

By: Overview and Scrutiny Manager
To: Communities Policy Overview Committee - 13 July 2007
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.

Select Committee: *Alcohol Misuse*

1. (1) This Select Committee under the chairmanship of Mr J B O Fullarton held its first meeting on 16 May 2007 when it agreed the Terms of Reference, a copy of which is attached as Appendix 1. Hearings for the Select Committee are underway and the Select Committee is scheduled to complete its gathering of evidence at the end of July 2007. It is intended that the report of this Select Committee will be submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet on 3 December 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.

Select Committee Work Programme

2. (1) The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee met on 7 June 2007 to consider the Topic Review Work Programme.

(2) The current two topic reviews are Support for Carers in Kent and Alcohol Misuse. The Policy Overview Committee agreed that an additional short Select Committee on Flood Risk would be set up immediately and finish its work at the end of September 2007.

(3) In relation to the next phase of the Select Committee Topic Review Programme due to start in Autumn 2007 to Spring 2008 it was agreed that the two topics would be Access to Democracy and Vulnerable Children (which will come under the Corporate Policy Overview Committee and the Children, Families and Education Policy Overview Committee respectively).

(4) At the Committees meeting on 29 June 2006 the Committee proposed the topic "**Provision of Activities for Young People** " as suitable for potential inclusion in the Topic Review Work Programme. The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee, will give consideration to all the Policy Overview Committees aspirations when it meets on 27 September 2007.

Recommendations

3. Recommended that:
 - (a) the progress on the Select Committee for Alcohol Abuse be noted;
 - (b) the update on the new Select Committee Topic Review Programme be noted.

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Background Information: *Nil*