

By: Alex King – Deputy Leader  
Peter Sass - Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: Cabinet – 20 April 2009

Subject: Decisions from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 8 April 2009

Classification: Unrestricted

---

Summary: This report sets out the decisions from the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and invites a response from Cabinet.

---

### **Introduction**

1. The Leader has agreed the decisions from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the following meeting of the Cabinet for a response. The responses will be reported back to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.
2. The decisions from the meeting of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee on 8 April 2009 are set out in the Appendix to this paper.

### **Recommendation**

3. That Cabinet agree responses to these decisions, which will be reported back to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.

Contact: Peter Sass  
[peter.sass@kent.gov.uk](mailto:peter.sass@kent.gov.uk)

01622 694002

Background Information: *Nil*

## Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 8 April 2009

Title	Purpose of Consideration	Invitees	Decisions	Cabinet Member Response
<b>Round Two and Round Three Children's Centres</b>	To discuss the delays to the Round Two Children's Centres and ask questions about the Round Three Children's Centres	Mr M Dance Mrs A Gamby Ms J Smith Mr G Tipping	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Committee thanked Mr Dance, Mrs Gamby, Ms Smith and Mr Tipping for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions;</li> <li>2. The Committee noted the explanation of the delays to the Round 2 Children's Centres and understood the reasons behind the termination of the contracts;</li> <li>3. The Committee requested that local Members were kept better informed of developments with the Children's Centres and details regarding the progress or delays to developing Children's Centres should be included in the Members' Information Bulletin;</li> <li>4. The Committee requested that a copy of the original and the revised contract for the Round 2 Children's Centres be made available to Members;</li> <li>5. Members requested figures on the average deprivation for each ward to be served by a Children's Centre;</li> <li>6. Members requested the dates on which the Children's Centres were designated as opposed to the date of construction.</li> </ol>	After full and frank discussion a number of points were taken onboard notwithstanding the action taken to terminate the original contractual arrangement for round two children's centres as this was right and proper.

Title	Purpose of Consideration	Invitees	Decisions	Cabinet Member Response
<p><b>Kent Freedom Pass</b></p>	<p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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>	<p>Mr K Ferrin Mr D Hall Mr I Clark</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Committee thanked Mr Ferrin, Mr Hall and Mr Clark for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions;</li> <li>2. The Committee welcomed the fact that there would be a review of the Freedom Pass in September 2009 and agreed to set up an IMG after the elections to feed into the review. (The IMG should seek the views of all Cabinet Scrutiny Members before going on to seek the views of all Members of the Council). Items for the IMG to consider included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The link between the Freedom Pass and Home to School Transport;</li> <li>b. Extending the Freedom Pass to include 16 – 18 year olds (particularly with the introduction of compulsory education for that age group);</li> <li>c. Encouraging the involvement of Southeastern Rail in the Freedom Pass scheme;</li> <li>d. Options for those families unable to afford the Freedom Pass;</li> <li>e. The use of the card for leisure use for Kent residents attending school outside of Kent;</li> <li>f. Promotion of the scheme;</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Members requested that the Mosaic report on the Freedom Pass be circulated to the Committee;</li> <li>4. Members requested further information on the percentage of eligible school population who have a Freedom Pass;</li> <li>5. Members requested that representation be</li> </ol>	<p>The Cabinet Member is happy to concur with the view of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and will make arrangements as required.</p>

Title	Purpose of Consideration	Invitees	Decisions	Cabinet Member Response
			made to the Government for financial assistance with providing free transport for young people.	