

By: Mrs T Dean, Chairman of the Informal Member Group: Member Information

To: Selection and Member Services Committee – Friday 14 March 2008

Subject: Member Information

Introduction

1. The Committee will recall that it established an Informal Member Group to look at the issue of Member Information which is key to building capacity across the County Council for its elected Members and staff. This piece of work is being undertaken to take forward the County Council policy agreed in March 2006 to ensure that the focal point of Member Information is the Information Point.

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2. (1) The Group has shared its terms of reference with David Cockburn, Director of Policy and Business Solutions and Amanda Honey, Managing Director Communities whose staff operate the Information Point.

(2) The Group noted some work that has been commissioned on behalf of the Managing Director Communities and the Director of Policy and Business Solutions to audit and map the information flows across the County Council. This will help inform the Informal Member Group who will be preparing some options for providing Members with the information they require in a more effective and friendly manner following a survey the Group are undertaking of Member information needs.

(3) The Informal Member Group are visiting other organisations who have systems and software which may be of interest to the County Council in delivering and providing information across the County Council more effectively.

(4) To date the Group have visited Westminster City Council and the Informal Member Group will be visiting the Houses of Parliament to look at their information system on 28 March 2008.

(5) Arrangements are being made for a demonstration to take place from modern.gov who have recently been procured by the Democratic Services and Local Leadership Unit to provide the software for a Committee Management System which will allow much more information and production of papers to be prepared electronically and published direct to the web. The software for this system may already, or if not could be developed to, provide what the Members require in terms of 'Member Information'.

(6) The Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Service operate a software programme "sharepoint" which Informal Member Group members will be reviewing.

Recommendation

3. Members are asked to note the report and the progress made.

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Background Information: *Include ALL background information taken into account in preparing the report. (This does not include previous Committee Reports)*