

ASSESSMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC REVIEW

* - sections to be filled in by the proposer of the topic

<p>*Subject of Proposed Review:-</p> <p>Property portfolio/ what should we dispose of or replace</p>
<p>*Reason for the Review:- (see Note 1 below)</p> <p>Are we holding onto property unnecessarily Are we still using expensive to run inefficient badly located buildings costing tax payers money e.g. county hall Work environment for our staff Accessibility of buildings for public</p>
<p>*Issues to be covered by the Terms of Reference:-</p> <p>All the above whether we should dispose of costly buildings and replace with modern accessible energy efficient buildings</p>
<p>*Scope of the review:-</p> <p>county wide</p>
<p>*Purpose and objectives of the Review:-</p> <p>To ensure we are giving tax payers value for money and are not holding property we do not require</p>
<p>Proposer of the review - (Please print name and sign)</p> <p>03.11.14</p> <p>.....Jim Wedgbury.</p>

To be completed by the Directorate/Cabinet Member(s)

Are there any reasons why this review should not be put forward for inclusion in the work programme for 2014/16? (see Note 2 below)

Whilst these areas have not been reviewed recently by the scrutiny committee, Property already report on the performance of the estate as part of the Councils current governance arrangements. The Council adopted a new Asset Management Plan in 2013 which set out a number of key themes including the following key priorities for property:

1. Asset Rationalisation: This relates to reducing the councils operational footprint by 30% over a 5 year period, a programme of activity has been developed and is closely linked to the Facing the Challenge review process.
2. New Ways of Working: This programme seeks to rationalise the office estate across the County with consolidation into our freehold estate, to deliver fit for purpose office accommodation. The NPV savings projections for this programme are circ. £25 million. Progress on this programme is reported to the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee along with the strategy in terms of which buildings will be kept etc.for comment and consideration prior to the strategy being implemented. This programme has recently been subject to a review by internal audit with additional assurance provided by the Corporate Portfolio Office as major change programme within the county council.
3. Utilities and improved energy efficiency in our buildings and delivering against the Kent Environment Strategy – progress against these are monitored at GET Cabinet Committee.
4. Reviewing Facilities Management: New management arrangements have been put in place. These have been discussed at the Policy and Resource Cabinet Committee, with the Cabinet Committee taking on an ongoing role in providing assurance for the new arrangements.

The property service has also undergone a detailed review as a Phase 1 service. This has included market testing of the current property service. This has been reported to various forums including full council and Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee.

The scope of the review is quite broad. As set out above the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee and the Property Sub Committee play a significant role in providing oversight as to Property Strategy and ensuring that these deliver value for money solutions for County within the constraints that we work within.

Will the review support the achievement of “Facing the Challenge”? If yes, please identify aim(s) and give details:-

The property service has already been reviewed as part of the Facing the Challenge review and has a clear direction of travel to deliver against the current ambitions of the Council in respect of property. Clear savings targets have been set and scrutinized as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

<p>How will the review contribute to corporate objectives and priorities?</p> <p>The Council has recently adopted a 4 year Asset Management Plan which actively supports the County Council corporate objectives and delivering the savings identified in the Medium Term Plan.</p>	
<p>How will this review have an impact on KCC policy development and/or help to influence national policy?</p> <p>The Review could provide assurance to members that the Property Team are currently delivering against the proposed plans although this may well duplicate assurance processes already in place within the Council.</p>	
<p>How will this review add value to the County Council and residents of Kent?</p> <p>See above</p>	
<p>Does the review need to be completed within a specific timeframe? If yes, please give details:</p> <p>N/A</p>	
<p>Any additional comments from the Portfolio Holder/Corporate Director:-</p> <p> </p> <p>Portfolio Holder's Signature:- Gary Cooke</p> <p> </p> <p>Strategic Director's Signature:- David Cockburn</p>	
<p>Contact Officer:-</p>	<p>Date:-</p>