded as from low income.

Any extension of the existing policy will require funding. Central government has pledged up to £45 million to local authorities to assist in the implementation of legislative changes to transport provision for those children from low income families. It has not yet been decided how this is to be distributed but however it is unlikely that the allocation for Kent will completed meet the associated costs.

Select Committee's comment:

Dr Craig reassured Members that there was a continuing dialogue at various levels with the Diocesan organisations and the issue of school transport came up regularly. This dialogue was mainly between the Church of England and Roman Catholic school representatives, rather than Methodist and Baptist groups. It was acknowledged that if the 'Towards 2010' pilot (recommendation 20) was successful and rolled out across the County, then there would not be any issues regarding travel assistance to denominational secondary schools. However members were disappointed to hear that no specific discussions had been held with the Diocesan authorities to consider the Select Committee's recommendation, and asked that this be done.

4. That in the interests of consistency consideration be given to free home to school transport for pupils specifically selected by aptitude to attend specialist schools (Page 17).

Officers Response

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 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. 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.

It would require a change in the Transport Policy if children are to be guaranteed transport assistance to a specialist school if this is not the nearest appropriate school. Changes in the new Admissions Code of Practice will require that children from low income families must be given the option of transport to any one of three

nearest appropriate schools and will therefore have this advantage from September 2008.

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.

Select Committee Members were aware of the current situation but thought it iniquitous and thought free school transport should be considered. They had expected officers to report on the implications of such a decision including extra costs and were disappointed that this had not occurred. However in the light of the Freedom Pass pilot this could now await the results of that trial.

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 17).

Officers Response

Policy states that the Council does not take into account a parent's preference for a single-sex, mixed, specialist or particular type of school. In effecting this change there is the likelihood of considerable increased costs due to the distance children would travel if these schools are further away than the nearest appropriate school. There are currently 14 single sex grammar schools for boys, 14 for girls, 4 single sex high schools for boys and 4 for girls.

A change in the policy would also need to consider why parents wanting to send their child to mixed sex school should be treated any less favourably than parents wishing to send their child to a single sex school, and may involve legal challenge.

Select Committee's comments:

- ***It was noted that if the freedom bus pass was rolled out across the County, it would resolve this issue or if not it could be reviewed further.***

6. To ensure additional legal support is available to Members when they exercise their discretion at the Regulation Committee Case Panel (Page 18).

Officers Response

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.

Clerks need to be made aware that in the event of legal advice being required, they could call upon it immediately.

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 19).

Officers Response

When siblings apply for transport all circumstances are taken into consideration. However, whilst Members refer to the LEA 'directing' pupils to schools there are several scenarios that have to be taken into account:

- (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.

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.

Select Committee's comment:

It was noted that if the freedom bus pass was rolled out across the County, it would resolve this issue. However, this issue may still apply in relation to eligibility for assistance with travel to Primary Schools for a younger sibling. This was an issue that might need to be revisited.

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; 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 26).

Officers Response

Kent Highway Services (KHS) have the lead in this area. This is because the current funding from Government to support the development of School Travel Plans is managed within KHS's Sustainable Transport Team. A specialist team of School Travel Advisors have been in post since 2004 and to date, some 330 approved Travel Plans have been produced by schools in Kent. The team has levered in over £2 million of additional capital grants for Kent schools to support sustainable travel initiatives.

Walking buses are viewed as a very useful tool in encouraging walking to school and

have been established at many schools across Kent to support individual school Travel Plans.

KCC enjoys a unique partnership with the Kent and Medway Walking Bus charity and Medway Council in developing and managing walking buses across Kent. KCC/Medway are responsible for the risk assessment and monitoring of routes, as well as providing basic road safety information to volunteers. The charity (affiliated to the KM Newspaper Group), provides support for the walking buses through media coverage, sponsorship and events/prizes to encourage the longevity of the routes.

The partnership has gone from strength to strength in recent years and we have also worked to develop additional walk to school initiatives including the KM Green Footsteps Challenge (walking bug) and Walk on Wednesday (WOW). As a result, there are already over 40 operational walking buses in Kent, one of the highest numbers for any UK Local Authority.

The partnership has also recently supported 130 successful school applications for additional funding from the Department for Transport. This has levered in a further £95,500 of funding to support walk to school initiatives in Kent and the work of the partnership.

Select Committee's comment:

Members were pleased to note the increase in the number of Walking Bus Schemes and the related joint working between officers at County and District.

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 28).

Offices Response

Kent Highway Services continue to support cycling to school by:

- Provision of cycle training to year 6 pupils, as requested by schools. This training is led by the Road Safety team.
- Investing in the improvement and expansion of the cycle network and connecting schools with their neighbouring communities e.g. £160,000 in 2006/07 to implement new links between Christchurch CoE High School and Park Farm in Ashford
- The appointment of a Bike IT officer (utilising new funding as part of the Education and Inspections Act 2006). A match-funding arrangement with the sustainable engineering charity Sustrans has enabled the appointment of a specialist advisor to work with schools and pupils to encourage cycling to school in the Ashford area. Subject to the success of this scheme, there may be opportunities to apply for additional officers to work in other areas in future years.

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 scheme (Page 32).

Officers Response

Kent Highway Services have set up and developed the successful Kentcarshare initiative across Kent (www.kent.gov.uk/carshare). Kentcarshare is a free, simple, secure scheme that enables you to register your car journey on-line and find others to share the costs. The scheme is operated by Liftshare, the UK's largest provider of web-based car-sharing schemes and has over 2000 members.

A sister initiative of Kentcarshare is Kentschoolrun, which enables schools to set up and manage their own car-sharing schemes. This is promoted by School Travel Advisors as part of the development of School Travel Plans. Some 60 free licences were initially allocated to schools but take-up has been quite low due to the need for schools to co-ordinate and manage the scheme on a day to day basis. New legislation relating to seatbelts and car-seats has also caused problems. KHS are currently working to enhance and improve Kentcarshare, including the Kentschoolrun element, with a view to targeting a small number of schools in 07/08 and developing a flagship scheme which others can then emulate.

Other more informal car-sharing arrangements already exist at several other schools in Kent.

Members were advised that there was no monitoring of the number of occasions when use of the scheme results in successful car shares.

11. To maximise the use of the rail network, where available, for school transport purposes. (Page 33)

Officers Response

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.

Select Committee's comment:

It was noted that the rail companies had declined the invitation to join the freedom pass pilot scheme. Members hoped that in future they could be persuaded to join with bus companies to provide an integrated transport scheme for young people.

12. To urge a stricter enforcement of parking regulations in schools' surroundings (Page 34).

Officers Response

This is generally an enforcement matter in the first instance and schools should bring problems to the attention of their local Police Community Schools Officer or community warden. Where inconsiderate parking is causing a safety concern and restrictions do not already exist, the school should contact their Local Education Officer who may then discuss with the relevant Transportation Manager in Kent Highway Services. New restrictions and Traffic Orders will be considered on a case by case basis as resources and funding permit. In some circumstance there may be opportunities for CFE to contribute to the funding of such schemes.

Select Committee's comment:

It was noted that some District Council's allowed up to 5 minutes parking outside schools to pick up and deliver children and the Highways Advisory Board should be requested to review this issue.

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 35).

Officers Response

All school planning applications (with the exception of very minor works) trigger the requirement for the school to develop and submit a Travel Plan which meets national standards. The School Travel Advisors assist all schools in such circumstances as part of the overall target of all schools having travel plans in place by 2010. An approved plan entitles the school to receive a capital grant which may be spent on a wide variety of projects within the school grounds, which support the objectives of their travel plan e.g. cycle storage, footpaths and sheltered waiting areas. Such grants normally amount to about £5,000 for primary schools and £10,000 for secondary schools.

Select Committee's comments:

- ***Members emphasised the importance of travel plans for new schools being produced as part of the planning application process. There should also be discussions and agreement with the Commercial Services Integrated Transport Unit.***
- ***It was noted that meetings were held between the Transport Integration Unit and the Children, Families and Education and Environment and Regeneration Directorate.***

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 37).

Officers Response

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.

Select Committee's comments:

- It was noted that questions raised by small bus operators relating to contracts awarded to Commercial Services had been investigated by PriceWaterhouseCoopers. The accounting principles were found to be sound and there were no issues with three of the four complaints in relation to contract award. However, in the fourth case although the auditors found KCC had received Best Value from the award they held that other operators should have been given opportunity to revisit their bids.***
- Mr Harlock informed Members that he was in discussion with a group of Members from Surrey County Council in relation to assisting with a similar scheme of market moderation in Surrey.***
- In response to a question from a Member, Mr Harlock stated that the current County Council bus fleet consisted of approximately 75 vehicles.***

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 in school buses (Page 39).

Officers Response

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 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).

A rather more difficult consideration would be if this requirement was extended to all commercial bus routes upon which entitled scholars travel.

The cost of providing escorts on all buses could be as much as £2 million per

annum.

Select Committee's comments:

- ***Mr Edwards confirmed that there was an ability to put escorts on buses for a time if there was a problem in a specific area.***

Clarification of the cost of providing escorts on all buses rather than just hired transport.

Members had expected to be provided with the costs of implementing CCTV on all vehicles and were disappointed not to have received this information. In the light of the discussion guidance was sought on the costs of requiring CCTV to be fitted in all new buses used in school transport since retro fitting would appear to be too expensive.

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 41).

Officers Response

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.

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.

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.

Hugh Christie School has embarked on this process and already found that transports costs have increased in the region of £65,000.

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.

Select Committees response :

- ***In relation to the discussions that had been carried out with Hugh Christie School regarding the cost of staggering school hours, Dr Craig pointed out that Hugh Christie School was a case where flexibility was limited and therefore it was hoped that the costs highlighted were a***

worst case scenario. Dr Craig informed the Committee that every school in the county had been asked to look at staggering school hours but there had been limited response to this. This was being prioritised as a 2010 target and officers were doing their best to progress this.

17. To continue to monitor technical developments which may be of use in the provision of school transport to a higher appropriate standard (Page 44).

Officers Response

System currently used is called Routewise, which is managed by Transport Integration. The system not only holds details of children who are eligible for assistance but also those who have been refused. The system has the operators contained within it and TI are able to assess the contracts that they use, who is on them and how many spaces they have in order to allocate children on to the most appropriate mode of transport. Currently it is considered to be the best system available. The system is also used by Special Educational Needs, Social Services and children attending Pupil Referral Units and alternative curriculum centres.

The system is comprehensive but it is not easy to interrogate and the provision of statistical data is not always easy to come by. Representations continue to be made at User Groups regarding further development of the software.

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 45).

Officers Response

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.

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 47).

Officers Response

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.

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 53).

Officers Response

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 provides opportunities for Local Authorities to put themselves forward as Pathfinder authorities with respect to Travel to School.

In response to criticisms of existing policy, conflicts around the walking distance criteria for free school transport and the lack of account of parental preference, DfES is offering opportunities for local authorities to apply for Pathfinder status, to consider the needs of all pupils in their area. Pathfinder authorities will test innovative solutions in their area to promote sustainable travel and encourage less use of the car.

Whilst Pathfinder authorities will have to continue to make arrangements for 'eligible children' (those currently receiving free travel and children from low income families), other measures will be expected to go well beyond this minimum.

Up to 20 Pathfinders are likely to be selected, these can be individual or joint with other LAs and arrangements will have to be introduced in 2009 for a period of 4 years. Each authority can receive up to £200k pump priming money. Also, Government will make up to £12 million per annum available across the pilot schemes to help fund the initiatives. To be a Pathfinder authority, charges must be made (except for children on low incomes or those in receipt of free travel at the start of the scheme). A charge of £1.00 per day may be considered in any scheme and this income must be hypothecated to reinvest in transport services.

Kent has confirmed interest in being considered as a Pathfinder authority, potentially in support of the Kent Freedom Pass project. However the timings for this are not ideal given that a full bid needs to now be developed in time for substantial consultation with stakeholders and other interested parties before a final bid is submitted by 30 November 2007. The schemes are to start in September 2009 when the Kent Freedom Pass is planned to go Countywide, subject to the

success of the current pilot.

The Kent Freedom Pass pilot will begin in June 2007 and will benefit those pupils aged 11-16, resident in Kent and attending schools in Canterbury District, Tunbridge Wells District and Tonbridge Town. An annual pass may be purchased for £50 which will entitle the holder to free unlimited bus travel on all registered bus services operating in Kent. Private contracted bus services are excluded.

Select Committee's comments:

The all party Select Committee would like to express their thanks to the DfES in taking a flexible approach to KCC's potential application for Pathfinder status in respect of sustainable travel to school. The council look forward to continued discussions with DfES following the launch of the Kent Freedom Pass scheme in June 2007 and its initial evaluation. The Committee are hopeful that the pilot scheme will lead to a successful bid and to Kent ultimately being awarded Pathfinder status. This would make a substantial contribution to Kent's ambitions to roll the scheme out county wide from 2009.

Tackling Obesity

April 2007

Feedback on recommendations submitted to Corporate POC on 7 December 2007.

1. All future developments in Kent should be required by planning authorities to make provision for healthy lifestyles – including adequate footpaths and cycle paths, and sports and leisure facilities.

- Discussions opened with Leigh Herington re planning action required and use of Health Impact Assessments in planning process
- KSDU (Kent Sports Development Unit) is negotiating with District Councils to enable cheaper/subsidised access to sports and leisure centres.
- Policy will be part of the Obesity Strategy that will be drafted by end September for adoption by all LA's
- Making walking more accessible for people with disabilities is a priority for the KCC Public Rights of Way team.

2. Food manufacturers should adopt a standard system of food labelling, to enable consumers to make better-informed choices.

- Local discussion with providers to be initiated.

3. All local councils should include in local guides reference to the availability of facilities for breastfeeding.

- Improving rates of breast feeding is a national public health priority and is part of the public health strategy and the Kent Agreement.
- Corporate policy on breast feeding will be considered by the Public Health Board
- East Kent has already put significant investment into increasing rates of breast feeding and it will be developed as part of the Kent-wide obesity strategy.

4. KCC CFE Directorate should continue to promote the Healthy Schools programme and the Extended Schools concept – including Breakfast Clubs and use by the wider community of school sports facilities.

- 300 schools in Kent now have Healthy Schools status and this target is on track to be met.
- Discussion with District Councils about how best to link the Building Schools for the Future programme to the best community use of schools and other facilities is under way including CFE and Communities directorates from KCC

5. All local authorities in Kent should:

- **Support initiatives that encourage young people (including girls) to participate in sport**

- **Consider appointing Sports and Health Managers, to promote active lives for the community.**
- **Do as much as possible to capitalise on the public interest generated by the 2012 London Olympics in order to promote wider participation in sport.**
- **All local authorities in Kent should:**
- **Support initiatives that encourage young people (including girls) to participate in sport**
- **Consider appointing Sports and Health Managers, to promote active lives for the community.**
- **Do as much as possible to capitalise on the public interest generated by the 2012 London Olympics in order to promote wider participation in sport.**
- Kent School Games will take place in Autumn 2007 to May 2008 with more than 600 schools involved in 14 different sports
- Kent has been acknowledged by the LGA as being in the vanguard of preparing for and using the 2012 Olympics to promote activity
- 75% of 5 and 6 year olds are currently taking part in 2 hours of exercise per week in school
- £900,000 has been secured from the Big Lottery Fund to promote exercise and better diets across Kent which will fund a wide range of projects
- Go Cycle Kent has built upon the Tour de France and the Olympics to promote cycling as a family activity
- Sport Specific Development Officers have been employed including for swimming and archery
- 18 Associate Officers have been appointed to develop sports for people with disabilities
- District Councils are now part of the County Sports Partnership (run by KSDU)

6. KCC Sports Development Unit and KPHD and the Kent Physical Activity Alliance must work more closely together to promote physical activity.

The activities related to Recommendation 5 are being carried out in partnership between these units and the collaboration will continue to be developed

7. All PCTs should encourage GPs to prescribe exercise to patients where appropriate. This prescribing should include referral to sports and leisure centres with staff trained to provide specialist services tailored to individuals' clinical needs.

No action specific required but the issue is part of negotiations and discussions in a number of arenas.

8. In order for LSPs to play their part in addressing obesity, and other public-health issues, the government must ensure they are properly funded and

resourced for this purpose. LSPs also need more direction and more structures of accountability.

No specific actions required but tackling obesity is a major priority of the public health strategy for Kent and LSPs will need to play an active part in delivering the necessary interventions. Closer working between the KDPH and the LSP representatives from KCC is being developed.

9. The production by KCCs Public Health Department (PHD) of a detailed obesity strategy for the whole of Kent, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, must take place as soon as possible following the reorganisation of the NHS in Kent and Medway.

The first draft of this strategy will be issued very shortly. The first draft of this strategy will be issued very shortly

10. KCC should seek to set an example of good practice in encouraging and facilitating healthy lifestyles among its workforce.

The innovative work of the E&R Directorate in this regard should be copied by all KCC Directorates.

A business case setting out the benefits for employers of this approach should be developed by KCC and shared with other employers in Kent.

Work is continuing with the KCC Staff Care Manager to develop this and a number of initiatives are being undertaken including fit4health.

11. All sports and leisure centres should seek to remove perceived barriers to using their service (relating to age, gender, ethnicity, disability, etc) so that they can serve all groups in the community.

A workshop involving the District Councils and other leisure providers to highlight and share best practice on this issue is planned by the KDPH

12. The money allocated to PCTs to fulfil the Choosing Health objectives should be ring-fenced by the DH.

KCCs NHS O&SC should receive a breakdown of how this money has been spent each year by PCTs in Kent.

- No further action required but it should be noted that following representations from the KDPH and KCC the full Choosing Health allocation has been committed to public health interventions by both Kent PCTs for the first time. Lobbying of DH may be needed if situation changes.
- A breakdown of the spending of Choosing Health money has been presented to KCC cabinet.
- No further action required but it should be noted that following representations from the KDPH and KCC the full Choosing Health allocation has been committed to public health interventions by both Kent PCTs for the first time. Lobbying of DH may be needed if situation changes.

- A breakdown of the spending of Choosing Health money has been presented to KCC cabinet.

13. KCC's NHS O&SC should initiate a research programme, in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University's Dept. of Sport Science, Tourism and Leisure, to evaluate the effectiveness of brief interventions in primary care in tackling obesity. This should include evaluation of giving patients pedometers, referral to leisure centres and referral to Health Walks.

Discussions with Canterbury Christ Church University have resulted in a proposal for a study of short-term interventions being accepted.

Climate Change




Oct 06


The attached sheet does not attempt to cover all action in response to the recommendations, but provides an overall assessment of progress and an accurate direction of travel, picks up the main highlights achieved so far and the next steps we are working on.



Information supplied by Dr Alison Cambray (alison.cambray@kent.gov.uk) who also maintains a full KCC Climate Change Action Plan programme plan which runs to some 30 pages.





Summary of progress towards each recommendation



(NB: The full programme plan runs to 30 pages – I have pulled out the main key points only here)



Key:	 = Complete / advanced progress	 = Some good progress although more to do	 = Little / no significant progress yet / high risk (therefore high priority next steps)
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Recommendation	Significant highlights	Key next steps / risks / issues	Status
Corporate leadership			
1. An explicit corporate acceptance of climate change and how human activity contributes to it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Council approved first set of actions in response to Select Committee ✓ Chief Executive communicated to all staff and has taken on climate change champion role ✓ Cabinet Working Group on Climate Change established to oversee implementation of actions (Alex King, Keith Ferrin, Roger Gough) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding for project manager, support posts and programme activity not yet secured for 2008/09 onwards. ▪ Further work needed on internal communications ▪ Further work needed to embed climate change mitigation and adaptation throughout staff training, development and performance management processes. ▪ Further work to rollout specific training and guidance to specific target audiences within KCC (e.g. new entrants, Members, procurement officers, planners, facilities managers etc). ▪ Process for 12-month review by Select Committee still to be finalised and delivered. 	
11. Clarify political and managerial leadership and accountability on climate change within KCC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Project manager recruited and in post within Chief Executive's Department, jointly funded from all Directorates ✓ Director-level leads identified to champion action on each of the 3 workstreams ✓ Lead officers identified for each action within each workstream, with regular reports to project manager ✓ Additional governance in place where needed (e.g. working groups reporting into KCC Environment Board) ✓ Activity budget jointly funded from all Directorates secured for 2007/08 ✓ Approach to corporate communications on climate change agreed and in progress (e.g. KNet) ✓ KCC emissions reductions embedded in Corporate Environmental Performance and ISO 14001 delivery (on track) with continued improvements in baseline data ✓ Revised KCC Environment Policy (including carbon emissions) due for Cabinet clearance Dec 2007 ✓ 2008/09 business planning template includes issues for climate change mitigation and adaptation ✓ Revised Cabinet Report template includes implications for climate change (due for issue Nov 2007) ✓ Relevant Towards 2010 targets and indicators now agreed 		

Recommendation	Significant highlights	Key next steps / risks / issues	Status
Mitigation and carbon management			
<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) ✓ Commitment in principle to BREEAM “very good” design standard for new KCC buildings. Formal monitoring of BREAAM uptake under Towards 2010 reporting. ✓ KCC Energy Loan Fund extended (total £1m fund for capital investment in energy / water efficiency and renewables projects within specified payback period) and making significant emissions and budget savings. Additional support officer now in post to manage fund. ✓ Sustainable Estates Taskforce established as formal KCC Environment Board working-group, overseeing benchmarking and prioritisation exercises to support further retrofitting of energy efficiency and water efficiency measures ✓ Focus where biggest potential savings (e.g. currently scoping opportunities in Oakwood Park campus) ✓ Core funding identified for Eco Schools Officer post – working well with schools ✓ Further training of school estate managers ✓ Further training being offered to Private Care Home managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More action needed to stabilise and reduce emissions to meet the targets – although good progress has been made in some areas, overall net carbon emissions from KCC not yet stabilised. ▪ Further work to embed energy efficiency and renewable energy into corporate decision-making (e.g. through revision of KCC Environment Policy) ▪ Further work on sustainable procurement (KCC’s carbon footprint arising from consumption of goods and services; potential to use procurement power to green the supply chain and support/invest in new technologies) ▪ Further work to embed energy efficiency into information technology and office improvement programmes ▪ Sustainable Estates Taskforce helping to shape further training and developing additional policy guidance for those who manage KCC estate. 	
<p>4. Provide support for better sustainable energy advice to Kent’s residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Funding opportunities identified in principle (e.g. Interreg IV, Kent Improvement Partnership) for several parts of this action plan (not just limited to sustainable energy advice) ✓ Secured funding for and begun implementation of Low Carbon Communities pilot project (working through Kent Energy Centre to help four Kent communities become low-carbon, also producing a practical toolkit for other community groups to use) (due completion March 2008) ✓ Energy efficiency promoted on KCC website aligned to new national “Act on CO2” campaign ✓ Held several Big Green Fairs to engage schools about tackling climate change (development of broader schools pack not applicable at present because central Government have done this) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of specific bids in partnership for external funding for all aspects of climate change – in particular Interreg IV in time to meet application deadlines ▪ Further work to support community-wide emissions reductions (aligned to new national performance indicators) including wider public sector buildings, social housing etc. 	

Recommendation	Significant highlights	Key next steps / risks / issues	Status
5. Complete a feasibility study for use of Biomass in KCC Buildings and replace conventional fuels with Bio-Fuels in KCC vehicles where possible.	<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% subject to consideration of costs (increases vehicle service frequency) ✓ Feasibility studies completed for biomass and other renewable energy sources in schools. 1 or 2 suitable for biomass boilers (will be installed summer 2008), up to 20 ongoing solar photovoltaic / wind projects. This will increase proportion of renewable energy used (and uses Energy Loan Fund as per 6 above) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further work to ensure Building Schools for the Future programme considers sustainable energy and biomass solutions ▪ Further work to increase uptake of biomass and/or other appropriate renewable energy solutions 	
7. Review Transport Policy to achieve an overall reduction in emissions from transport in the KCC estate and across Kent as a whole.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Green Transport week 2007 promoted range of available sustainable travel options for KCC (e.g. Kent car share, Streetcar etc) ✓ Cross-cutting Sustainable Travel and Transport working group now established and has commissioned in-depth KCC travel carbon footprint study (due Jan 2008) to improve baseline data, prioritise and take forward a range of further actions. ✓ Switch to low energy traffic signals to be completed by spring 2008; streetlights intended next subject to outcome of pilot testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further work (after footprint study) to incorporate KCC travel emissions into carbon emissions for 2008/09 (action agreed by Cabinet March 2007) ▪ Business need for corporate Sustainable Travel Coordinator role identified – significant progress will be subject to securing funding for this role ▪ Work through Resource Directors and COG to develop revised KCC policies (e.g. on lease cars, user mileage allowances, parking) to incentivise sustainable alternatives where appropriate ▪ Kent-wide action through delivery of Kent Agreement 2 and continuous improvement of Local Transport Plan. 	
Adaptation and resilience			
8. Make more efficient use of land in the development process and meet higher standards of sustainable construction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Scoping report and recommendations published on impacts of climate change on biodiversity ✓ KCC submitted responses to consultations including on PPS on climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No known monitoring as yet of consideration of <i>Adapting to Climate Change checklist</i> criteria ▪ Unclear about extent to which KCC's development control function has made progress on this recommendation as a whole, in collaboration with district councils. 	
2. Detailed assessment of climate change Impacts on KCC services and development of adaptive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ One of a small group of local authorities testing new, innovative UK Climate Impacts Programme method for developing a Local Climate Impacts Profile based on analysis of past weather events. First draft completed Sept 07 ✓ Engaged in development of user interface for UKCIP08 climate change scenarios ✓ Adapted Nottingham Declaration Action Park methodology to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further support for business planning process including running further workshops ▪ Further work with partners to validate, expand and analyse Kent LCLIP to become invaluable tool for decision-making for whole of Kent (aligned to Kent View) – generating high interest across Kent so far. ▪ Work to prepare Kent authorities to make maximum 	

Recommendation	Significant highlights	Key next steps / risks / issues	Status
responses.	help service areas in KCC assess impacts of climate change on service delivery to support 2008/09 business planning process. Holding series of senior management workshops to take them through the process.	use of new threshold-based UKCIP08 climate change scenarios when released in autumn 08.	
3. Ensure climate change impacts on flood risk, water resources and emergency planning are taken into account.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Range of new national and regional guidance published on flood risk and adapting to climate change ✓ Some good work on planning and flood risk with Environment Agency ✓ Further Select Committee on Flood Risk convened summer 2007 (report still to be published but should include useful further recommendations) ✓ New water policy approved Dec 06 ✓ Target to reduce KCC's own water use by 7.5% by 2010 on track ✓ Successful water efficiency demonstration projects for new and existing housing ✓ Kent Resilience Forum has established a Severe Weather subgroup to develop specific plans for high-risk sea-flooding areas in first instance and is making progress (although pace constrained by resources) ✓ Kent's Community Risk Register has been assessed against 2006 guidance for inclusion of climate change risks (based on current understanding – Kent LCLIP work will help inform this further in future) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some good progress but remains high risk area, appears constrained by resources ▪ Spatial planners need to become more engaged in climate change, progress through LDFs unclear ▪ Impacts of climate change on water stress and water security not yet fully understood by KCC decision-makers. In particular need to build position in time for Periodic Review 09 consultation by water companies (Jan 08) ▪ Kent domestic sector still highest water consumption in England ▪ Awaiting response to 2007 Select Committee on Flood Risk for further actions 	
Community leadership			
9 Introduce a Climate Change Action Plan, supported by clear targets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ KCC's own emissions targets adopted and published. ✓ Community-wide reduction targets will now set through national indicator on per capita CO2 reduction. Adaptation target is also set through national indicator. ✓ Ongoing work to secure "low-carbon and climate-change-resilient economy" within next Kent Agreement – this is key framework for Kent-wide climate change action plan ✓ Kent Leaders and Chief Executives and Kent Partnership have now agreed to work together to tackle climate change as a priority. ✓ Climate change officer network established with participation from all district councils, working on a range of actions (due to report on progress in March 07) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Following good practice in developing community-wide climate change action plans, under umbrella of high-level agreement through Kent Partnership, develop mix of cross-cutting activities and sector-specific action plans led by sector champions (revised approach also agreed by Cabinet Working Group on Climate Change). 	

Recommendation	Significant highlights	Key next steps / risks / issues	Status
10. High profile communications programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Engaging with a range of business sector leads to take action forward, range of funding opportunities ✓ Engaged, and continue to engage, with Act on CO2 programme ✓ Opportunities through low carbon communities project (see 4 above) ✓ Proposed engagement with Tomorrow's England campaign (Jan 08) ✓ Kent Partnership agreed need for shared joined-up approach to communicating with citizens and businesses – range of innovative proposals currently under development (linked to possible Kent Improvement Partnership funding) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This communications programme has yet to peak – good opportunities in 2008 aligned to Kent Partnership and Kent Agreement 2 priorities. 	
12. Improve young people's education on climate change impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Public Education Group set up and will develop programmes to influence public behaviour through adult education, libraries, schools, youth service etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eco-Schools Officer approached CFE but no clear way forward yet on specific recommendation. Needs to take account of proposed Government curriculum changes 	

Transitional Arrangements

May 07

1. When the Select Committee's final report and recommendations were considered by Cabinet on 14 May 2007, it was proposed by Mr K G Lynes that an Informal Member Group be convened to undertake a piece of focused work around some of the key issues raised by the Select Committee, reporting initially to Dr T R Robinson and himself, and its findings be included as part of the overall report on the issue to the full County Council in Autumn 2007. This proposal was supported by the Leader and agreed by the Cabinet. Unfortunately, the Group has been delayed in moving ahead with its work due to the illness of the Chairman.
2. In addition to the establishment of the Informal Member Group, officers in the Kent Adult Social Services and Children, Families and Education Directorates have been enthusiastic in welcoming the report. The 2010 Transition Executive Group is well established. It is chaired by the Managing Director of KASS, with Director-level representatives from KASS, CFE, Connexions, NHS, the Learning and Skills Council and the Joint Director Learning Disabilities. A District Council Chief Executive has been invited to join the Group. The recommendations of the Select Committee have been brought together with the Group's work plan. Early outcomes have been a set of protocols which are being piloted before final sign-off, a user survey which will shortly be undertaken by the Tizard Centre at the University of Kent at Canterbury, and a guide for young people and their parents/carers, giving information on services and access.
3. The progress of the Informal Member Group and Executive Group will be reported to future meetings of the Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee.
4. A meeting of the Select Committee to monitor progress with the Select Committee recommendations will be held in May 08.