

CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 12 DECEMBER 2007

Report Title:	Future of National Fruit Collection, Brogdale
Background:	<p>The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) put the future management of the National Fruit Collection, currently located at Brogdale, Faversham, out to open competition earlier this year. A number of bids are believed to have been submitted.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Supporting Independence wrote to DEFRA on 10 May 2007 setting out KCC's view on a particular bid for the future management of the National Fruit Collection.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member's letter was sent as a matter of routine business and was not the subject of a formal Cabinet Member Decision. However, as an "action taken" by a Cabinet Member, it can still be subject to review or scrutiny by this Committee.</p>
Document Attached:	Letter from Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Supporting Independence to DEFRA dated 10 May 2007.
Purpose of Consideration:	<p>To explore why the Cabinet Member chose to express support for the bid submitted jointly by Brogdale Horticultural Trust, Imperial College and East Malling Research, which proposed relocating the National Fruit Collection to East Malling.</p> <p>A representative of the Friends of the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale, who support the principle of keeping the collection at the Brogdale site (there are thought to be three bids that propose this), will attend the meeting to give evidence.</p>
Possible Decisions:	<p>The options available to the Committee are to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) make no comments; or(b) recommend the Cabinet Member to reconsider the view expressed in his letter to DEFRA; or(c) submit a report on the matter to Council; or(d) refer any issues arising from its debate on the matter for consideration by a Policy Overview Committee or Cabinet.

Previous Consideration: None.

Background Documents: None.