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To: Corporate Policy Overview Committee – 26 March 2009

Subject: Accessing Democracy – Recommendations of the Select Committee –  
Progress Report and Action Plan

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## **Introduction**

1. In accordance with the procedures for taking forward the recommendations of a Select Committee report once they have been approved by the County Council attached to this report is an appendix of the recommendations considered by the County Council on 11 December 2008 relating to the Accessing Democracy Select Committee report together with an indication of how the recommendations of the Select Committee are being progressed.

## **Implementation Steering Group**

2. (1) I will be establishing an Implementation Steering Group which will comprise the Chairman and spokespersons of the Select Committee, the Director of Improvement and Engagement as well as the Head of Democratic Services & Local Leadership or their nominees and a range of officer stakeholders.

(2) In accordance with County Council procedures a monitoring report will be submitted to the Committee towards the end of 2009 or early in 2010.

## **Package of Workstreams**

3. (1) The Committee are reminded that the work of this Select Committee interrelates with other workstreams including:-

- the work of the Informal Member Group Member Development taking forward the County Council's application for the South East Employers Member Development Charter; and
- the Group of Members and officers which I lead taking forward and implementing the recommendations of the Informal Member Group Member Information.

(2) The other pivotal strand to this work, is the continuing evolution and development of a range of pilot localism models to engage and empower our communities.

(3) Overarching this piece of work is the Empowerment White Paper, Real Power, Real People and the duties:-

- for all local authorities to involve; and
- to promote democracy.

(4) The Community Engagement conference held on the 28th November 2008 at Oakwood House presented a good start for Members to explore a range of mechanisms available to us and examples of best practice from across the country to take the recommendations of the Accessing Democracy Select Committee forward.

(5) A whole range of events and activities are being planned from now on and for the new County Council.

(6) Our role as elected Members is key to the success of delivering these important strands of work and this agenda.

### **Recommendations**

4. The Committee are asked to note:-

- (a) the proposal to establish an Implementation Strategy Group and
- (b) the progress already taken to implement the recommendations of the Select Committee Accessing Democracy.

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