

By: Overview and Scrutiny Manager
To: Communities Policy Overview Committee – 7 November
Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEES - UPDATE**
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates Members on the progress of the Select Committee on Alcohol Misuse and the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme.

Alcohol Misuse Select Committee

1. (1) Members will be aware that the Chairmanship of the Select Committee transferred from Mr J B O Fullarton to Mr D Hirst in the summer. Hearings to gather evidence from witnesses took place between mid June to the end of July and also in September 2007.

(2) Members will recall that it was proposed that the review would focus on the public health aspects of alcohol misuse. The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee met on 7 June and noted that the Communities Policy Overview Committee had indicated it was keen to see the criminality aspect of alcohol misuse addressed. For this reason the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee noted that the work of this Select Committee may lead to further related pieces of work.

(3) The issue of alcohol misuse is extremely complex it involves working in partnership across a number of agencies which has led to a very challenging Select Committee process. All Select Committees are challenging and demanding with their own set of issues to be resolved but it is fair to say that this has been more demanding than some.

(4) If the conclusions and recommendations of the Select Committee are to have the impact and outcomes the Select Committee are seeking with multi agency support and ownership then the Select Committee feel that they require more time to complete their report.

(5) The Select Committee is seeking the approval of the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee at it's meeting on 5 November to extend its time to complete its report so that the report is as complete as possible and has the support and willingness to deliver many, if not all of the recommendations before it is placed in the public domain. The current timetable is for this report to be presented to Cabinet on 3 December 2007. The Committee would ask for a short extension of time to enable it to report to cabinet in the first quarter of 2008.

**Select Committee Work Programme
Topic Review Programme Autumn 2007 – Spring 2008**

2. (1) It was agreed at the last meeting of the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee that the work programme for Autumn 2007 to Spring 2008 (in no priority order) to start as soon as resources become available should be:-

- (i) Accessing Democracy (a Corporate Policy Overview Topic Review)
- (ii) Vulnerable Children (which will come under the Corporate Policy Overview Committee and the Children and Families Policy Overview Committee respectively).
- (iii) Access to Healthcare (an NHS Overview and Scrutiny Topic Review)

(2) The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee at its meeting on 5 November will be asked to approve the establishment of the Topic Reviews.

Potential Two Year Work Programme

3. (1) The topics which remain in the programme are set out below ;

- (i) Developing the Creative Curriculum
- (ii) Young People's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development, Values-based Educational Behaviour
- (iii) Consultation and Participation with Young People (Student Voice)
- (iv) Provision of Activities for Young People.

(2) The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee on 5 November is asked to agree which two reviews should be taken forward - one in the summer and the other in the Autumn when resources are available.

4. As the papers for this Committee were despatched before the meeting of the POCC an oral update will be made at the meeting

Recommendations

5. The Committee is asked to:

- (a) Note the progress on the Select Committee for Alcohol Abuse; and
- (b) Note the update on the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme.

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Background Information: *Nil*