

By: Head of Democratic Services

To: Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 5 July 2011

Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEE - UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

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

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### **Current Select Committee Review Work**

1. The following reviews are underway:-

**Educational Attainment at Key Stage 2** – 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, are taking place in May, June, July and possibly September. If this is the case, it is unlikely that the Select Committee will be able to submit its final report to full Council in December, and a revised timetable will be prepared for consideration by the Scrutiny Board.

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).

**The Student Journey** – This Committee held its first meeting in late April, at which it elected Mr K Smith as Chairman and Mr M C Dance Vice-Chairman, and agreed its terms of reference and scope. Evidence gathering hearings are taking place in June and July, and a series of visits, further hearings and work with stakeholders is planned for September and October. The review will submit its final report to the full Council in 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 briefing and training sessions to give Members a background to 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, with hearings taking place through March and early April. A number of organisations have offered to undertake small pieces of work and

engagement which will feed into the review. The Select Committee met in early June to take stock of its findings 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).

### **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.

Karen Mannering  
Democratic Services Officer

Background Information: *Nil*

telephone: 01622 694367  
e-mail: [karen.mannering@kent.gov.uk](mailto:karen.mannering@kent.gov.uk)