

By: Peter Sass - Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 08 April 2009

Subject: Follow up items from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report sets out the items which the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee has raised previously for follow up

Introduction

1. This is a rolling schedule of information requested previously by the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.
2. If the information supplied is satisfactory it will be removed following the meeting, but if the Committee should find the information to be unsatisfactory it will remain on the schedule with a request for further information.

Recommendation

3. That the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee notes the responses to the issues raised previously.

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Background Information: *Nil*

| | Issue | Response |
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| 10.12.08 | Highways Business Plan IMG 02.12.08 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A list of gully schedules be supplied to all Members after the elections - The informal briefing on EDF given to Members by KHS Technical Services be repeated in the spring | |
| 22.10.08 | IMG on Managing Motorways and Trunk Roads in Kent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further advice be requested from Officers and the Cabinet Member when the results of the bidding process were known - Officers and the Cabinet Member report back to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee, including information on possible BVPIs, a year after the contract has commenced. | Document detailing changes to original contract circulated to Members of CSC 13.11.08. |
| 21.01.09 | Comms & Media Business Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chief Executive's offer to give Members the opportunity to visit the IBM research facility in Hampshire - Chief Executive's offer to hold a seminar for Members on the 'Future of Communication' - Chief Executive's offer that the two pilot schemes in Swale and West Malling should be presented to Members - Further details of translation services and their cost be provided to all Members of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee - Briefing note on the report on the ways in which we consult with the public being prepared by Robert Hardy - Communications protocol in relation to the promotion of Council Services be circulated to all Members - Monitoring information relating to positive, neutral and negative press coverage is circulated to all Members through the Members' Information Bulletin | Information requested |

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| <p>26.01.09</p> | <p>Ms Beer to provide a note of COG bonuses</p> | <p>The substantive members of the Chief Officer Group (the Chief Executive, the Managing Directors, the Director of Finance and the Executive Director of Strategy, Economic Development and ICT) have a contractual entitlement to be considered for a performance related bonus of up to 15% of their annual salary. The Chief Officers are on “spot” salaries which increase by the same cost of living percentage agreed each year for all Kent Scheme staff. They are not on incremental pay scales and therefore this cost of living increase represents their only salary progression.</p> <p>Any payment in relation to their bonus is made as a lump sum and is pensionable but not consolidated into substantive salary. A bonus payment will be made after an assessment of how each individual has performed against the targets and objectives set for them at the beginning of each appraisal year. The Chief Executive’s bonus is determined by the Leader of the Council after consultation with Cabinet. He in turn agrees any bonus to be paid to other Chief Officers after consultation with the Leader and other key stakeholders.</p> |
| <p>26.01.09</p> | <p>Members asked whether the agreed recommendations of the Select Committees had been calculated and funded in the budget.</p> | <p>The budgetary impact of the select committee reports which have been taken to Cabinet since March 2008 have been considered.</p> <p>The recommendations of the Alcohol Misuse Select Committee Report (agreed by Cabinet 17 March 2008) can be covered within existing budgets in the Communities Directorate. In the main, the recommendations affect Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team and Trading Standards.</p> |

The recommendations of the Accessing Democracy Select Committee Report (agreed by Cabinet 19 September 2008) which have budgetary impacts appear in the 2008-11 MTP and 2009-12 MTP (Draft for County Council). This includes £345k for Supporting the development of Localism in Kent (Policy & Performance portfolio, 2008-11 MTP), as well as £30k for Member Induction Training and £100k for Provision of IT and IT Support to Members (both in Corporate Support and External Affairs Portfolio, 2009-12 MTP (Draft for County Council)). All other recommendations, including Participatory Budgeting, will be undertaken within existing budgets.

Most of the recommendations of the Future Passenger Rail Services Select Committee Report (agreed by Cabinet 1 December 2008) are manageable within existing budgets. Recommendations 6 (Produce a review of the stations that will be served by High-Speed rail to identify and prioritise work needed to stations and station access to be ready for or soon after the December 2009 launch) and 8 (Work with the bus companies to develop more frequent services serving rail stations, particularly more late services serving return rail commuters and to assist with the Traveline project for accurate journey planning) require reviews before a likely cost to be included in the budget can be established. Recommendation 5 (Work with key partners to ensure a direct pedestrian link between Northfleet and Ebbsfleet stations is created as soon as possible) is currently being developed as part of a wider project to improve Northfleet station. There is the possibility of securing DCLG funding of £5m towards this if the remaining balance (probably about £2m) can be raised. Officers are approaching other bodies for this funding (SEERA being the main route at this point), to try to avoid the cost of the pedestrian link impacting on the County Council's budget.

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| | | <p>Two further Select Committee reports, on Autistic Spectrum Disorder and the Provision of Activities for Young People, are due at Cabinet on 30 March 2009. The budgetary impact of these reports will not be reflected in the 2009-12 Medium Term Plan or 2009-10 Budget, as the recommendations must first be endorsed by Cabinet. However, any budgetary impacts of the recommendations in these reports will be considered in the next budget round.</p> |
| <p>30.01.09 Budget IMG</p> | <p>Members queried the re-phasing of the special schools review (SSR) projects and stated that Local Members and particularly Governors of the relevant schools were not always kept up to date with changes to the phasing of projects. Members asked for an update on progress at Five Acre Wood school and St James the Great school.</p> | <p>The re-phasing as mentioned in the report resulted from, as it said, a major review of progress on all of the schemes that were under development. This review identified three schemes where they were either behind or ahead of schedule. This situation is normal in any such programme.</p> <p>There is a larger re-phasing of the implementation of the Special School Review which has been approved by the County Council as part of the budget process. This has seen six special schools being deferred until either the financial situation improves or the Building Schools for the Future Programme arrives in their district. Five Acre Wood is one of these six schools, but the expenditure referred to in the monitoring was in relation to “appeasement works” and this is now virtually complete, with the exception of some work to the main entrance.</p> <p>With regard to the St James the Great scheme, the position is that the scheme is progressing and will be completed by 18 May 2009.</p> |

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| <p>08.02.09</p> | <p>Freedom Pass</p> <p>(1) A letter be sent to Mr Ferrin, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste in the names of the Chairman and Spokespersons of the Committee drawing his attention to the following concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The eligibility under the scheme of children who live within the administrative county of Kent but who travel outside of the area to attend school; b. The possible adverse impact on the lawful rights of a number of young people to travel freely, together with details of the number of young people affected by what the Committee believes is an anomaly within the current scheme; c. An assessment of the degree to which the scheme is promoted across Kent and the takeup of the scheme particularly in areas of relative deprivation; <p>(2) Mr Ferrin be asked to formally respond to these concerns and to advise if and when the 'Freedom Pass' scheme is to be reviewed and how any review will be carried out;</p> <p>(3) Draw Mr Ferrin's attention to the fact that, subject to his formal response to this letter the Chairman and Spokespersons of this Committee will consider whether to place an item on the next Committee agenda so that a full debate on the subject can take place.</p> | <p>Letter sent Wednesday 18th Feb</p> |
| <p>08.02.09</p> | <p>PWC</p> <p>The Committee looks forward to receiving details of KCC's action plan that has been put in place to address the recommendations in the report</p> | <p>Arlingclose have been contracted to follow up the PwC report.</p> |

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| <p>08.02.09</p> | <p>Butlers</p> <p>(1) The Committee ask the Cabinet to carry out an urgent review of the status of the Economic Management Group in terms of the Council's constitution. In particular the Committee would ask the following issues to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. whether the group should become a formal committee or sub committee of the Council and if so under which Committee it should sit. b. the proposed terms of reference for the body and in particular whether it is proposed that the body will have any formal decision making powers and if so within what parameters c. that the issue of membership of the Committee and member training be considered and acted upon d. that the body should not seek to duplicate the role of the Governance and Audit Committee. <p>(2) That the Director of Finance be asked to confirm the revisions to the procedure in relation to the receipt of emails from Butlers.</p> | <p>Please find attached, at Appendix A, a Governance Note agreed at the last meeting of the EMG.</p> <p>More than one member of staff, including the Head of Financial Services and the Director of Finance receive emails from Butlers.</p> |
| <p>08.02.09</p> | <p>Medium Term Plan 2009-2012</p> <p>The issue of standardising definitions throughout the budget document would be looked at and would be brought back to the Budget IMG for discussion</p> | <p>The MTP and the Budget Book have been tidied up and a paper will be submitted to the Budget IMG in September on options to improve next year.</p> |
| <p>08.02.09</p> | <p>LCSPs. Savings that could be made by moving from 23 LCSPs to 12 – to reflect the districts.</p> | <p>This will be discussed once the new Managing Director of CFE has arrived.</p> |