

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Monday, 12 March 2007.

PRESENT: Mr P B Carter (Chairman), Mr N J D Chard, Mr K A Ferrin, MBE, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr K G Lynes, Mr J D Simmonds and Dr T R Robinson

ALSO PRESENT: Mr R A Marsh

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Gilroy (Chief Executive), Mr G Badman (Managing Director of Children, Families and Education), Ms A Honey (Managing Director Communities), Mr O Mills (Managing Director - Adult Social Services) Ms L McMullan, Director of Finance and Mr P Raine, Managing Director for Regeneration and Environment.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 February 2007
(Item. 1)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2007 were agreed as a true record.

2. Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Exception Report
(Item. 2 - Report by Mr Nick Chard, Cabinet Member for Finance, and Lynda McMullan, Director of Finance and Managing Directors)

(1) This Exception Report, based upon returns from Directorates, highlighted the main movements since the report to Cabinet in February.

(2) Mr Chard said that currently the Revenue Budget was showing an overspend of £0.5m but this did not take into account £2.6m related to asylum costs. The Council continued to robustly pursue with the Home Office and the DfES its case regarding the underpayment of asylum costs and seeking the Government's assurance that the matter would be resolved quickly and fairly. Mr Chard also said that the continuing slippage on the Capital Programme needed to be carefully monitored.

(3) Mr Carter placed on record his congratulations to the Adult Services Directorate for the reductions which have been achieved in its revenue budget. Mr Carter also said that together with Mr Chard he would be meeting with Managing Directors in order to get a better understanding as to why there was a slippage on the Capital Budget and what could be done to accelerate the programme.

(4) Cabinet noted the latest forecast revenue and budgetary monitoring position for 2006/07.

3. Development Contribution Function

(Item. 3 - Report by Mr Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Supporting Independence and Mr Pete Raine, Managing Director, Environment and Regeneration) (Mr Nigel Smith, Head of Development Investment was present for this item)

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
RECORD OF CABINET DECISION**



**DECISION
TAKEN ON**

Cabinet
12 March 2007

DECISION NO.
07/00965

Development Contribution Function

(Item 3 – Report by Mr Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Supporting Independence and Mr Pete Raine, Managing Director, Environment and Regeneration) (Mr Nigel Smith, Head of Development Investment was present for this item)

(1) Mr Gough said that the aim of the Development Contribution Guide was to promote a consistent and transparent approach across the county towards the requirement for and the calculation of development contributions for KCC provided services. The Guide also had the objective of helping to quantify the likely level of contributions required in respect of KCC services, to meet the impact on existing community facilities resulting from development. The Guide also supported the County Council’s objectives as set out in its document “Vision for Kent”.

(2) Mr Carter said that it was essential that arrangements were put in place to ensure that the roll out of projects could be properly monitored. It was also important to ensure that there was equity between the requirements of KCC and those of the districts. Mr Smith said that one of the prime objectives of the Guide was to enhance consistency and transparency and place the County Council in the best possible position in terms of planning policy.

(3) Cabinet:-

(a) approved the Kent County Council Guide to Development Contributions and the provision of community infrastructure for adoption and promotion as a policy supporting document for the Kent Partnership Community Strategy-“Vision for Kent”; and

(b) delegated authority to the Managing Director, Environment and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Supporting Independence to sign off any subsequent periodic reviews/updates on behalf of the County Council.

The reasons for this decision are set out above and in the Cabinet report.

Background documents: None

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signed (Chief Executive)

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date

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Decision Referred to Cabinet Scrutiny				Cabinet Scrutiny Decision to Refer Back for Reconsideration				Reconsideration Record Sheet Issued				Reconsideration of Decision Published	
YES		NO		YES		NO		YES		NO			

4. Kent Prospects 2006 to 2012 - Final Draft

(Item. 4 - Report by Mr Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Supporting Independence and Mr Pete Raine, Managing Director, Environment and Regeneration)

(1) Mr Gough said that Kent Prospects provided a county-wide framework to guide economic development and regeneration activity. The future prospects for Kent's economy had never been better with projects such as the CTRL International Station at Ebbsfleet opening this year and the adjacent Thames Gateway Development, which would provide 20,000 jobs over the next 20 years. Ashford would double in size and provide 28,000 jobs by 2030. There is also strong regeneration taking place in other parts of the county and business infrastructure is also improving leading to rising levels of inwards investment. In addition, the 2012 Olympics and Para-Olympics offers further potential to enhance Kent's Gateway location serving the UK, London and Europe. In addition, Kent Prospects provides a further level of detail to support delivery of the "Vision for Kent" the Kent Agreement and KCC's Towards 2010 aspirations for developing economic prosperity.

(2) Mr Carter said the draft Kent Prospects document was to be submitted to the Kent Partnership and the Kent Economic Development Board before being published as a final document. This was agreed.

(3) Taking account of the above, Cabinet noted the timetable for producing the published version of Kent Prospects 2006 to 2012.

5. Energy Saving - Carbon Reduction Targets for KCC

(Item. 5 - Report by Mr Keith Ferrin, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste and Mr Pete Raine, Managing Director for Environment and Regeneration)

(1) This report proposed the adoption by KCC of targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions caused by energy use in buildings. The proposed targets are to reduce total KCC carbon dioxide emissions from buildings by 10% by 2010 and 20% by 2015. 2004 emissions will be used as the base line year.

(2) Mr Ferrin said that the 2010 and 2015 targets are the first steps towards a long term vision for KCC of 60% reductions by 2050. Mr Ferrin said the Council needed to take a clear view as to what the opportunities are and it was already looking at a number of options to ensure its emission targets were met. Mr Ferrin said the emissions from KCC transport, street lighting and traffic signals had not been included at this stage because the County Council did not currently have a robust base line against which to measure reductions in those areas, but such emissions would be included in the targets for 2008/09 or as soon as possible after

that. Among the options that KCC was looking at was changing traffic signal lights to LED's. The cost of that would be some £2m but would reduce emissions and provide savings on electricity costs. There would be a further report on these matters when there was more data.

(3) Cabinet then endorsed the targets to reduce total KCC carbon dioxide emissions from buildings by:-

- 10% by 2010
- 20% by 2015

As absolute reductions in CO2 emissions from energy use in KCC buildings and schools from a base line of 2004 it was envisaged that these targets would be met through genuine reductions in energy use, plus the use of on-site renewables rather than procuring "greed badged" electricity or "off-setting" by investing in overseas projects.

6. Unit Review (including designated and specialist provision and Very Severe and Complex Need Support for children and young people with special educational need at mainstream schools)

(Item 6 - Report by Mr John Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Education and School Improvement, Dr Tony Robinson, Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services and Mr Graham Badman, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education) (Joanna Wainwright, Director, Commissioning (Specialist Services) was present for this item)

(1) This report updated Cabinet on developments to date with the Unit Review (including designated and specialist provision and very severe and complex needs support for children and young people with special and education need at mainstream schools). Dr Robinson said that this was an interim report and that planning and consultation with the Clusters would continue in phases throughout the remainder of 2007 with a more detailed report on the provision that was proposed in Phase 1 being submitted to Cabinet in the Autumn. Currently, there were 63 specialist units and designations covering the six need type categories. There were 690 children with statements accessing this provision with 485 of those travelling outside the cluster in which they lived to access that provision. Dr Robinson said that it was important that through the Review the pattern of provision focussed on ensuring vulnerable pupils had access to appropriate provision in their locality. Mr Gilroy said that this was a good report but the Council also needed to look at the issue of transition for 14-19 year olds and 19-24 year olds. Mr Mills said that tied in with the work of the Select Committee reviewing Transition Arrangements which was due to publish its report in May.

(2) Mr Chard said that whilst the revenue funding for the Review was secure, the Capital funding still needed to be put in place and therefore it was important not to raise expectations only to find that funding for the capital element of the Review was not affordable. Mr Carter said that the County Council had already made provision to improve school buildings through the modernisation allocation but that may need to be added to. Mr Badman said that any capital resources needed to implement the Review would be detailed in proposals from clusters and that would be submitted to Members. Also, subject to Member agreement, proposals may

include refurbishment of existing premises, new provision (eg for autism) and may be linked with BSF/PFI plans for school buildings in each locality. Mr Lynes emphasised the importance of keeping parents and carers closely informed and involved in the Review as their views were critical to this process. Joanna Wainwright said that having an ongoing dialogue with parents and carers was something which was recognised as being of great importance. Joanna Wainwright also confirmed that no child would be moved against the wishes of its parents and for that reason the transition arrangements may take some considerable time to fully implement. At all stages it was important to ensure that parents were given full support and confidence in the process.

(3) Cabinet:-

- (i) noted the progress of the Review;
- (ii) agreed the proposed next stages as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report;
- (iii) agreed the revised timetable for the Review as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (iv) agreed that the Multi-Agency Unit Review Steering Group consults on the draft criteria for provision; and
- (v) agreed that the Multi-Agency Unit Review Steering Group, in partnership with the appropriate Cluster Boards consults more widely on the provision proposals in relation to Phase One Clusters.

7. Local Authority Proposed Primary School Admission Arrangements 2008-09
(Item. 7 - Report by Mr John Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Education and School Improvement and Mr Graham Badman, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education)

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
RECORD OF CABINET DECISION**



**DECISION
TAKEN ON**

Cabinet
12 March 2007

DECISION NO.
07/00963

Proposed Primary School Admission Arrangements 2008/09

(Item 7 - Report by Mr John Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Education and School Improvement and Mr Graham Badman, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education)

(1) The County Council as the Admissions Authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools is required to consult on its proposed admission arrangements for these schools annually and to determine its arrangements by 15 April each year. In preparing its admission arrangements, the County Council had consulted with Headteachers and Chairmen of Governors of all Kent primary schools; neighbouring local authorities; diocesan bodies, and all other interested bodies, together with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Admissions Forum.

(2) The report also detailed the outcome of consultations on the following issues:-

- a co-ordinated admission scheme for 2008/09; the oversubscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools;
- the relevant statutory consultation area;
- published admission numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools; and
- that the South Avenue Infants School (Swale) be linked for the purposes of admissions with the South Avenue Junior School. The report commentated on each of these issues in detail.

(3) Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) the scheme to co-ordinate admissions to primary schools in 2008/09 be as set out in Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report;
- (ii) the oversubscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools be as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report;
- (iii) that the relevant statutory consultation area for primary schools be a three mile radius of the school, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report;
- (iv) that the published numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled primary schools be as detailed in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet report; and
- (v) that South Avenue Junior School (Swale) be linked for the purposes of admissions with South Avenue Infants School.

..**March 2007**

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Signed Peter Gilroy (Chief Executive)

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Decision Referred to Cabinet Scrutiny			
YES		NO	✓

Cabinet Scrutiny Decision to Refer Back for Reconsideration			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration Record Sheet Issued			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration of Decision Published

8. Local Authority Proposed Secondary School Admission Arrangements 2008-09

(Item. 8 - Report by Mr John Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Education and School Improvement and Mr Graham Badman, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education)

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
RECORD OF CABINET DECISION**



**DECISION
TAKEN ON**

Cabinet 12 March 2007

DECISION NO. 07/00964

Proposed Secondary School Admission Arrangements 2008/09

(Item 8 - Report by Mr John Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Education and School Improvement and Mr Graham Badman, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education)

(1) The County Council as the Admissions Authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools is required to consult on its proposed admission arrangements for these schools annually and to determine its arrangements by 15 April each year.

(2) The Education Act 2002 introduced a duty on Education Authorities to formulate a scheme to co-ordinate admissions arrangements for all maintained schools in its area and to take action to secure the agreement to the scheme by all Admission authorities. The County Council had consulted Headteachers and Chairmen of Governors of all Kent Primary and Secondary Schools, neighbouring Local Education Authorities, Diocesan Bodies; independent schools (which have pupils transferring to secondary schools) and other interested bodies on its proposals to co-ordinate admissions to all Kent secondary schools in September 2008. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Admissions Forum had also been consulted. The Consultation considered four issues these being:-

- (i) the co-ordinated Admission Scheme for 2008/09;
- (ii) oversubscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled secondary schools;
- (iii) the relevant Statutory Consultation Area; and
- (iv) published admission numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled secondary schools.

(3) Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) the scheme to co-ordinate admissions to secondary schools in September 2008 be as set out in Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report;
- (ii) the oversubscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools be as detailed in Appendix 2 to the Cabinet report;
- (iii) that the relevant statutory consultation area for secondary schools be designated parishes and adjoining districts, as set out in Appendix 3 of the Cabinet report;
- (iv) that the published Admission Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled secondary schools be as set out in Appendix 4 of the Cabinet report.

.....**March 2007**

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Signed Peter Gilroy (Chief Executive)

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Decision Referred to Cabinet Scrutiny			
YES		NO	✓

Cabinet Scrutiny Decision to Refer Back for Reconsideration			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration Record Sheet Issued			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration of Decision Published

9. Cabinet Scrutiny and Policy Overview
(Item. 9 - Report by Mr Peter Gilroy, Chief Executive)

This report summarised the outcomes and progress on matters arising from the meeting of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee held on 20 February 2007 and also detailed the overall work programme for Select Committee Topic Reviews as agreed by the Policy Overview Committee.