

REPORT TO: CABINET 15 October 2007
BY: PETER GILROY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CABINET SCRUTINY AND POLICY OVERVIEW
Standing Report to October 2007

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 26 September 2007.
2. The work programme for Select Committee Topic Reviews was reviewed and agreed by Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee at its most recent meeting held on 7 June 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 26 September 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 26 September 2007

Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee										
A2 Declarations of Interest	None										
A3 Minutes of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee 25 July 2007.	The minutes were agreed.										
A4 Informal Member Group on Budgetary issues – 11 September 2007.	The minutes were noted.										
A5 Cabinet Scrutiny Committee: Standing Report to September 2007	Report was noted.										
A6 Proposed Dates of Meetings.	<p>Members noted</p> <p>(a) that Wednesday 5 December 2007 had been reserved for a possible additional meeting of the Scrutiny Committee should it be needed following the special Cabinet Meeting recently arranged for 26 November.</p> <p>(b) the proposed dates of Scrutiny Committee Meetings for 2008 were as follows (all at 10:00 am):</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="643 1301 1331 1473"> <tbody> <tr> <td>23 January</td> <td>25 June</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 February (Budget)</td> <td>23 July</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 February</td> <td>24 September</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26 March</td> <td>22 October</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21 May</td> <td>10 December</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	23 January	25 June	1 February (Budget)	23 July	15 February	24 September	26 March	22 October	21 May	10 December
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1 February (Budget)	23 July										
15 February	24 September										
26 March	22 October										
21 May	10 December										
C1 Future of Post Office Network and Services in Kent.	<p>The meeting was attended by the following, who answered Members, questions and provided information:</p> <p>Post Office Ltd: Mr Gary Herbert(Network Development Manager); Ms Martine Munby (Senior External Relations Manager); Mr Craig Tuthill (Regional Development Manager).</p> <p>Postwatch: Mr Andy Burrows (National Policy Group); Ms Marie Casey (SE Network Adviser); and Mr Ray Holdstock (SE Vice-Chair)</p> <p>KCC: Mr R W Gough (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Supporting Independence); Mr S Gibbons (Head of Rural Regeneration); Mrs E Haswell (Economic Development Officer, E and R Directorate).</p>										

ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 26 September 2007

Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
<p>C1 Future of Post Office Network and Services in Kent.</p>	<p>Following extensive questions and comment from Members of the Committee, and undertakings from POL to provide further information on many points raised, Members of the Committee resolved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the representatives of Post Office Ltd and Postwatch, and Mr Gough, Mr Gibbons and Mrs Haswell, be thanked for attending the meeting to brief the Committee and to answer Members' questions; (b) the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Supporting Independence be requested to share the Post Office consultation information with all Members of the Council as soon as possible after its arrival on 2 October; (c) the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Supporting Independence be requested to make arrangements to pass the Post Office consultation information onto all Parish and Town Councils in Kent as soon as possible after its arrival on 2 October; (d) the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Supporting Independence be recommended to supply to Post Office Ltd information held by KCC about the location of SMEs; home-based businesses; major infrastructure proposals and major development proposals, as requested by the representatives of Post Office Ltd at the meeting; (e) the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Supporting Independence be recommended to accept Post Office Ltd's offer and arrange a meeting as soon as possible after 2 October for their representatives to brief all Members of the Council on their detailed proposals relating to Kent, including the scoring system used to inform the decisions about each individual branch; (f) the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and

ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 26 September 2007

Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
<p>C1 Future of Post Office Network and Services in Kent.</p>	<p>Supporting Independence and the Environment and Regeneration Policy Overview Committee be recommended to set up a mechanism involving Members from all parties for examining the Post Office's proposals and contributing to KCC's response to them;</p> <p>(g)in drafting KCC's response, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Supporting Independence and relevant officers be recommended to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) take account of the views of the Postwatch representatives at the meeting that petitions were unlikely to carry any weight, and that it was factual evidence that was required; and (ii) ensure that urban and rural areas were treated equally.
<p>D1 Fairer Charging Policy for Home Care and other Non-Residential Services (Domiciliary Charging Policy) (Decision 07/00967)</p>	<p>Mr K G Lynes, Cabinet Member for Kent Adult Social Services; Mr O Mills, Managing Director (KASS); and Mr M Thomas-Sam, Head of Policy and Development (KASS), attended and answered Members' questions on a variety of issues.</p> <p>At the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs Wendy Sage and Mrs Vicci Chittenden, who both represent disability groups in Kent, spoke about the impact which the new domiciliary care charges would have on disabled people. After hearing the responses and comment from all witnesses, Members of the Committee resolved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Mr Lynes, Mr Mills and Mr Thomas-Sam be thanked for attending the meeting to answer Members' questions, and Mrs Sage and Mrs Chittenden be thanked for attending to give evidence on behalf of the organisations they represented; (b) postponement of implementation of the decision not be required, but the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services be requested to consider again whether the increase from 65% to 85% (of available income

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Table 1

ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 26 September 2007

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D1 Fairer Charging Policy for Home Care and other Non-Residential Services (Domiciliary Charging Policy) (Decision 07/00967)	<p>taken into account to work out a person's charge) should be phased in over time or some sort of transitional relief offered to those most seriously affected;</p> <p>(c) the Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services, be advised of the Committee's view that it was unfortunate that disabled persons' groups were not involved in the planning of this consultation exercise, as would normally be the case.</p> <p>(d) the Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services, be recommended to report to the Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee on:-</p> <p>(i) domiciliary care charges:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• comparative statistics for all UK authorities on charging policies and eligibility criteria;• justification for capital and income disregards, and whether action should be taken to seek modification of these;• possibility of lobbying Government for increase in Social Services element of RSG and/or for allocation to Social Services authorities of unclaimed Pension Credits; <p>(iii) impact of direct payments policy.</p>

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ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 26 September 2007

Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
C2 Autumn Budget Statement	<p>Item deferred (for reasons of time availability) to Meeting of the Budget Informal Member Group held on the afternoon of 26 September.</p> <p>At that IMG, discussion took place about some aspects of the Autumn Budget Statement. However, in the light of the extensive discussion at the same meeting on the Item relating to Government Consultation on Local Government Finance Formula Grant Distribution, it was not considered necessary to discuss the Autumn Statement in any further detail.</p>

**Select Committee Topic Reviews:
Programme agreed at Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee 7 June 2007**

Policy Overview Committee/ Topic Review/Chair	Current Topic Review status and other topics agreed for the period July 2007 to July 2008 * Updated to 2 October 2007
<p>Children Families and Education :</p> <p>PSHE-Children's Health: Chair Ms CJ CRIBBON</p> <p>Developing the Creative Curriculum</p> <p>Young People's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development#</p> <p>Vulnerable Children</p>	<p>The Select Committee report was accepted by Cabinet on 16 April 2007, and was debated at full County Council on 24 July 2007. (Research Officer: Gaetano Romagnuolo)</p> <p>POCC agreed that this should remain in the work programme for 2008.*</p> <p># POCC suggested this topic could also be combined with aspects of Consultation and Participation with Children and Young People (Student Voice), and with Provision of Activities for Young People. In the work programme for 2008.</p> <p>POCC recommended this Topic Review should commence in Autumn 2007.</p>
<p>Corporate: Accessing Democracy</p>	<p>POCC recommended that this review should commence in Autumn 2007* Preliminary discussions have been held to assess how this work will compliment the work of the "Going Local" Informal Member Group.</p>
<p>Communities</p> <p>Student Voice –Consultation and Participation with Young People#</p> <p>Provision of Activities for Young People#</p>	<p>#See above; dates to be agreed.</p> <p>See above; dates to be agreed.</p>

<p><i>Communities (continued)</i></p> <p>Alcohol Misuse Chairman: MR D HIRST</p>	<p>Inaugural meeting held on 16 May 2007; Terms of Reference Agreed, Hearings will be held mid June to the end of July. The Select Committee will report to Cabinet on 3 December 2007.</p>
<p><i>Adult Services</i></p> <p>Carers in Kent: MR L CHRISTIE</p>	<p>Inaugural meeting of the Select Committee was held on 5 June 2007. Hearing sessions are being held in July/August 2007, with a report to Cabinet in December 2007.</p>
<p><i>Environment and Regeneration</i></p> <p>Impact of Supermarkets, Out of Town Shopping Malls and Retail Parks on Businesses in Kent</p> <p>Flood Risk MRS S HOHLER</p>	<p>After debate, POCC considered that this topic should be removed from the current work programme.</p> <p>POCC having agreed that this topic review should proceed as soon as possible, hearings were held during July and August and the draft report was completed in September 2007.</p>

jhw/sc 2 October 2007:

** Subject to formal agreement by Chairman and Spokespersons of POCC of Minutes of Meeting held 7 June 2007.*