

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Cabinet – 14 April 2008

Subject: Decisions from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 26 March 2008

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report sets out the decisions from the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and invites a response from Cabinet.

Introduction

1. The Leader has agreed the decisions from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the following meeting of the Cabinet for a response. The responses will be reported back to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.
2. The decisions from the meeting of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee on 26 March 2008 are set out in the Appendix to this paper.

Recommendation

4. That Cabinet agree a responses to these decisions which will be reported back to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.

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Background Information: *Nil*

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 26 March 2008

Title	Purpose of Consideration	Invitees	Decisions
Kent Health Watch	<p>(a) to examine what extra value Kent Health Watch will offer the public over and above the proposed new statutory Local Involvement Network (LINK);</p> <p>(b) to examine in more detail the risk that the existence of Kent Health Watch may cause confusion to the public in an area where the existing processes are already complicated;</p> <p>(c) to obtain details of the proposed cashflow for implementing Kent Health Watch.</p>	<p>Mr G K Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Mr M Lemon, Policy Manager, Kent Department of Public Health</p>	<p>(a) Mr Gibbens and Mr Lemon be thanked for attending the meeting to answer Members questions.</p> <p>(b) Mr Gibbens be asked to submit a monitoring report to the December 2008 meeting of this Committee on Kent Health Watch.</p> <p>(c) Further consideration be given to the appropriateness of using the Contact Centre to receive confidential personal information from Health Watch callers.</p> <p>(d) The importance of there being a KCC exit strategy for Kent Health Watch was emphasised.</p> <p>(e) Consideration should be given to linking Kent Health Watch with other systems such as Gateways</p>

Title	Purpose of Consideration	Invitees	Decisions
<p>A21 and East Kent Access Phase 2 Cost Increases</p>	<p>(a) to question representatives of the Highways Agency about the reasons for the significant increases in the estimated cost of the two A21 schemes; (NB – the Highways agency declined to attend – so it was not possible to pursue this.)</p> <p>(b) to consider how best to pursue speedy implementation of these schemes with all the agencies involved, in order to prevent further delay which will inevitably result in further increased costs and a delay in tackling a major safety issue.</p>	<p>Mr K A Ferrin MBE, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste and Mr G Harrison-Mee, Director – Kent Highway Services</p>	<p>(a) Mr Ferrin and Mr Harrison-Mee be thanked for attending the meeting to answer Members questions.</p> <p>(b) Dr Eddy would write to the Minister on behalf of Committee (the letter to be agreed cross party) requesting that the existing timetables for these schemes be retained.</p> <p>(c) Mr Ferrin be requested to approach the highways agency for a break down of the costs of the scheme.</p> <p>(d) Cabinet members be requested to promote unified support from all Members of Parliament, County Councils, District Councils, Parish Councils along the route of the A21 and the letter in (b) be copied to them.</p>
<p>Modernisation of Queen Elizabeth Resource Centre, Dartford</p>	<p>(a) to establish what consultation, if any, has taken place with service-users;</p> <p>(b) if consultation has taken place, to establish what information service-</p>	<p>Mr K G Lynes, Cabinet Member for Kent Adult Social Services, Mr O Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services Directorate, Ms M Howard, Director of Commissioning and</p>	<p>(a) Mr Lynes, Mr Mills, Mrs Howard, Mrs Holden, Ms Henry, Mrs MallionMr Wright be thanked for attending the meeting to answer Members questions</p> <p>(b) The Managing Director be requested to give further consideration of the need for a base for operations in the area to</p>

Title	Purpose of Consideration	Invitees	Decisions
	users were given and, in particular, whether they were advised of the options for alternative provision.	Provision, West Kent (KASS), Mr C Holden , Project Manager (KASS) and Ms B Henry , Modernisation Manager (KASS) and Mrs S Mallion and Mr P Wright , Service Users of Queen Elizabeth Resource Centre	<p>ensure that no service users were over looked.</p> <p>(c) The Cabinet Member and the Managing Director be advised that the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee would like to be assured that future consultation on changes to service provision should follow a standard format whether KCC is the provider or the commissioner of the service.</p> <p>(A response on behalf of the Managing Director is attached – Page 5.7)</p>
<p>Award of Construction Contract for 24 New Build Children’s Centres (Decision 08/01144) <u>EXEMPT</u> Decision</p>	To examine whether the process for taking decisions on issues relating to Children’s Centres is in need of modification to ensure that sufficient time is built in to allow decisions to be scrutinised before implementation.	<p>Mr M C Dance, Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources and Skills (CFE), Dr I Craig, Director Operations (CFE), Mr G Ward, Director Resources (CFE) and Mr P Binnie (CFE) and Mr P Binnie</p>	<p>(a) Mr Dance, Mr Craig, Mr Ward, and Mr Binnie be thanked for attending the meeting to answer Members questions.</p> <p>(b) In light of the information provided at the meeting in response to questions the Committee agreed that they did not need to make any formal comments to Cabinet.</p>

By: Kevin Lynes – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services

To: Cabinet – 14 April 2008

Subject: Decisions from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee - Item E1– 26 March 2008

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To provide feedback to Cabinet on the decisions taken from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee on 26th March 2008 in relation to Item E1 – Modernisation of Queen Elizabeth Resource Centre, Dartford

1. The Purpose of Consideration for Cabinet Scrutiny Committee on 26th March 2008 was:
 - (a) to establish what consultation, if any, has taken place with service-users;
 - (b) if consultation has taken place, to establish what information service-users were given and, in particular, whether they were advised of the options for alternative provision
2. The decisions made were:
 - (a) Mr Lynes, Mr Mills, Mrs Howard, Mrs Holden, Ms Henry, Mrs MallionMr Wright be thanked for attending the meeting to answer Members questions
 - (b) The Managing Director be requested to give further consideration of the need for a base for operations in the area to ensure that no service users were over looked.
 - (c) The Cabinet Member and the Managing Director be advised that the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee would like to be assured that future consultation on changes to service provision should follow a standard format whether KCC is the provider or the commissioner of the service.
3. Kent Adult Social Services would like to respond as follows:
 - (b) Part of the proposal for the modernisation of services is to have three centres; one in Dartford, one in Gravesend and one in Swanley. These centres will be in community buildings and will provide disabled people an opportunity to meet in an environment which has staff on hand to provide assistance, signpost and co-ordinate.

These will form the 'base for operations' and will be free for Kent residents and ensure that no service users are over looked.
 - (c) KASS acknowledges Cabinet Scrutiny Committee's advice in respect of consultation on future service variations. KASS procures some 85% of its

services from external providers; these services include domiciliary, residential, nursing home and day care, through a range of different contract and agreement models. Increasing numbers of people are commissioning their own services by using Direct Payments. Wherever possible KASS will consult with current service users in the spirit of the consultation procedure for the closure or variation of use of a KCC service. The principles of this procedure were followed for the modernisation of QEF. There will sometimes be circumstances where this is not possible – where, for example, an independent provider decides to change a service for business reasons it will not then be possible to follow a standard format for consultation.