

REPORT TO: CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23 MAY 2007
BY: ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CABINET SCRUTINY AND POLICY OVERVIEW
Standing Report to May 2007

Summary

1. The report summarises in Table 1 outcomes of the most recent Cabinet Scrutiny Committee (CSC) meeting held on 25 April 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 14 May 2007.
2. Additionally, in Table 2 the report provides an updated report on the current programme for Select Committee Topic Review. This programme was originally agreed at Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee on 15 February 2007.

Recommendations

3. Members are asked to note:
 - (i) progress on actions and outcomes from the meeting of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee held on 25 April 2007 as set out in Table 1;
 - (ii) the current position on Select Committee Topic Reviews.
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ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 25 April 2007 (As reported to Cabinet 14 May 2007)

Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
A2 Minutes of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee 21 March 2007.	The minutes were agreed.
A3 IMG on “Kent-What price Growth?” 26 March 2007	The notes were noted.
A4 IMG on Budgetary Issues 12 April 2007	The notes were noted.
A5 Cabinet Scrutiny Committee: Actions and Outcomes to 25 April 2007	<p>The report was noted.</p> <p>(a) On Table 2, Mr R Parker raised a point about opposition Spokespersons on POCC and Select Committees being consulted on dates of meetings and hearings. Action: John Wale/Paul Wickenden.</p> <p>(b) On Table 2, Mrs Dean raised the issue of how Accessing Democracy would complement the work of the “Going Local” Informal Member Group. Action: John Wale/Paul Wickenden.</p>
A6 Directorate Business Plans	The Committee agreed that the Chairman and Spokespersons would recommend to the next meeting 3 or 4 from the overall list. These would then be referred to single-meeting Informal Member Groups in late summer/early autumn 2007.
ADDITIONAL ITEM Decision 07/00972- Children’s Social Services Fees and Charges	The Chairman explained his concerns about this Decision.
C1 Equality Strategy 2007-10	<p>Mr P B Carter (Leader), Mr O Mills (Managing Director, Adult Social Services) and Ms J Richardson (Inclusive Services Policy Manager) attended for this item and were thanked for answering Members’ questions.</p> <p>Mr Parker asked if the Gender Equality Action Plan Item 3 had taken account of the latest cuts in libraries staffing; Action: Stuart Ballard/Jo Richardson/Cath Anley</p> <p>In addition, various amendments to wording of the</p>

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	<p>strategy were suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To use gender-neutral language when referring to Leader and Chief Executive in the document; (ii) The Action Plan to include a target (with dates) on making documents accessible to people for whom English was not the first language and also for the visually impaired. (iii) Where appropriate, replace “continue existing activity in Action Plan with “seek new mechanisms” <p>Members subsequently concluded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Leader’s agreement that any changes proposed to be made to the Strategy as a result of consultation responses would be shared with the opposition Group Leaders before publication on 30 April be welcomed; <p>Action: Mr Carter, Oliver Mills, Jo Richardson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) Mr Mills be requested to share the final versions of the Action Plans (including target dates and indicators of achievement) with the Chairman and spokespersons of the Committee as soon as completed; (iii) the offer by Mr Mills to circulate details of the membership and terms of reference of the Strategic Equalities Group be welcomed; (iv) Mr Mills be requested to ensure that the Action Plans include provision for a review of the composition of the Kent Residents’ Panel as part of the overall review of the Equality Strategy at the end of the year. <p>Action: Jo Richardson, Oliver Mills, Stuart Ballard</p>

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Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
<p>C2 Kent TV</p>	<p>Mr P B Carter (Leader), Mr P Gilroy (Chief Executive); and Ms T Oliver (Head of Strategic Development) attended for this item and answered questions from members of the Committee.</p> <p>The Chairman asked for a list of dates when proposals for Kent TV were reported to Cabinet or Cabinet Members. Action: Ms Oliver.</p> <p>Members concluded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Mr Carter, Mr Gilroy and Ms Oliver be thanked for attending and answering Members' questions. (ii) disappointment be expressed that Cabinet felt unable to share information on the proposals for Kent TV more widely; (iii) the Chief Executive be requested to arrange a presentation on Kent TV by the appointed provider as quickly as possible; (iv) the offer by the Leader to circulate regular updates on progress with implementation and uptake of Kent TV be welcomed. <p>Action (iii) and (iv) Tanya Oliver</p>

ACTIONS FOR CABINET/DIRECTORATES FROM CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 25 April 2007 (As reported to Cabinet 14 May 2007)

Item/Issue	Actions and Outcomes from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
<p>D1 East Kent Empty Property Initiative- Direct Purchase Scheme (Decision 07/00934)</p>	<p>Mr R Gough (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Supporting Independence); Mr M Austerberry (Director of Property) and Ms S Pledger (Project Manager, E Kent Empty Property Initiative) attended and were thanked for answering Members' questions on this item.</p> <p>Following discussion, Members resolved as follows:</p> <p>(a) Decision 07/00934 can be implemented.</p> <p>(b) The Committee concluded that:</p> <p>(i) the agreement by Mr Gough to supply Members of the Committee with a copy of the Risk Assessment for the Direct Purchase Scheme be welcomed; and</p> <p>(ii) the agreement by Mr Gough that, in future, local Members would be advised of properties in their area which had been purchased under the Scheme be welcomed</p> <p>Action: Mr Gough, Susan Pledger, Stuart Ballard</p>

CABINET SRUTINY COMMITTEE 23 May 2007
Table 2

Select Committee Topic Reviews:
Programme following Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee 15 February 2007* (*Subject to confirmation of Minutes by Chairman and Spokespersons)

<i>Policy Overview Committee/ Topic Review/Chair</i>	Current Topic Review status and other topics (in no particular order*) agreed for the period February 2007 to July 2008
<p><i>Children Families and Education :</i></p> <p>PSHE-Children's Health: Chair Ms CJ CRIBBON</p> <p>Developing the Creative Curriculum</p> <p>Primary School Attainment</p> <p>Young People's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development</p>	<p>Inaugural meeting of the Select Committee was held on 5 October. Hearings and visits were held during November. The Select Committee report was accepted by Cabinet on 16 April 2007, and will be debated at full County Council on 24 July 2007. (Research Officer: Gaetano Romagnuolo)</p> <p>Dates to be agreed*</p> <p>POCC agreed that this issue was being dealt with through a cross-party mechanism. It was therefore removed at the request of CFE POC.</p> <p>Dates to be agreed*</p>
<p><i>Corporate:</i> Accessing Democracy</p>	<p>Dates to be agreed* Preliminary discussions are being held to assess how this work will compliment the work of the "Going Local" Informal Member Group.</p>
<p><i>Communities</i></p> <p>Student Voice –Consultation and Participation with Young People</p> <p>Provision of Activities for Young People</p>	<p>Dates to be agreed.*</p> <p>Dates to be agreed.*</p>

<p>Communities/Public Health (to be agreed) Alcohol and Related Issues</p>	<p>To start in Spring 2007.</p>
<p>Adult Services</p> <p>Carers in Kent Chairman designate: MR L CHRISTIE (to be confirmed by the Select Committee at its inaugural meeting)</p> <p>Transition from Childhood to Adulthood: MR A BOWLES</p>	<p>Dates confirmed as Spring to Autumn 2007.</p> <p>Inaugural meeting of the Select Committee was held on 9 October 2006; hearing sessions commenced on 26 October and were completed in December 2006. The Select Committee's report was accepted by Cabinet on 14 May 2007, at which Cabinet agreed that matters arising from the report would be considered by a "one-off" meeting of an Informal Member Group. (Research Officer: Susan Frampton).</p>
<p>Environment and Regeneration</p> <p>Impact of Supermarkets, Out of Town Shopping Malls and Retail Parks on Businesses in Kent</p>	<p>Dates to be agreed.*</p>

jhw/sc 14 May 2007

** To be discussed at the meeting of the POCC in June and September 2007*