

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Environment and Regeneration Policy Overview Committee
31 March 2009

Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEES - UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates Members on the progress of the Select Committee on Passenger Rail Services in Kent, and reminds Members of the opportunity to suggest items for the Select Committee Topic Review work programme for 2009/10.

Select Committee on Passenger Rail Services in Kent

1. The Select Committee report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 1 December, at which Members welcomed the report's findings as the basis on which the County Council could campaign for improved rail services across the county. Some further work was identified before the report could be submitted to the full Council, and, with this work now having been completed, the report will be considered by the full Council on 30 April.

Suggestions for Future Select Committee Topic Reviews

2. (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 for 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 is asked to:-

(a) note the update on the Select Committee on Passenger Rail Services in Kent; and

(b) put forward suggestions for potential Select Committee topic reviews for consideration by the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee (POCC).

Christine Singh
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Background Information: *Nil*