

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Regeneration and Economic Development Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1 April 2011

Subject: **UPDATE ON SELECT COMMITTEE WORK**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates Members on current and future Select Committee work and invites suggestions for future Select Committee Topic Reviews.

Current Select Committee Review Work

1. The following reviews are either underway or preparing to start:-

The Student Journey – This review cuts across Regeneration and Economic Development POSC, Communities POSC and the new Education, Learning and Skills POSC. The Select Committee is awaiting the completion of the Wolf review of vocational education before it starts its work formally, but much research and planning is already going on to put together an innovative programme for this review. It is anticipated that the first meeting of the Select Committee will take place late in April, to elect a Chairman, the Chairman Designate being Mr K Smith, and agree its terms of reference and scope. The timetable of the review is still under discussion and will be reported to the Scrutiny Board in due course. It is possible that the review will submit its final report to the full Council in April or May 2012. *The contacts in Democratic Services for this Select Committee are: Research Officer Gaetano Romagnuolo (01622 694292) and Democratic Services Officer Theresa Grayell (01622 694277).*

Dementia – The Select Committee held its first meeting in January to elect Mrs T Dean as its Chairman, and held a briefing and training session to give Members an understanding of the issue. A focus group made up of professionals also met for the first time in January, with the aim of feeding into the review's terms of reference and scope. Visits to day centres, care homes, dementia cafés and meetings with peer support groups, carers and people with dementia took place through February. Hearings will take place through March and early April and will include two sessions themed around carers' support. A number of organisations have offered to undertake small pieces of work and engagement which will feed into the review, and these are still being discussed. The Select Committee will meet in June to take stock of its findings so far, have receive further input from the focus group and identify any further evidence needed, prior to drafting its report over the summer to go to full Council in December 2011. *The contacts in Democratic Services for this Select Committee are: Research Officer Sue Frampton (01622 694993) and Democratic Services Officer Christine Singh (01622 694334).*

Educational Attainment of Pupils and Schools in Areas of High Deprivation – The Select Committee held its first meeting in early February to elect Mr C T Wells as its Chairman and agree its terms of reference and scope. Informal briefings, then hearings and visits, will take place through May, June, July and possibly September. It is not yet possible to say when the review will submit its final report to full Council. A revised timetable will be prepared for consideration by the Scrutiny Board in April. *The contacts in Democratic Services for this Select Committee are: Research Officer Pippa Cracknell (01622 694178) and Assistant Democratic Services Manager Denise Fitch (01622 694269).*

Suggestions for Select Committee Topic Reviews

2. If Members have any suggestions of topics they would like to put forward for consideration for inclusion in the future topic review work programme, they should contact the Democratic Services Officer for this POSC.

Recommendation:-

3. Members are asked to note the review work currently underway and advise the Democratic Services Officer of any topics which they would like to put forward for consideration for inclusion in the future Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme.

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Background Information: *Nil*

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