

## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

---

### CORPORATE POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Corporate Policy Overview Committee held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 26 April 2007.

PRESENT: Mr E E C Hotson (Chairman), Mr T Birkett (Vice-Chairman), Mr R H C Bliss, Mrs T Dean, Mr J B O Fullarton, Ms A Harrison, Mr R A Marsh, Mr R Parry, Mr J E Scholes and Mr D Smyth

ALSO PRESENT: Mr P Carter, Leader of the Council, Mr G Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Mr A King, Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr J Wale, Assistant to the Chief Executive, Ms D Fitch, Assistant Democratic Services Manager (Policy Overview)

#### UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

##### 47. Minutes

(1) In relation to Page 29 (Kent Apprenticeships) Mrs Dean requested an update on the possibility of ring fencing some of the Kent Apprenticeship jobs to help disadvantaged young people who otherwise would not be able to afford to take an apprenticeship. It was agreed that an update would be requested.

(2) RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2007 are correctly recorded, subject to the deletion of Ms A Harrison in the list of Members present, and that they be signed by the Chairman.

##### 48. Gateways

*(Item B1)*

*(Ms T Oliver, Head of Strategic Development, was present for this item)*

(1) Ms Oliver showed a DVD which captured what Gateways were about. She also circulated copies of the Gateway Strategy document which outlined the target areas for new Gateways. She stated that Maidstone and Margate were the next fixed locations for gateways. Work on the Maidstone Gateway was going well and it was due to open in early 2008. She also referred to a mobile gateway which would be used to target rural areas and smaller towns. In relation to possible other roles for gateways, discussions were being held in relation to public health issues with Lloyds Pharmacy. She stated that gateways had a positive future and many organisations were very keen to engage.

(2) RESOLVED that the Committee were pleased with progress and noted the update.

#### **49. Consultation in KCC: Revised Consultation Strategy**

*(Item B2)*

*(Mr A King, Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance, was present for this item)*

(1) Following the meeting of this Committee on 9 November 2006, comments made by Members on the draft Consultation Strategy, both at the meeting and subsequently, had been considered and incorporated into the revised document. The revised version of the Consultation Strategy and a shortened version of the Strategy were circulated to Members. It was proposed that both documents would be taken to Cabinet for formal adoption in May 2007.

(2) Members were invited to ask questions on the strategy documents.

(3) RESOLVED that

(a) the comments made by Members be noted and that any further comments be sent to the Cabinet Member or officers within the next couple of days.

(b) the Consultation Document and shortened version be endorsed by the POC.

#### **50. International Agenda – European Affairs**

*(Item B3)*

*(Mr A King, Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance and Mr D Oxlade, Head of Policy, was present for this item)*

(1) Mr Oxlade presented a report which provided an update on the main sources of European funding likely to be available to Kent over the coming years.

(2) Members asked questions on the new Brussels Office and European funding.

(3) RESOLVED that

(a) the report be noted, in particular the importance of maintaining the role of the authority as a strategic organisation in the European field in order to keep a central role in future influencing, decision-making (including EU funding) and implementation processes.

(b) the Policy Overview Committee receive 6 monthly updates on the International Agenda, including the initiatives to boost the Kent economy.

(c) when the draft International Strategy is produced, this Committee be given the opportunity to comment on it.

#### **51. Public Health Strategy for Kent**

*(Item B4)*

*(Mr G Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Ms M Peachey, Director of Public Health and Mr M Lemon, Policy Manager, were present for this item)*

(1) The Committee considered a first draft of Public Health Strategy for Kent which would be circulated to key stakeholders for comment and discussion before being taken to KCC's Cabinet and PCT Boards and ultimately a meeting of the full County Council on 24 July 2007. Members' comments were invited.

(2) RESOLVED that

(a) the content of the strategy and that the following comments from the Committee also be noted:-

- It is important that District Councils are given the opportunity to sign up to this strategy
- It is important the strategies are deliverable
- there is a need to be able to understand the reason behind some of the figures e.g. the under 18 conception rates
- it is important the pressure is exerted to get the “choosing health” monies ring fenced
- That in relation to the issues of PSHE and SRE and the issue of the 47,000 children in Kent living in poverty, the Children’s Families and Education Directorate should be invited to indicate how they were addressing these issues.
- There needed to be a clearer explanation of the tables in the strategy
- In relation to MRSA and clostridium difficle - the issue of the different impact and speed of effect should be noted
- There should be greater consistence way in which figures are used in the strategy
- There is a lot that we can learn from Europe in relation to public health issues and this should be reflected.
- Consideration should be given to the portfolio holder for Public health being given a budget
- Page 26 – Obesity – more could be said about KCC as an employer and sharing good practise with other employers including showing the business advantages of looking after employees well being
- More emphasis should be placed on the impact of work related stress.

(b) That the revised version of the Strategy be submitted to the July meeting of the POC.

## **(52) Select Committee – Update**

*(Item C1)*

(1) The Committee received a report which updated them on the Select Committee topic review work programme including the current situation relating to the proposed Accessing Democracy Select Committee which was put forward by this Policy Overview Committee. .

(2) The Committee were informed that preparatory work for the Topic Review on the Abuse of Alcohol was being undertaken. As abuse of alcohol was a very broad cross-cutting subject in which a number of Policy Overview Committees and the NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee had an legitimate interest, it was proposed that the Terms of Reference for this Select Committee would be shared informally with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and Liberal Democrat Spokesman of this Policy Overview Committee, the Communities Policy Overview Committee and the NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee and delegated authority was sought to do this.

(3) RESOLVED that

(a) the update on the Select Committee topic review work programme be noted.

(b) the Overview and Scrutiny Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Liberal Democrat Spokesman of this Committee be delegated authority to informally discuss and agree the Terms of Reference of the Abuse of Alcohol Select Committee on behalf of this POC.

(c) the update on the Select Committee work programme be noted.