

**REPORT TO:**  
**BY:**

**CABINET**  
**PETER GILROY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**16 April 2007**

**CABINET SCRUTINY AND POLICY OVERVIEW**  
**Standing Report to April 2007**

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**Summary**

1. The report provides a summary (in Table 1) of outcomes and progress on matters arising from the most recent Cabinet Scrutiny Committee (CSC) meeting held on 21 March 2007.
2. The new work programme for Select Committee Topic Reviews was developed and agreed by Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee on 15 February 2007. The agreed programme and current status of each topic review are shown in Table 2.

**Recommendations**

3. To note
    - (i) progress on actions and outcomes of the meeting of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee held on 21 March 2007 as set out in Table 1,
    - (ii) the present programme and status of Select Committee Topic Reviews.
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**Background Documents:** None

**Contact Officer:** John Wale 01622 694006

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Table 1

**ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 21 March 2007**

Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
<b>A2 Minutes of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee 20 February 2007.</b>	The minutes were agreed subject to clarification of the following points: (a) Outstanding information requested or offered at the meeting to be followed up. <b>Action: S Ballard.</b> (b) On Free Travel for 11-16 Year Olds, Mr Parker asked why the "Kent Freedom Pass" had been adopted as the new name instead of "Assisted Travel for 11-16 Year Olds" as recommended by Scrutiny Committee, and Mr Hart asked what progress had been made on determining a means of reduction in congestions as a result of the scheme. <b>Action: D Hall.</b> (c) On Operation Stack, Mr Parker asked to be advised of progress on identifying a suitable site for lorry parking. <b>Action: M Sutch.</b>
<b>A3 IMG on "Kent-What price Growth?" 26 March 2007</b>	<i>Notes to follow after meeting to be held 26 March</i>
<b>A4 IMG on Budgetary Issues 8 March 2007</b>	The notes were noted by the Committee and the IMG's recommendation in note 2(5) (to request the Cabinet Member for Finance to commission work to identify the reason why some schools were much more financially successful than others, so that lessons could be disseminated more widely within Kent Schools) agreed. <b>Action: Mr Chard/Ms McMullan</b>
<b>A5 Cabinet Scrutiny Committee: Actions and Outcomes to March/April 2007</b>	The report was noted. With regard to table 2 of the report, the Chairman informed the Committee that Mr Christie had been nominated to chair the forthcoming Select Committee on "Carers in Kent." Mr Parker expressed concern that the process for notifying spokespersons over appointment of chairman and timing of reviews was not happening. The recent meeting of POCC(15/02/2007) had clarified the priorities and dates for reviews, but Mr Wale agreed to look into the matter further to ensure Members were kept informed.
<b>D1 Children's Centres: Approval to Name Next</b>	Dr T R Robinson (Cabinet Member for CFE), Mrs S J Carey (Lead Member for Education and School

**ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 21 March 2007**

Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
<p><b>Nine Sites-Decision 07/00942</b></p>	<p>Improvement), Mrs A Gamby (Head of Early Years/Childcare), Mrs J Smith (QA Co-ordinator, EY and C, and Mr K Abbott (Director, Finance and Corporate Services) attended and answered Members' questions on the process for deciding locations and how funding is allocated to each one. The following issues were covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criteria for Site Selection</li> <li>• Process for Site Selection</li> <li>• Involvement of Local Members</li> <li>• Funding of Children's Centres</li> <li>• Decision-making Process</li> <li>• KCC Press Releases about Children's Centres</li> <li>• Children's Centre for Cliftonville West</li> <li>• Offsite Day-care Facilities</li> </ul> <p>After discussion, the Committee thanked the Members and Officers for attending and answering questions, and resolved as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Decision 07/00942 can now be implemented. <b>Action: Dr Ian Craig/Mrs A Gamby</b></li> <li>(b) Ms Harrison asked for a full explanation of why the DfES had shown the 9 new Children's Centres on their website, and the Minister had included them in a House of Commons written answer, when KCC should not yet have sought DfES approval for them. <b>Action: Mrs A Gamby</b></li> <li>(c) Dr Eddy asked for details of internal details for making press announcements about new Children's Centres and for seeking approval from DfES (including what that approval related to). <b>Action: Mrs A Gamby</b></li> <li>(d) Dr Eddy asked why Decision 07/00942</li> </ol>

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Table 1

**ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 21 March 2007**

Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
	<p>had not been included in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions. <b>Action: Mrs A Gamby/Stuart Ballard</b></p> <p>(e) The Committee requested a Briefing Note on the Terms of Reference of "District Consortia." <b>Action: Stuart Ballard</b></p> <p>The Committee also concluded that:</p> <p>(i) progress with the establishment of Children's Centres be welcomed;</p> <p>(ii) concern be expressed to the Cabinet Member for Education and School Improvement and the Managing Director CFE that local Members had not been informed about the identification of sites for Children's Centres in their own electoral divisions. <b>Action: Mr J Simmonds, Dr Craig, Mrs Gamby.</b></p> <p>the Cabinet Member for Education and School Improvement and the Managing Director, CFE be urged to ensure that, for all future work on the establishment of new Children's Centres, local Members can be fully involved from the outset so that their local knowledge can be used to assist with the identification of sites. <b>Action: Mr J Simmonds, Dr Craig, Mrs Gamby.</b></p> <p>the Cabinet Member for Education and School Improvement and the Managing Director CFE be urged to ensure that KCC Press Releases on the naming of new Children's Centres be clear as to whether the Centres concerned have been <u>proposed</u> by KCC, <u>agreed</u> by KCC , or <u>agreed</u> by the DfES. <b>Action: Mr J Simmonds, Dr Craig, Mrs Gamby, Gerry Moore.</b></p> <p>In view of the significance to local communities of the opening of a Children's Centre, future proposals be treated as Key Decisions and publicised in the Forward Plan of key Decisions for up to four months in advance of</p>

Cabinet 16 April 2007

Table 1

**ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 21 March 2007**

Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
<p><b>D2 Cancellation of Kent to Virginia Direct Flights Project (Previous Decision 06/00799)</b></p>	<p>the formal Decision being taken to name the sites. <b>Action: Dr Craig, Mrs Gamby.</b></p> <p>Mr P B Carter (Leader), Mr A J King (Deputy Leader), Mr P Gilroy (Chief Executive) and Mr P Raine (MD, Environment and Economy) attended for this item and were thanked for answering Members' questions on costs incurred or committed by KCC to the project.</p> <p>Members subsequently concluded that:</p> <p>(a) the Leader's decision not to proceed with the project following the meeting on 27 February 2007 be recognised as sensible given the lower than expected ticket sales; the fact that no other partners were prepared to share the risks; and the potential cost to the County Council and Council Tax payers.</p> <p>(b) Mr Raine's agreement to provide Members of the Committee with the risk assessment undertaken by the Council's consultants as part of the report and feasibility study before the project commenced be welcomed. <b>Action: P Raine</b></p> <p>(c) The Leader be urged that, for all future high-risk entrepreneurial projects, a proper risk assessment be undertaken in advance in accordance with the Council's formal risk management processes. <b>Action: P Gilroy/P Raine</b></p>

**Select Committee Topic Reviews:  
Programme following Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee 15 February  
2007\* (\*Subject to confirmation of Minutes by Chairman and Spokespersons)**

Policy Overview Committee/ Topic Review/Chair	Current Topic Review status and other topics (in no particular order*) agreed for the period February 2007 to July 2008
<p><b>Children Families and Education :</b></p> <p>PSHE-Children's Health: <b>Chair Ms CJ CRIBBON</b></p> <p>Developing the Creative Curriculum</p> <p>Primary School Attainment</p> <p>Young People's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development</p>	<p>Inaugural meeting of the Select Committee was held on 5 October. Hearings and visits were held during November. <b>It is anticipated that the Select Committee report will be submitted to Cabinet in April 2007. (Research Officer: Gaetano Romagnuolo)</b></p> <p>Dates to be agreed*</p> <p><b>POCC agreed that this issue was being dealt with through a cross-party mechanism. It was therefore removed at the request of CFE POC.</b></p> <p>Dates to be agreed*</p>
<p><b>Communities</b></p> <p>Accessing Democracy</p> <p>Student Voice –Consultation and Participation with Young People</p> <p>Provision of Activities for Young People</p>	<p>Dates to be agreed* <b>Preliminary discussions are being held to assess how this work will compliment the work of the “Going Local” Informal Member Group.</b></p> <p>Dates to be agreed.*</p> <p>Dates to be agreed.*</p>

<p><b>Communities/Public Health</b> (to be agreed) <b>Alcohol and Related Issues</b></p>	<p><b>To start in Spring 2007.</b></p>
<p><b>Adult Services</b></p> <p>Carers in Kent <b>Chairman designate:</b> <b>MR L CHRISTIE (to be confirmed by the Select Committee at its inaugural meeting)</b></p> <p>Transition from Childhood to Adulthood: <b>MR A BOWLES</b></p>	<p><b>Dates confirmed as Spring to Autumn 2007.</b></p> <p>Inaugural meeting of the Select Committee was held on 9 October 2006; hearing sessions commenced on 26 October and are due to end on 20 December 2006. It is anticipated that the Select Committee report will be submitted to Cabinet in May 2007. (Research Officer: Susan Frampton).</p>
<p><b>Environment and Regeneration</b></p> <p>Impact of Supermarkets, Out of Town Shopping Malls and Retail Parks on Businesses in Kent</p>	<p>Dates to be agreed.*</p>

*jhw/sc 26 March 2007*

*\* To be discussed at the meeting of the POCC in June and September 2007*