

By: Overview and Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Environment and Regeneration Policy Overview Committee - 4 April 2008

**Subject: SELECT COMMITTEES - UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

---

Summary: This report updates Members on the Select Committee for Flood Risk and the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme.

---

Recommendations: The Committee is asked to:-

- (a) note that the draft Minutes of the reconvened meeting of the Select Committee for Climate Change will be submitted to the meeting; and
  - (b) note the update on the Select Committee Topic Review and the Building Capacity for Policy Overview Committees.
- 

### **Select Committee: Climate Change**

1. (1) The Select Committee for Climate Change was reconvened and met on Wednesday, 26 March to discuss the progress made on the recommendations from this Select Committee Topic review, produced as a report by Alison Cambray, Climate Change Project Manager. The draft Minutes of the meeting are to follow.

### **Select Committee Topic Review Programme**

2. (1) The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee (POCC) met on 14 February 2007 to consider the Select Committee Topic Review Programme. At this meeting it was agreed that the proposed topic review on Vulnerable Children would be withdrawn from the Topic Review Programme. The proposer had indicated that, as considerable work had been undertaken in the Children's Families and Education Directorate, he was satisfied that a review at this time would not be appropriate and he was happy for this to be withdrawn from the Programme.

(2) There were currently resources available for one review to start shortly and two potential topics had been identified. These were Provision of Activities for Young People and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (proposed by the Director for Adult Social Services). After considerable deliberation, the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee decided that the next review to be carried out should be Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), but that the review on Provision of Activities for Young People should be the next review to be undertaken once resources became available.

### **Building Capacity for Policy Overview Committees**

3. At the meeting of the POCC on 14 February, Members received a report to aid discussion around building capacity for POCs. The comments made by

Members of POCC will be submitted to Chief Officers Group and ultimately Cabinet for their consideration of how to best build capacity for Policy Overview Committees. Initial feedback from the CPA inspection identified strengthening the Overview and Scrutiny function. I will be keeping all the Policy Overview Committees and the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee informed as collectively work is undertaken to continual improve the operation and effectiveness of the Policy Overview Committees

### **Recommendations**

4. The Committee is asked to:-

- (a) note the draft Minutes of the reconvened meeting of the Select Committee for Climate Change will be submitted to the meeting; and
- (b) note the update on the Select Committee Topic Review and the Building Capacity for Policy Overview Committees.

Christine Singh  
01622 694269  
[christine.singh@kent.gov.uk](mailto:christine.singh@kent.gov.uk)  
Background Information: *Nil*