

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Communities Policy Overview Committee held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, on Friday, 17 November 2006.

PRESENT: Mr P W A Lake (Chairman), Mrs C Angell, (Vice Chairman), Mr A R Chell, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr R E King, Mr T A Maddison, Mr M J Northey, Mr G Rowe, Mrs E M Tweed and Mr B P Wood.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr P M Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A Honey, Managing Director, accompanied by Mr C Bainbridge, Director Community Safety and Regulatory Services; Mr D Crilley, Director, Libraries, Culture, Youth and Sports; Ms J Edwards, Director of Policy and Resources; Mr D Shipton, Head of Finance and Asset Management and Mrs C Singh, Democratic Services Officer

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

16. Minutes

(Item A2 – Minutes, 29 June 2006)

- (1) Mr Maddison sought clarification on Minute 12(2), 9 June 2006 and for Minute 15(1), 9 June 2006 all six customer focused services needed to be written out in full ie, Community Safety, Trading Standards Registration and Coroners, Emergency Planning Kent Scientific Services and the Contact Centre.
- (2) The Minutes of 14 September 2006 be altered to read, Mr Birkett as present, substituting for Mr Wood and Mrs Hohler and Mr Wood deleted as present.
- (3) RESOLVED that the Minutes of 6 June 2006 and 14 September be agreed as correctly recorded subject to the changes made in paragraphs (1) and (2) above.

17. Future Meeting Dates

(Item A3)

RESOLVED that the future meetings of this Committee will be held at 10.00 am on the following dates:-

Friday, 26 January 2007, Wednesday, 9 May 2007, Friday, 13 July 2007,
Wednesday, 7 November 2007.

18. Portfolio and Managing Directors Overview

(Item B1 – Oral report by Mr P M Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services and Mrs A Honey, Managing Director for Community Services)

- (1) Mr Hill said that he was delighted by the Strategic Management Team in the Directorate.

(2) Mrs Honey advised that the Strategic Management Team had been in operation for 6 months and Members noted that since the last meeting, Mr Des Crilley had been appointed as the Director of Libraries, Culture, Youth and Sport and had been in post for 6 weeks. He joins Ms Judy Edwards, Mr Dave Shipton and Mr Clive Bainbridge. She said that there was one vacant post, Director for Youth Offending Service and Kent Drug and Alcohol Team. Officer interviews took place on 13 November but the interview panel were unable to shortlist candidates to put towards a Personnel Appointment Panel, so appointment would be delayed until the New Year.

(3) Mrs Honey said that work was being undertaken on a Vision Statement which was now close to draft. This would be brought for discussion to the next meeting on direction of travel for Communities.

(4) Mr Hill updated Members on the Turner Contemporary , Olympics and Libraries. He said Turner Contemporary was making good progress and there was a rewarding relationship with the new architects, David Chipperfield Architects Limited. Members would receive an update at the January 2007 meeting of this Committee.

(5) Mrs Honey mentioned that alongside the build project much other work is being done and she was impressed by the whole artistic programme. She would like the Turner Project to engage with other schemes in the local areas.

(6) Members requested tracking and monitoring of finances on the project and the Committee agreed to hold one of its future meetings in Margate which would include a visit to the site.

Libraries

(7) Mr Hill advised that the Kaleidoscope Project, Sevenoaks, would be open to the public on 4 December, Mrs E Tweed would be in attendance and the formal opening would be held in February 2007 by the Local Member of Parliament, Mr Michael Fallon, MP.

(8) Mr Hill gave an up date on the Beaney Project; and the progress with the Libraries that are under review - Whitfield, Horsemonden and Dymchurch, all of which would be carried out in consultation with local Communities.

Olympics

(9) Mr Hill advised that a draft strategy paper would be considered by Cabinet members on Monday, 20 November 2006. He said that the paper will address how we could maximise opportunities for Kent and look at the resources needed to take this forward. He had concerns that the Olympics would drain lottery funding. It was agreed that an update would be brought to this Committee in the New Year.

(10) Members of the Committee suggested that Kent took stock of the lessons learned from the Tour de France and identify practice sites for team sports; and that KCC network on the Olympic Committee. Mr Crilley said he would invite Mr Chris Hespe, Head of Sports Leisure and Olympics, to a future meeting to update this Committee.

101 Emergency Number

(11) Members sought an update on the 101 emergency number. Mr Bainbridge advised that this had recently been "shelved" by the Home Office.

Government White Paper: "Strong and Prosperous Communities"

(12) Ms Judy Edwards gave a brief overview on the Local Government White Paper and how this may affect Communities. A paper would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee with more detail.

19. Medium Term Plan 2007-08 to 2009-10

(Item B2 – Report by Mr P M Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services and Mrs A Honey, Managing Director for Community Services)

(1) The Committee received a report on the directorate's Medium Term Plan 2007-08 to 2009-10 based on the Autumn Budget statement report by the Leader, Cabinet Member for Finance, Chief Executive and Director of Finance to Cabinet on 18 September 2006.

(2) Mr David Shipton advised that the budget proposals would be published at the end of January 2007 and would then be submitted to the County Council meeting on 22 February

(3) Members sought clarification on the total Communities spend. It was suggested that there was a need to look at gross as well as net spend and Mrs Honey agreed to include this information and re-circulate the table to the Committee.

20. Presentation by Kent Drugs and Alcohol Action Team

(Item B3 – Oral presentation by Mrs Lola Triumph, Mr Phil Painter, Kent Police and Mrs Karen Sharp, Young Persons Commissioning Manager)

(1) Mrs Triumph tabled a booklet covering details of the presentation and finance report 2006-07.

(2) Members noted that the 10 year national strategy came to an end in 2008.

21. Cultural Vitality in Kent

(Item B4 – Mr P M Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services and Mrs A Honey, Managing Director for Community Services)

(Mr D Crilley, Director, Libraries, Culture, Youth and Sports; Mr R Crossland, ABL Consultants and Mrs S Dance, Arts Strategy Consultant were present for this item)

(1) The Committee received a report on the findings of an independent report "Cultural Vitality" commissioned by KCC from ABL Consultants on the effect that culture has the potential to have on the economic, social and environmental well being of the country.

(2) Mr Crossland highlighted the key findings referring to the executive summary attached to the report and noted that issues for Kent were:-

- Not attracting external funding.
- Weakness on exporters of culture in Kent.
- Lack of participation in culture for young people.
- Pick up on hard to reach areas was poor.
- Gaps in high quality music venues.
- Museums were disappointing.

He felt it was essential to create multi-working partnerships. Kent had a long history of voluntary and public sector partnerships and it was KCC's role to bring partners together to have a shared vision of Kent culture.

(4) Members of the Committee made comments and suggestions on the report as follows:-

- Each District Council could have one big event exhibiting museum artefacts.
- The recommendations in the report do not equally relate to each area of Kent, "one size does not fit all".
- There are 83 museums in Kent, KCC is only involved in 3, working with the local authorities was essential, particularly Medway.

- Welcome report. This can be used as a platform for future cultural development.
- The Local Board's funding could be used to stimulate small projects for culture-need to engage all Members of the County Council.
- Excellent report, like the idea of culture supporting business.

(5) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the "Cultural Vitality" report be noted;
- (b) the comments made by the Committee in paragraph 4 above be taken on board by the drafting officers; and
- (c) support be given to the proposal that the Cabinet Member and Officers engage with other partners in Kent with a view to developing a Medium Term Cultural Strategy and Improvement Plan for the County as outlined in the report.

22. Young People's Participation Strategy – Update

(Item B5 – Report by Mr P M Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services and Mrs A Honey, Managing Director for Community Services)

(1) The Committee received a report on the work in progress to develop a Young People's Participation Strategy and sought Members' contribution to the development of the proposed Select Committee Topic Review "Student Voice" consultation and participation with children and young people.

(2) Members were asked to comment on the scope of the proposed strategy for the Topic Review and made the following comments/suggestion:-

- Need to look at other services not provided by KCC.
- There is no timing suggested on the assessment form.
- Need to measure the effects.
- Need to include disabled and troubled youngsters.
- There seems to be a detachment between the Youth Forum and the KYCC, the relationship needs to be cemented.
- This should be a joint review.

(3) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the development of an overall participation strategy for children and young people be noted; and
- (b) the comments made by Members in paragraph (2) on the proposed Topic Review "Consultation and participation with young people be recommended to be included in the scope of the proposal by the drafting officers, in time for the proposal to be considered by the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee meeting on 5 February 2007.

23. Select Committee Topic Review Programme – September 2006-2008

(1) The Committee received a report on the outcome of the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee's consideration of the Select Committee Work Programme, specifically on the two topics put forward by this Committee.

(2) The Committee was disappointed that the "Abuse of Alcohol" was not included in the current two year work programme and felt it should be given priority.

- (3) RESOLVED that the inclusion of the review for the “Provision of Activities for Young People” in the Select Committee Topic Review Programme be noted.

24. Future Location of POC

RESOLVED that the January meeting of this Committee be held at Sessions House and the meeting for May be held in Margate, the meeting venues for the remainder of the year to be decided at a later date.