

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Corporate Policy Overview Committee
26 March 2009

Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEES - UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates Members on the Select Committee on Accessing Democracy and invites suggestions for future topic reviews.

Select Committee: Accessing Democracy

1. As part of the County Councils monitoring process for Select Committee recommendations the Select Committee a copy of the action plan setting out proposals for taking the recommendations forward is on the agenda for this meeting (item C2). The Select Committee will be reconvened in the autumn of 2009 to receive a report on progress with each of the recommendations.

Select Committee: Alcohol Misuse

2. (1) Earlier in the meeting Members considered the "Developments around Kent Action on Alcohol" which included feedback on some of the recommendations of the Select Committee.

(2) This Select Committee was reconvened on 12 March 2009 to receive a report on progress against its recommendations, one year on from the publication of its report.

(3) The minutes of that meeting will be circulated prior to the Policy Overview Committee meeting.

Suggestions for future Select Committee topic reviews

3. (1) The current Select Committee topic review programme is coming to an end and there is not sufficient time to commence any more reviews prior to the Elections in June 2009. However, it is important that topics are available to be considered early in the new Council so that a work programme can be approved and reviews started as soon as possible. No topics have so far been put forward from within this Committee's subject area, and any that Members may wish to suggest will need to be submitted very soon.

(2) Members are therefore requested to consider whether there are any potential topics that fall within the remit of this Policy Overview Committee, which they would like to put forward for consideration by the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee (POCC).

(3) The Committee are reminded of the recent decision of the County Council that once a Topic Review has been included in the Work Programme as agreed by the POCC the detailed terms of reference each review will be developed by a cross party Member Group (one from each Group) for approval by the Select Committee.

(4) The POC will be kept informed of potential topics which are within its remit.

Recommendations

3 The Committee are asked to:-

- (a) note the minutes of the meeting of the Alcohol Misuse Select Committee held on 12 March 2009; and
- (b) suggest subjects for potential Select Committee Topic reviews for consideration by the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee.

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Background Information: *Nil*