

REPORT TO: CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 26 September 2007
BY: ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CABINET SCRUTINY AND POLICY OVERVIEW
Standing Report to September 2007

Summary

1. The report summarises in Table 1 outcomes of the most recent Cabinet Scrutiny Committee (CSC) meeting held on 25 July 2007. Cabinet Members and Chief Officers were provided with a copy of the action sheet and asked to respond as appropriate. The report includes any subsequent responses and actions by Cabinet Members and Senior Officers up to and including the meeting of Cabinet held on 17 September 2007.
2. Additionally, in Table 2 the report provides an updated report on the current programme for Select Committee Topic Review. This programme was agreed at Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee on 7 June 2007.

Recommendations

3. Members are asked to note:
 - (i) progress on actions and outcomes from the meeting of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee held on 25 July 2007 as set out in Table 1;
 - (ii) the current position on Select Committee Topic Reviews.
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Contact Officer: **John Wale 01622 694006**

ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 25 July 2007

Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
A2 Declarations of Interest	None
A3 Minutes of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee 27 June 2007.	(a) The minutes were agreed. (b) The Update on Children's Centres is to be added by Dr I Craig. Action: Dr I Craig (c) Details of Government Funding for Children's Centres (including those set up under Sure Start) for 2008/09 to be circulated to all members as soon as known. Action: Alex Gamby/Ian Craig/Stuart Ballard.
A4 Informal Member Group on Budgetary issues – 11 July 2007	The minutes were noted.
A5 Cabinet Scrutiny Committee: Standing Report to July 2007	Report was noted. Mr Wale explained the updates to the Select Committee Topic Review Programme following the meeting of POCC on 7 June 2007 and more recent progress relating to Topic Reviews.
B1 The Bridge Development, Dartford E1 Strategic Plan for the Provision of Secondary Places 2007-2017	(a) Noted without comment. (b) With reference to Paragraph 3(b) of the report, Mr Smyth asked that the implications of the contribution being at a different level should be incorporated in the September Monitoring Report. Action: Lynda McMullan Mr M C Dance, Cabinet Member for Education and Schools, Dr I Craig, Director of Operations, Mr M Nye and Mr T Smith, School Organisation Officers, attended and answered Members' questions on this item. (a) Further information about reasons for the recent up-turn in national birth-rate (p8) to be circulated to all Members of the Committee. (Mr Smyth) (b) Comparative figures for KCC's statistical neighbours to be circulated to all Members of the Committee (Miss Carey). (c) Office of National Statistics' data on births in 2006 (p9) to be circulated to all members of the Committee as soon as available (Mr Bullock). (d) A briefing note on the inclusion of Whitstable and Herne Bay in the Thanet Phase of Building Schools for the Future to be circulated to all Members of the Committee. (Mr Hart).

ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 25 July 2007

Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
	<p>(e) The Committee concluded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Mr Dance, Dr Craig, Mr Nye and Mr Smith be thanked for attending the meeting to brief the Committee and answer Members' questions. (ii) The assurance by the Cabinet Member that, in planning how to deal with surplus secondary school places, the wider issues, (eg wider roles of schools within their community [both actual and potential]; location of schools in relation to the community they served; transport and travel implications; and development control issues arising from extended-hours use of school facilities) would be taken fully into account, be welcomed. ACTION: Mr Dance/Dr Craig (iii) The assurance by the Director of Operations (CFE) that that there would be full local debate over the next 6 months on the Secondary School Capacity issue be welcomed, and the Director be asked to publish a timetable for this activity as quickly as possible. Action: Dr Craig (iv) The Director of Operations, CFE be requested to provide Members with details of the future relationship between LEAs and the Further Education sector, and the implications of this for Kent, as soon as it had been clarified by Government. Action: Dr Craig (v) The Director of Operations (CFE) be asked to advise Members of the outcome of his investigation into why the number of pupils in the 15+ year group (p5 of the document) was slightly lower than preceding year groups. Action: Dr Craig/S Ballard.

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee: 26 September 2007
Table 2

**Select Committee Topic Reviews:
Programme agreed at Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee 7 June 2007**

Policy Overview Committee/ Topic Review/Chair	Current Topic Review status and other topics agreed for the period July 2007 to July 2008 *
<p>Children Families and Education :</p> <p>PSHE-Children's Health: Chair Ms CJ CRIBBON</p> <p>Developing the Creative Curriculum</p> <p>Young People's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development#</p> <p>Vulnerable Children</p>	<p>The Select Committee report was accepted by Cabinet on 16 April 2007, and was debated at full County Council on 24 July 2007. (Research Officer: Gaetano Romagnuolo)</p> <p>POCC agreed that this should remain in the work programme for 2008.*</p> <p># POCC suggested this topic could also be combined with aspects of Consultation and Participation with Children and Young People (Student Voice), and with Provision of Activities for Young People. In the work programme for 2008.</p> <p>POCC recommended this Topic Review should commence in Autumn 2007.</p>
<p>Corporate: Accessing Democracy</p>	<p>POCC recommended that this review should commence in Autumn 2007* Preliminary discussions have been held to assess how this work will compliment the work of the "Going Local" Informal Member Group.</p>
<p>Communities</p> <p>Student Voice –Consultation and Participation with Young People#</p> <p>Provision of Activities for Young People#</p>	<p>#See above; dates to be agreed.</p> <p>See above; dates to be agreed.</p>

Policy Overview Committee/ Topic Review/Chair	Current Topic Review status and other topics agreed for the period July 2007 to July 2008 *
Communities (continued) Alcohol Misuse Chairman: MR D HIRST	Inaugural meeting held on 16 May 2007; Terms of Reference Agreed, Hearings will be held mid June to the end of July. The Select Committee will report to Cabinet on 3 December 2007.
Adult Services Carers in Kent: MR L CHRISTIE	Inaugural meeting of the Select Committee was held on 5 June 2007. Hearing sessions are being held in July/August 2007, with a report to Cabinet in December 2007.
Environment and Regeneration Impact of Supermarkets, Out of Town Shopping Malls and Retail Parks on Businesses in Kent Flood Risk MRS S HOHLER	After debate, POCC considered that this topic should be removed from the current work programme. POCC having agreed that this topic review should proceed as soon as possible, hearings have been held during July and August with the objective of completing the report by September 2007.

jhw/sc 17 September 2007:

** Subject to formal agreement by Chairman and Spokespersons of POCC of Minutes of Meeting held 7 June 2007.*