

**Appendix 1: SELECT COMMITTEES 2005 – 2009 – PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS**

<b>WATER AND WASTEWATER, PARTICULARLY IN ASHFORD – SEPTEMBER 2005</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Progress at end March 2009</b>
<p><b>1. The Select Committee would endorse the view, expressed by officers of Kent County Council, that the solutions proposed for management of issues regarding the water system in the Ashford growth area must ensure mutual benefit and support, as far as is possible, with the economic and social dimensions of growth.</b></p> <p><b>The Committee also endorses the view that environmental considerations must be given equal weight in decision-making with social and economic considerations to achieve truly sustainable growth.</b></p> <p><b>The Committee recommends that when considering in future how to take forward actions identified through the IWMS, Kent County Council should continue to pursue strongly the objectives of the Kent Environment Strategy. The Council should consider how appropriate actions and targets from the IWMS could be linked to the Environment Strategy.</b></p>	<p>Alignment of policies continues to be pursued.</p> <p>The current review of the Kent Environment Strategy presents opportunity to improve this further.</p>
<p><b>2. The Select Committee would support the establishment of a permanent group for the management, protection and enhancement of the water system in the Stour Catchment, made up of key stakeholders from central government (including planners and regulatory authorities), local government (county and district levels), water companies, and technical and environmental experts. Its remit should include land management issues relating to water and wastewater in the Stour Catchment. KCC should drive the establishment of this group, ensuring that key stakeholders are involved and that its work dovetails with that of Ashford’s Future and the IWMS. The Group should engage actively with local people regarding its work, fostering public ownership and participation in measures to protect and enhance the aquatic environment.</b></p>	<p>The new Stour River Basin Group met recently for the first time. This is part of the river basin planning process for the Water Framework Directive.</p>

**3. Many of the Committee's recommendations will be more or less relevant to the welfare of the River Stour. Given that the growth in Ashford's population will lead to an increase in the output of wastewater, and that this growth sits within a context of higher temperatures and reductions in summer rainfall in the South East it must be stated here that the Select Committee believes that the Stour's chemical and biological condition, its temperature, flow levels and its chalk river characteristics downstream, and the condition of its environment must be given a priority consideration when carrying out selection of the options for managing water resources and the water supply and wastewater system in and around Ashford.**

**The Select Committee also acknowledges the Environment Agency view that 'what is good quality for one habitat is not necessarily good quality for another', and therefore urges that attention should be focused in particular on the quality of the chalk river stretches of the Great Stour. To facilitate this, the Select Committee recommends that as a matter of urgency an appropriate system of monitoring should be put in place to identify critical changes in the chalk river characteristics of the Stour, and to monitor the Stour's flow levels and temperature, not just the river's chemical and biological quality. Research should be undertaken to fill gaps in the present understanding of the impact of variations in flow levels and temperature on rivers with chalk stream characteristics.**

**The Environment Agency's resources should be increased as appropriate to enable this research.**

**Although the Environment Agency's statutory 'backstop' position is to maintain river chemical and biological quality, having noted existing concerns about the state of the Stour, especially in its chalk water stretches, the Select Committee would urge that the firm aim of the Environment Agency and all key stakeholders in the Stour Catchment should be an overall improvement in the chemical, biological and physical quality and the flow levels of the Stour, and in the condition of the Stour's environment. The Select Committee recommends**

Ashford Water Quality Task Group was established in 2008.

Ashford River Health Toolkit (ARHT) has been completed – this is a computer model that can simulate river flows, diffuse pollution inputs and point source effluent discharges so that infrastructure can be planned in advance of problems occurring.

The ARHT has identified future problems with phosphorous loading in the river and, as a result, Southern Water has submitted plans to OFWAT for the upgrading the WWTWs at Lenham, Charing and Sellenge.

Phase 1 of Bybrook WWTW improvements has been completed. This has resulted in river water quality improvements, especially to ammonia levels.

The Water Quality Task Group believes that improvement in river water quality is achievable and is working towards that.

Improvements to the river flow may be harder to achieve as recent research results show that reductions to local groundwater abstraction may not result in increased flows into the river from chalk springs.

<p>that such an aspiration should be at the heart of the Stour Catchment Group recommended by this report. Moreover, the Committee would urge that the Environment Agency should be given the statutory mandate and the resources needed to work for the <u>improvement</u> of the quality of surface waters throughout England and Wales. In parallel with this, the Committee recommends that the technical implications of the Water Framework Directive should be clarified as a matter of urgency, so that it may be given detailed consideration in forward planning for water supply and wastewater treatment and disposal.</p>	
<p>4. To support work seeking to achieve and maintain a balance between population growth, water resource management and infrastructure development, the Select Committee recommends that the actual growth of the population and number of households in the Ashford urban area should be closely and regularly monitored. This information should be shared between local authority planners, water industry regulators and water companies, to provide a common baseline for their forward plans.</p>	<p>Sharing of data is taking place.</p> <p>The monitoring report for the Ashford Water Strategy is regularly updated by the EA. This includes data from South East Water on the current water demand within the Ashford supply zone.</p> <p>For wastewater planning OFWAT does not allow Southern Water to include plans to accommodate growth until that growth has a high degree of certainty – ie. It is set out in an Area Action Plan.</p>
<p>5. Assisted by close observation of population growth and number of households in the Ashford urban area, and by further research (as recommended by the draft consultants' report for the IWMS) into levels of non-mains water abstractions, the Select Committee recommends that the area's actual level of demand for water should be closely monitored by the Environment Agency, especially in the planned growth period. This information must be shared between planners, water companies and water industry regulators, so that an agreement as to the baseline position for forward planning can be established.</p>	<p>Non-mains abstractions are known to be a very small part of total water use and have not been given a high priority, consequently funding has not been available to research this.</p>

<p><b>6. The Select Committee recommends that, given the current uncertainty regarding the viability of Broad Oak reservoir (which must be resolved as a matter of urgency), detailed work should be carried out looking into the viability of alternatives to resource the supply-demand balance in the Ashford area, particularly effluent re-use. Work on effluent re-use should especially focus on the local environmental implications of such schemes, and on public health and acceptance issues.</b></p>	<p>South East Water's draft Water Resources Management Plan included the options appraisal for a wide range of alternatives for balancing future supply and demand. Effluent re-use has been considered but a larger scheme on the lower Medway is currently preferred.</p> <p>KCC believes that the draft WRMPs for the companies that supply Kent were inadequately integrated and would result in sub-optimal investments. KCC has requested the Secretary of State at DEFRA to call a Public Inquiry into three of the plans. A response is still outstanding.</p>
<p><b>7. The Select Committee recommends that investigations should continue as to the most effective means to achieve demand management through tariffed metering. The Committee also recognises that incentives are lacking for customers to opt into metering, and recommends that the Government has a role to play in developing such incentives. The Committee would also recommend further research and open discussion regarding the potential costs of metering to customers, the reasons why water companies may apply for Water Scarcity Status and the implications of compulsory metering powers under Water Scarcity Status. The Committee urges that considerations of social justice be given high importance in the development of metering tariffs and that schemes to assist vulnerable customers should be publicised more widely.</b></p>	<p>All the water companies in the region have included compulsory water metering in their plans. KCC is working with South East Water and Folkestone &amp; Dover Water to evaluate alternative tariff systems.</p>
<p><b>8. The Select Committee strongly recommends to the Government that an accredited and recognised system of water efficiency labelling should be developed for fixtures, fittings and appliances using water. To address the</b></p>	<p>The DEFRA market Transformation Programme and the national Waterwise project are pursuing this.</p>

<p><b>important issue of reducing demand in existing housing stock, consideration should be given as to how retrofit of high-efficiency fixtures, fittings and appliances could be incentivised effectively. Installation of such measures in new build should be made compulsory under reformed building regulations, at least in areas where the water supply-demand balance is under strain.</b></p> <p><b>The Select Committee also strongly recommends to the water industry regulators that a water efficiency commitment should be developed, setting targets for water companies to reduce water use by their customers. Active encouragement should be given by Government and by the water industry regulators to partnership working on demand management projects between water companies and developers, and water companies and local authorities.</b></p>	<p>DEFRA already manages The Water Technology List that includes tested products that qualify for the ECA scheme. Waterwise has also developed a technology accreditation scheme.</p> <p>Government has committed to reviewing the Water Fitting Regulations.</p>
<p><b>9. The Select Committee strongly recommends that further research be undertaken into the possibility of introducing rainwater harvesting and other appropriate technologies to new developments in the Ashford growth area. The results of this research should be reflected in the design of future developments in the Ashford growth area and elsewhere, and in the revision of national building regulations.</b></p>	<p>Rainwater harvesting has recently been shown to incur higher carbon emissions than supplying the same volume of mains water. This is due to the small, less-efficient pump that most rainwater harvesting systems require to lift the water into the building.</p> <p>KCC is awaiting further work on this before pursuing rainwater harvesting.</p>
<p><b>10. The Select Committee welcomes the commitment to and guidance for sustainable development offered by Kent Design, and Ashford Borough Council's commitment to seeking high standards of water efficiency in new development, including consumption of toilets, taps and showers, bath size and white goods (where installed by the developer). It urges Government to give water conservation measures priority consideration in reform of the building regulations, including provision for stricter standards to be applied by local authorities in areas where the supply-demand balance is particularly under strain. Existing training and information should be extended to support local authority officers in enforcing building regulations and other high standards for</b></p>	<p>It is thought that part G of the Building Regulations will be revised to include water efficiency requirements but this is not yet clear.</p>

<p>design and construction, as deemed appropriate for the needs of the area (e.g. EcoHomes standards, SEEDA Sustainability Checklist, Kent Design principles). Local authority officers should be assured of the resources necessary to enforce such regulations and standards.</p>	
<p>11. The Select Committee supports initiatives such as the SE Water Resources Forum, and the Kent Sustainable Business Partnership, which raise environmental considerations further up the business agenda. The Committee would wish to see more businesses applying for environmental management accreditation, and would suggest that more be done to incentivise such accreditation.</p>	<p>The Kent Sustainable Business Partnership finds limited interest in water efficiency because water is a relatively minor cost to most Kent businesses.</p>
<p>12. The Select Committee encourages local authorities, DEFRA and the Environment Agency to take forward the following actions:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- compulsory metering of non-mains abstraction within the Stour Catchment, especially any closely linked to water resources for the Ashford growth area, in order to ascertain usage – to be complete within five years</li> <li>- research into the possibilities offered to farmers and horticulturists, through diversification, to proactively adapt to water resource pressures and climate change, and into the best policies and means by which to support such adaptation</li> <li>- research into the means to make the most efficient use of water from abstractions, and into alternative water resources (including reservoirs)</li> <li>- partnership working with farmers and with groups such as the NFU, to give practical advice and support regarding efficient water use and the planning, development and deployment of alternative resources. Within Kent, such work could be facilitated by the Stour Catchment group as outlined in Recommendation 2.</li> </ul>	<p>In the absence of adequate information on non-mains water use this recommendation has not yet been progressed.</p>
<p>13. The Select Committee would endorse the IPPR’s position that ‘we do not feel that a lack of evidence should mean an abandonment or down-playing of demand management strategies, but that greater effort should be made to build the evidence base on how effective different strategies are in reducing water demand’. Given the existing concern regarding abstraction levels and the</p>	<p>The Kent Water Demand Management Group (KWDMG) has been expanded.</p> <p>The Savings on Tap project with</p>

**potential impact of growth on the supply-demand balance, discrepancies between population and demand projections, and uncertainty regarding the viability of some resource development options, demand management measures must be viewed as an immediate priority for action.**

- **Public education could be led in the first instance by local authorities such as Kent County Council and Ashford Borough Council, in partnership with water companies, developers and local environmental groups.**
- **The Committee is encouraged by the work of the Kent Water Demand Management Group, led by KCC, in promoting water efficiency in building and business; the work of this Group should be supported and extended to support the mobilisation of stakeholders to systematically address water consumption pressures and develop related business opportunities locally (e.g. in water efficient technology).**
- **Should a Stour Catchment Group such as that proposed in Recommendation II be developed, this group could take forward work in engaging the local population to tackle challenges in the supply-demand balance in their area.**
- **Local authorities should carry out auditing of their own water use, and take action to improve efficiency. KCC should reaffirm and act on its commitment to carry out a water audit across all its areas of business, excluding schools, within three years. Schools should be encouraged to respond to this action within the same timescale.**

Hillreed Homes has demonstrated water efficiency measures in new homes. Per capita consumption in these homes was 112 l/h/day in 2008.

Using the Code for Sustainable Homes, high standards are now being set within Kent LDFs.

KCC is leading a project to address water efficiency in existing homes. This is very popular with residents and the project is on track to reach its objectives. The project also includes activities aimed at public behaviour change.

Overall, water companies in the SE have found that pcc has been relatively static since the 2005- 2006 drought.

The KWDMG is currently identifying schools with high per pupil water use for a targeted water efficiency campaign.

From 2010 OFWAT will give all water companies minimum targets for water efficiency gains.

<p><b>14. The Select Committee would urge OFWAT (and its successor as the economic regulator) to give greater long-term financial security, through a revised Price Review process, to water companies' plans for long-term enhancement of their services. The economic regulator is also asked to consider how the process and timing for approval of water companies' asset management plans could be made more flexible, to allow greater synchronicity with local development frameworks and with actions identified through area projects such as the Ashford IWMS.</b></p>	<p>There has been no change on the timing of the Price Review process, however OFWAT has introduced mechanisms to remove some of the disincentives for investment in demand reduction.</p>
<p><b>15. The Select Committee recommends that not only flood risk implications but also the protection and enhancement of the River Stour should be taken into account in the consideration of all proposals for development in the Ashford growth area. (This recommendation supports the Committee's Recommendation 3).</b></p>	<p>This is being addresses by the EA as part of an Upper Stour Strategic Review.</p>
<p><b>16. The Committee recommends that separate storm and foul sewerage should be installed in place of CSOs, as and when redevelopment work takes place in the vicinity. It also recommends that OFWAT (and its successor as the economic regulator) should ensure there are financial means to fund the replacement of CSOs before unacceptable impacts are detected.</b></p> <p><b>The Committee also recommends that the Environment Agency should be required to advise the public through posting of notices and through public journals of all untreated or unsatisfactorily part-treated discharges – both licensed and unlicensed – of sewage and effluent into the sea, watercourses or over land. A record of such discharges should be maintained and be available to members of the public.</b></p>	<p>All new developments are served with separate foul and storm sewers.</p> <p>There are currently no funding mechanisms for the replacement of existing CSOs. However, improvements to the network capacity appear to be reducing the frequency of CSO incidents.</p>



<b>GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES IN KENT – MAY 2006</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Progress at end March 2009</b>
<p><b>1. For KCC, in partnership with all Kent local authorities, to take joint responsibility for the establishment of a network of transit sites across Kent. For KCC to co-ordinate the submission of funding bids to the regional housing fund for January 2007 and subsequent bidding opportunities, where appropriate and sustainable. (Page 22, 4.5.10)</b></p>	<p>There has been significant progress made. The planning advice options were submitted to SEERA and made available on the KCC website, including the full version of the four Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments for Kent and Medway. A number of counties and districts revised their accommodation figures (not including Kent).</p> <p>The South Eastern Regional Assembly decided, at their meeting on 4 March 2009, to recommend that transit site proposals should be determined locally. Before the Examination in Public on the Partial Review of the South East Plan, SEERA Officers aim to commission a study on transit movement patterns and high-level evidence of need for transit provision, to inform the work their draft policy indicates will be needed at county group level to identify transit provision requirements.</p>
<p><b>2. For Kent local authorities to investigate ways to facilitate growth in the number of self-owned, self-leased and self-managed private sites, within the existing planning and legislative framework. (Page 23, 4.6.4)</b></p>	<p>The Housing Corporation produced a paper on this subject, to act as a basis for increased RSL involvement and the Communities and Local Government Departments produced revised guidance on Accommodation Assessments. The KCC GTU developed a closer working relationship with AMICUS Housing and was keen to hold an event, involving RSLs operating in Kent, once there was Housing Corporation or CLG new proposals to discuss - this has not yet taken place, but has been</p>

	<p>discussed informally with an officer from the new Homes and Communities Agency.</p> <p>A paper will be prepared by the Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board once the proposals were produced.</p> <p>Opportunities for owner-occupied sites will continue to be looked for, as part of necessary new site development in Kent.</p>
<p><b>3. For the KCC Gypsy Unit to investigate the situation of Irish Travellers in Kent, regarding access to local authority sites, and to monitor and report on the pitch occupancy rate on public sites. (Page 25, 4.7.8)</b></p>	<p>KCC is now discussing with other authorities in Kent and Medway the review of public plot allocation policy, to reflect the needs and site stock that exist, the different groups seeking accommodation, and to enable those from different groups to live side by side.</p>
<p><b>4. For KCC to facilitate the sharing of best practice between Kent local authorities, over the needs assessment processes, including addressing future needs. (Page 28, 5.1.4)</b></p>	<p>Sharing of practice continues through the Kent and Medway Site Managers' Group (to which other agencies are also invited) and occasional meetings of the planning officer group which helps steer the Kent and Medway SEERA work.</p>
<p><b>5. All Transit and permanent site provision in Kent should have amenities and services, including boundary fencing, hardstanding on each pitch, water supply, toilet and washing facilities, waste disposal and electricity supply and ensure adequate health and safety measures are taken. (Page 30, 5.2.5)</b></p>	<p>Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Service have completed, and launched in February 2009, an excellent DVD, for Gypsies and Travellers living on any type of site, or in a caravan with no site, which is being well-received in Kent and other parts of the country. It provides practical guidance on how to prevent fires starting, what happens when they do, and how to respond effectively and protect people and property. Anyone who would like a copy can contact the Gypsy and Traveller Unit.</p> <p>The Government's Site Design Guide was</p>

	<p>published in May 2008, and is the basis for decisions on grant for current and future public sites.</p> <p>The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 received Royal Assent in July 2008, making Mobile Homes Act 1983 provisions apply to publicly-run Gypsy and Traveller sites for the first time. Some exceptions can be made, and consultation on those (principally about right of assignment and rights to plots on succession after death) took place in autumn 2008. The further changes will be included in regulations expected to be placed before Parliament before the summer recess. A model new national pitch agreement is due to be prepared, and recommended to all public bodies managing sites. The change to the new system, with the new law applying, is expected by the end of calendar year 2009 or by 1 April 2010. New Site Management Guidance will be published at the same time by the Communities and Local Government Department.</p>
<p><b>6. Where transit sites are to be provided in Kent by the district authorities, KCC should offer its expertise in managing sites that have special challenges, such as transit sites. (Page 31, 5.3.5)</b></p>	<p>That offer remains in place, to facilitate the provision of transit sites which operate successfully.</p>
<p><b>7. For all Kent local authorities, to increase the involvement and responsibility of Gypsy and Traveller residents in site management arrangements. (Page 32, 5.4.6)</b></p>	<p>There has been improvement in site management, including on new licence consultation.</p> <p>There are discussions with site residents over site management issues, and joint involvement in making improvements.</p> <p>A Countywide group of Traveller site managers has been established, and meets regularly to share best</p>

	practice in site management, including the involvement of site residents in it.
<b>8. For KCC, in consultation with district authorities, to consider having a residential 'gatekeeper' on transit sites in Kent. (Page 33, 5.5.3)</b>	Needs further discussion at CWG once transit work is progressed.
<b>9. For Kent local authorities to ensure that any new transit sites in Kent should be self-financing, with rent charged on sites. The revenue costs for the running of transit sites should be shared between KCC and the relevant District/Borough Councils. (Page 34, 5.6.5)</b>	Needs further discussion at CWG once transit work is further progressed.
<b>10. For KCC, with district authorities, to lobby the Department of Work and Pensions to address the difference in the treatment of County Councils (as if they were profit-making landlords) in comparison to housing authorities. This is in the context of the Department of Work and Pensions meeting the full reasonable rent of claimants in receipt of housing benefit who reside on Gypsy and Traveller sites. This is in order to ensure that County Councils and Housing Associations who provide and manage public sites are not forced to subsidise the costs of provision. (Page 35, 5.7.6)</b>	The Department of Work and Pensions, no doubt noting the reduction in the numbers of county councils from 1 April 2009, and thus the reduction in the net impact of changing back to the old system, has decided to return to the pre-2001 system, whereby rents do not need to be referred to rent officers, and this took effect from 1 April this year, and will produce additional revenue for KCC and other councils to defray the costs of managing sites.
<b>11. For KCC, with district authorities, lobby the government to provide sufficient resource to ensure that unsuccessful retrospective planning applications can be dealt with in weeks rather than years. (Page 42, 6.9.14)</b>	None, but anecdotal evidence suggests the level of concern appears to have diminished in some parts of Kent, and the number and scale of new cases appears to have fallen.
<b>12. For Kent local planning authorities to consider the importance of ensuring that temporary applications are refused in situations where there are material objections, along the same lines as dealing with permanent permission applications. (Page 42, 6.9.14)</b>	None - we will table this as a matter for a meeting of the Kent Planning Officers Group – perhaps in combination with a number of the other issues mentioned here that have not yet been pursued.

<p><b>13. For Kent local planning authorities to consider the importance of ensuring that, where rural exception policies are included within Local Development Frameworks, there is a need to ensure that they are tightly drafted to mitigate any potential increase in planning applications on these grounds. (Page 42, 6.9.14)</b></p>	<p>Ditto recommendation above.</p>
<p><b>14. KCC to facilitate the establishment of a Countywide partnership group, which will work to share best practice and information to reduce and tackle Unauthorised Developments. (Page 42, 6.9.14)</b></p>	<p>The Kent Planning Officers' Group are discussing this issue again in June 2009.</p>
<p><b>15. For the KCC Gypsy Unit and Trading Standards to demonstrate increased collaboration in effectively reducing the practice of rogue trading, including more effective strategic and operational data sharing. (Page 45, 7.4.8)</b></p>	<p>The KCC GTU has been successful in working with Kent Waste who worked with the BBC "Rogue Traders" programme to expose a partner of the licensee of one of KCC's managed sites as a fly tipper, including on an access road to the site itself. The individual has been convicted and fined, and other individuals have also been prosecuted successfully.</p>
<p><b>16. For KCC, with district authorities, to lobby the government, to ensure that there is stronger multi-agencies work to tackle any criminality or tax evasion in transient populations. (Page 47, 7.5.9)</b></p>	<p>Multi-agency work continues successfully, over a range of issues.</p>
<p><b>17. For KCC to facilitate the establishment of a joint Kent and Medway Authority group, to address the accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers. The primary objective of this group is to address the accommodation needs that are identified. It will also provide a vehicle for consultation and a sub-regional approach for applying for funding. In addition, it will consider the revenue cost implications linked to site provision, with a view to pooling resources. (Page 49, 8.5)</b></p>	<p>A Countywide Group with nominated representatives from all local authorities and other agencies has been established and has met regularly.</p> <p>It has, very significantly, included, at every second meeting, individuals invited from Gypsy and Irish Traveller communities, and this has enabled very detailed discussion of issues of mutual concern, and engagement over the planning, housing and needs assessment processes that are proceeding</p>

	<p>in Kent, the South East and across England.</p> <p>The work of this group is the biggest progress made with the Select Committee recommendations, as it involves invitations to all the relevant stakeholders, including the Kent Association of Parish Councils.</p> <p>The Group is the key to future progress with partnership working on the remaining recommendations.</p>
<b>18. For the KCC Gypsy Unit to be renamed as the 'Gypsy and Traveller Unit', in order to reflect the role of the Unit in working with all Gypsies and Travellers. (Page 49, 8.5)</b>	Achieved.

<b>HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT – APRIL 2006</b>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Progress at end March 2009</b>
<p><b>1. For Kent County Council to make the description and explanation of school transport rules in its school admission booklets more clear and accessible (Page 11).</b></p>	<p>Description and explanation of school transport was enhanced in Admission to Secondary School booklet for 2007. It has been maintained in all books since with a dedicated section clearly explaining transport eligibility.</p> <p>The Transport Team also developed a new transport booklet back in 2007 this is distributed each year to Primary and Secondary schools. It has been designed with the applications for transport forms inside the back cover so parents will have full access to transport information on hand while completing their applications for transport.</p> <p>Officers within Admissions &amp; Transport attend some school open evenings to assist parents in understanding the rules. Admissions &amp; Transport staff will continue to monitor feedback regarding the School Admission booklet and indeed the transport booklet, both of which ask for feedback and suggestions for improvement. Any comments will then be used to inform future editions of the publications.</p> <p>The Home to School Transport booklet was enhanced further in 2008 when the Transport team gained the Crystal Mark for the booklet from The Plain English Campaign.</p> <p>Comments gained from the Customer Satisfaction Survey have shown that parents are very satisfied with the booklet and the information that is available.</p>
<p><b>2. To consider the provision of online systems that supply school admission and transport information, and that enable electronic applications and payments (Page 11).</b></p>	<p>Section 508A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, in force from 1 April 2007, places a general duty on local authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel and modes on the journey to, from, and between schools and other institutions. The Act also requires an audit of the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority that may be used when travelling to and from, or between schools/institutions. As part of addressing both of these requirements, Kent Highway Services undertook a full infrastructure audit of all KCC schools in 2008 and has</p>

	<p>worked with CFE and ISG to develop and expand the ‘School’s Searchable Database’ on kent.gov.uk to include an additional section on ‘Safer Journeys To School’. The facility contains information regarding the School’s Travel Plan and also basic information about local speed limits, crossing points, the availability of a school crossing patrol etc. It is planned to develop this facility over the next 12 months to include more interactive mapping that allows the user to view, precise locations of things like walking bus routes and school crossing patrols. Additionally the website <a href="http://www.11-19travel.info">www.11-19travel.info</a>, provides bespoke public transport and journey planning information for every secondary school in Kent.</p>
<p><b>3. To ensure continuous dialogue between Kent County Council and religious denominations in an effort to reflect more accurately the communities that denominational schools serve in the entitlement and provision of free home to school transport (Page 14).</b></p>	<p>The guidance from the DCSF states that the Secretary of State continues to attach importance to the opportunity that many parents have to choose a school in accordance with their religious and philosophical beliefs and believes that wherever possible LAs should ensure that transport arrangements support the preference of the parents. He hopes that LAs will continue to think it right not to disturb well established arrangements for denominational transport assistance. Regular contact is maintained by the LA and the diocesan boards of education on matters relating to transport and indeed admissions.</p>
<p><b>4. That in the interests of consistency consideration be given to free home to school transport for pupils specifically selected by aptitude to attend specialist schools (Page 14).</b></p>	<p>Home to school transport is provided to children who are selected for grammar school education, attend their nearest appropriate school and live more than three miles from the school. However, they must live within a selective area of education to receive assistance. If they live in a comprehensive area of education, children would not receive assistance to a grammar school even if they have been selected unless the school was geographically nearer and over 3 miles away (2 miles for low income groups). For children taking aptitude tests to enter specialist or particular types of schools – this would depend on whether or not the school is the nearest appropriate school or not.</p> <p>There are a large number of specialist schools and changes would require an extension of the transport provision across the County, with undoubtedly, further financial implications. One would hope that the Kent Freedom Pass will open up access to such schools where cost of transport may have been a barrier in the past.</p>



<p><b>5. That in the interests of consistency consideration be given to providing transport to the nearest single sex school if a preference is expressed by the parents (Page 14).</b></p>	<p>The County's transport policy is currently under review and it is felt that the LA provides parents with a significant choice of single sexed schools to express preferences for. The transport policy reflects parent's preference by providing transport assistance to a child's nearest schools, which can include single sexed schools.</p>
<p><b>6. To ensure additional legal support is available to Members when they exercise their discretion at the Regulation Committee Case Panel (Page 16).</b></p>	<p>If Members require Legal support, Democratic Services would make the necessary arrangements. Legal Services do charge and this charge would have to be met by Democratic Services. To our knowledge, there has only been one appeal where a Legal representative was present as the parent had brought her own representative to the appeal.</p>
<p><b>7. To consider younger siblings' eligibility for free transport when applying to a school that, although not their nearest appropriate, is the one to which the older sibling has been directed, therefore receiving free transport (Page 16).</b></p>	<p>When siblings apply for transport all circumstances are taken into consideration. However, whilst Members refer to the LA 'directing' pupils to schools there are several scenarios that have to be taken into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) If it has not been possible to offer a place at any of the preferred schools at the time of secondary transfer and have allocated child a place – transport would only be granted to the allocated school if the nearest appropriate school had been named and refused a place.</li> <li>b) If a child has moved in and cannot attend nearest appropriate school – Admissions &amp; Transport would advise parent of where there are places available and therefore it would be parents who decide where their child will attend. If they attend the next nearest appropriate school transport would be granted.</li> </ul> <p>If it is deemed appropriate to make changes to the existing policy this would require a Cabinet decision, such a scenario would ordinarily be considered through the independent appeals process. This route is far more appropriate because panels can consider the full implications of individual circumstances and effect the overriding of the policy. This process protects the LA and facilities an opportunity to make exceptions on a case by case basis.</p>

	<p>The County's transport policy is currently being reviewed and will take this question into account. It should be remembered that parents having the right to express preferences for schools may not necessarily want their siblings to go to the same school but would prefer them to be in separate schools depending on their abilities.</p>
<p><b>8. For Kent County Council to take lead responsibility in promoting walking bus initiatives. This includes: for KCC to make financial contributions to walking bus schemes; attract business sponsorship to help funding walking buses; encourage a greater involvement of Community Wardens in promoting walking buses at strategic and operational level (Page 22).</b></p>	<p>Kent Highway Services are part of a unique partnership to develop and promote Walking Buses and associated Walk to School initiatives in the County. This partnership involves, KCC, Medway Council, the Kent and Medway Charity Team (affiliated to the KM Group) and private sector sponsors. This partnership has gone from strength to strength in recent years and has contributed to a gradual shift to walking to school at primary schools, helping to tackle congestion on the school-run. Broadly speaking, KCC provide safety and administrative support to Walking Buses, ensuring they are properly risk assessed and meet insurance requirements. KCC also provides support in identifying appropriate routes and training volunteers to operate within clearly defined guidelines. The Kent and Medway Charity Team, funded in part by a grant from Kent Highway Services, work with schools and walking bus volunteers to ensure the longevity of the schemes, through a series incentives and events. They also help to secure private sector sponsorship for equipment like hi-vis tabards. Through the partnership, over 70 walking buses currently operate in Kent, in addition to 130 schools participating in either Walk on Wednesday (WOW) or Walking Bug in 2008/09. It is estimated that the schemes save in excess of 150,000 school-run trips each year.</p>
<p><b>9. To continue to support and promote initiatives and schemes aimed at encouraging safe cycling to school and at improving the quality of cycling networks and services in Kent (Page 24).</b></p>	<p>Cycle Training in Kent continues to be delivered to Year 6 pupils as part of the <i>Kent Rider</i> scheme, a one day course led by the Road Safety team in KHS. However, KHS has recently obtained additional funding for £112K to develop and expand existing arrangements to deliver cycle training to the new national 'Bikeability' standard at selected schools in Ashford and Canterbury. Subject to available funding and the outcomes of this pilot, it is intended that these arrangements will be rolled out across the County in due course.</p> <p>Additionally, Kent continue to work with Sustrans to deliver the BikeIT programme to 12 selected schools in Ashford and Canterbury to promote and encourage cycling to schools. This scheme has been highly successful and has resulted in significant mode</p>

	<p>shift to cycling at the targeted schools.</p> <p>Finally Kent Highway Services has entered into an innovative partnership with Sustrans to develop and expand a volunteer ‘Ranger’ scheme, where Rangers for specific cycle routes keep track of maintenance requirements and work collaboratively with Kent Highway Services to ensure on and off-road sections of route are maintained to a safe standard.</p> <p>Enhancements to the cycle network County wide continue to be delivered through Developer funding and the Integrated Transport programme.</p>
<p><b>10. For Kent County Council to enhance its involvement in organising, promoting and monitoring its own car sharing initiatives in order to increase the number of people using the scheme (Page 28).</b></p>	<p>Kent Highway Services’ highly successful <i>Kentcarshare.com</i> journey matching facility is being developed and expanded to include greater flexibility for journey matching.</p> <p>This will include new ‘budi’ elements for walking, cycling and taxi trips aimed at improving personal security, knowledge and confidence of local cycle routes and cost sharing opportunities.</p> <p>The new facility will be called <i>Kentjourneyshare.com</i></p> <p>The <i>Kentjourneyshare.com</i> scheme currently has 3000 members with 3117 journeys registered. Based on current matches it is estimated that in 2009 the scheme will save:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3,163,283 miles</li> <li>• £577,312</li> <li>• 1,040.7 metric tonnes of CO2</li> </ul> <p><i>Kentjourneyshare’s</i> sister scheme <i>Kentschoolrun</i>, targeted specifically at schools, was taken out of service in 2008. This was largely due to new seatbelt and child restraint legislation which has made it increasingly difficult to transport other peoples’ children without transferring often bulky equipment between vehicles. Also, experience has taught us that car-sharing schemes at schools tend to work better when they are managed locally, rather than via the web which tends to lead to concerns over</p>

	<p>personal security etc. However, the University of Kent are working with Liftshare.com to establish a car-sharing scheme for Universities and Further Education Establishments across the County.</p>
<p><b>11.To maximise the use of the rail network, where available, for school transport purposes. (Page 29).</b></p>	<p>Transport Integration does make use of the rail network currently having children travel by rail where appropriate. However, it should be remembered that the rail companies consider a child as an adult on their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and would charge KCC accordingly. The potential to increase this above the 13% mainstream pupils eligible for free travel is limited by a number of factors e.g. a high number of rail journeys involve a considerable walk at either end of the journey which is generally less so with buses whose timetables are more suited to school sessions.</p>
<p><b>12.To urge a stricter enforcement of parking regulations in schools' surroundings (Page 30).</b></p>	<p>The first step in enforcing parking regulations outside of schools is to ensure that the relevant Traffic Regulation Order is in place. Historically, the default position with school zig-zag and 'Keep Clear' markings has been 'advisory'. This means that parking on them is inconsiderate and potentially dangerous but often not a traffic contravention. However, as part of Kent Highway Services' emerging Asset Management Plan, it is anticipated that the precise situation at each school site will be identified and that the necessary Orders will be published to ensure all 'Keep Clear' markings are enforceable in the future. In addition, KHS have recently begun piloting a new 'hearts and minds' campaign with schools in Dartford and Gravesham to remind parents of the potential dangers of inconsiderate parking. The scheme, based on a yellow and red card theme, has been well received and had positive press coverage. It is hoped that the scheme will be rolled out across the County in due course. The scheme has involved enthusiastic participation from local PCSOs and Civil Enforcement officers and is another excellent example of partnership working.</p>
<p><b>13.To ensure that Green Travel Plans are embodied in the planning stage before building new schools, which should include consultation with KCC Commercial Services (Page 31).</b></p>	<p>Kent has recently published its 'Guidance on Transport Assessments and Travel Plans' which makes it clear that all new developments which are expected to have a significant impact on traffic and transport require a Travel Plan. A Travel Plan is defined as 'A strategy for managing multi-modal access to a site or development focusing on promoting access by sustainable modes'. The main objective of a Travel Plan is to reduce the number of single occupant car trips to a site. A successful Travel Plan will give anyone travelling to and from a site a choice of travel options and</p>

	<p>encourage them to use the more sustainable ones. It has been agreed that all new schools and BSF refurbishments will require a Travel Plan. In many cases this will be an expansion and development of existing School Travel Plans developed as part of the Government's 'Travelling to School Initiative'. This project is entering its final year and it is hoped that virtually 100% of schools will have developed a Travel Plan by March 2010.</p> <p>A Travel Plan is a 'whole school community' initiative and requires extensive consultation with key stakeholders, including Commercial Services, where applicable.</p> <p>KHS, CFE and Commercial Services are currently working collaboratively to address the travel and transport implications of delivering the 14-19 diplomas in the county as well as the Kent Freedom Pass so the relevant lines of communication are well established.</p>
<p><b>14. For Kent County Council to gradually expand its bus fleet, where this can be done without unacceptable harm to the viability of commercially provided routes (Page 33).</b></p>	<p>KCC has been gradually expanding its own fleet with the combined objectives of market moderation and raising standards. This has met with an adverse reaction from some local bus operators and Members should be cognisant of that. Longer term, introduction of free transport for all would affect this policy.</p>
<p><b>15. To promote the use of CCTV systems in all buses used for school transport provision in Kent and to encourage the provision of escorts in school buses (Page 35).</b></p>	<p>At present, Transport Integration do not require potential transport providers to supply CCTV on hired school bus services. This could, however, be included as a pre-requisite in all Invitations to Tender for hired services. There would, however, need to be regulation specifying the type of systems to be used and issues such as data protection would need to be addressed. The cost of retro-fitting CCTV to a vehicle is in the order of up to £3500 and it is unlikely that operators would be able to bear this additional cost; it is probable, therefore, that the tender prices received, and hence the cost of home to school transport in general, would rise as a result. As a guide, Transport Integration currently manage around 260 hired contracts with vehicles of 16 or more seats (£910k).</p>

	<p>A rather more difficult consideration would be if this requirement was extended to all commercial bus routes upon which entitled scholars travel.</p> <p>The cost of providing escorts on all buses could be as much as £2 million per annum.</p>
<p><b>16.To carry out further investigation, through bus companies and school clusters, into the staggering of starting and finishing times of primary and secondary schools in Kent in order to reduce car congestion and school transport costs (Page 38).</b></p>	<p>This exercise is being explored and implemented in a number of areas following consultations with schools and parents. The impact of such changes have yet to be fully established and will require close monitoring before any further reaching policy decisions can be explored.</p> <p>Problems can be increased costs, as existing contracts may have to be cancelled to gain new ones, which would be quoted at a higher cost. Times could cause issues for parents for collecting and delivering children to school. Possibly more congestion due to breakfast club/after school clubs being at different times.</p> <p>Initial discussions with Headteachers would indicate their primary concern is raising standards of achievement and extending or staggering the school day is not proven to be conducive to this.</p> <p>Hugh Christie School has embarked on this process and already found that transports costs have increased in the region of £65,000.</p> <p>There will be obvious staffing and student concerns to be overcome in the process and a full cost benefit analysis will need to take place in due course. A major consideration for primary schools parents is a disruption in childcare arrangements that may be costly.</p>
<p><b>17.To continue to monitor technical developments which may be of use in the provision of school transport to a higher appropriate standard (Page 40).</b></p>	<p>Kent Highway Services have secured £1 million through the Integrated Transport capital programme in 2009/10 to invest in Smartcard reader machines on Kent's bus fleet. The Smartcard system will allow significantly greater flexibility on public transport ticketing across the county, benefiting both the user, operators and KCC, particularly in terms of tracking and monitoring usage and reimbursement. The Smartcards will be piloted with Stagecoach as part of the Kent Freedom Pass for Thanet schools from June 2009.</p>

<p><b>18.To support the East Kent Direct Project in an effort to supply a more co-ordinated, integrated and efficient allocation of transport services which meet the needs of Kent residents (Page 41).</b></p>	<p>Transport Integration has played a significant role in the East Kent Direct project and is keen to work further towards the stated goals. Although there has been a recent lull due to the re-alignment of Ambulance Services across the southeast, work has already been undertaken in relation to the provision of public transport information, joint procurement activities, joint provision of training services and the development of common eligibility criteria for Primary Care Trusts amongst other activities. The proposed absorption of the East Kent Social Services client transport by Transport Integration, which already manages the service for the former Mid and West Kent areas, has been delayed due to internal KCC re-structuring although work has recently re-commenced.</p>
<p><b>19.To continue to support cross-border collaboration with neighbouring authorities, and to promote the initiative of a shared, co-ordinated transport database aimed at maximising the utilisation of school transport and at creating a more cost-effective transport system (Page 43).</b></p>	<p>Transport Integration has good contacts with colleagues in neighbouring Authorities and effort is made to share information and vehicle movements where possible. However, the natural pupil flows mean that there is not a great deal that can be achieved with regards to mainstream transport; flows from Kent into neighbouring Authority schools are often in the opposite direction from those arranged by that Authority. Greater opportunities, although still few in number, exist for pupils attending special schools.</p>
<p><b>20.To explore the possibility of becoming a Pathfinder authority, by providing all students aged 11 to 16 years living in a selected area of Kent with an annual bus pass in order to evaluate bus usage and consequent reduction in car use (Page 50).</b></p>	<p>The School Travel (Piloting of Schemes) (England) Regulations 2007, S.I.2007/1366 made provision for the piloting by authorities (Pathfinders) of the school travel scheme provisions in section 508E of, and Schedule 35C to, the Education and Inspections Act 2006.</p> <p>Accordingly in 2007 the DfES (DCSF), invited Local Authorities to submit bids for Pathfinder funding for innovative schemes that met the following key criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• transport arrangements that support parental preference;</li> <li>• transport arrangements for pupils living more than 2 miles from school; and</li> <li>• reducing levels of car use on the home to school journey.</li> </ul> <p>KCC submitted a bid for match-funding to support the roll out of the Kent Freedom</p>

Pass. However, KCC and other Local Authorities were subsequently notified by DfES that:

'None of the bids were fully compliant with the criteria set out in the prospectus or in regulations. Ministers have therefore decided that we should not proceed with the pathfinder pilot at this time. We will however consult with the Local Government Association to consider alternative options for home to school transport arrangements.'



<b>CLIMATE CHANGE – OCTOBER 2006</b>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Progress at end March 2009</b>
<p><b>1. An explicit corporate acceptance of climate change and how human activity contributes to it.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signed Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.</li> <li>• Council approved first set of actions in response to Select Committee.</li> <li>• Chief Executive communicated to all staff and has taken on climate change champion role.</li> <li>• Cabinet Working Group on Climate Change established to oversee implementation of actions (Alex King, Keith Ferrin, Kevin Lynes) meets as a minimum on a quarterly.</li> <li>• A small climate change programme team has been established within the Chief Executive's Department.</li> <li>• Director-level leads identified to champion action for each of the 3 workstreams.</li> <li>• Lead officers identified for each action within each workstream, with regular reports to project manager.</li> <li>• Additional governance in place where needed (e.g. working groups reporting into KCC Environment Board).</li> <li>• KCC emissions reductions embedded in Corporate Environmental Performance and ISO 14001 delivery (on track) with continued improvements in baseline data.</li> <li>• Revised KCC Environment Policy (including carbon emissions) agreed by Cabinet Dec 2007, formally launched Jan 2008.</li> <li>• Business planning templates have included issues for climate change mitigation and adaptation since 08/09.</li> <li>• Revised Cabinet Report template includes implications for climate change (issued Nov 2007).</li> <li>• Relevant Towards 2010 targets and indicators agreed.</li> <li>• Environmental performance and climate change now covered as part of all KCC induction.</li> <li>• Papers taken to each of the five Directorate Policy Overview Committees (POCs) in Sept 2008, summarising each directorate's progress to date in response to climate change and seeking commitment to next steps. All papers were approved in their entirety.</li> <li>• Each Directorate is now required to report progress to their POC on a six-monthly</li> </ul>

	<p>basis commencing March 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KCC climate change officers are leading and actively participating in several regional and national good-practice networks.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Detailed assessment of climate change impacts on KCC services and development of adaptive responses.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of UK Climate Impacts Programme's Pilot Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP), based on analysis of past weather events. Pilot completed in Sept 2007 and is recognised as a best practice exemplar.</li> <li>• Funding secured and work started on a comprehensive, Kent-wide LCLIP with a range of key partners. Preparation for release and use of new UK climate scenarios in summer 2009.</li> <li>• All 2008-09 business unit operating plans had some initial reference to developing an understanding of how the changing climate will impact service delivery and what action to take in response.</li> <li>• Adapted Nottingham Declaration Action Park methodology to help KCC service areas assess impacts of climate change on service delivery to support 2009/10 business planning process.</li> <li>• Ongoing series of senior management adaptation workshops to take all directorates through the climate change risk assessment process, enabling the production of a comprehensive climate change adaptation plan/strategy for each directorate by 2010.</li> <li>• Climate change adaptation target (NI 188) for the county agreed under the Kent Agreement 2 (2008-2011).</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Ensure climate change impacts on flood risk, water resources and emergency planning are taken into account.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive range of new national and regional guidance published on flood risk and adapting to climate change. Some good work on planning and flood risk with Environment Agency.</li> <li>• Separate Select Committee on Flood Risk convened in summer 2007, recommendations adopted by Council in March 2008 (together with Pitt Review actions). Significant work now being taken forward in KHS, Kent Resilience Forum and elsewhere.</li> <li>• New water policy approved Dec 2006. Now being delivered through mechanisms ranging from responses to external consultations through to practical KCC led delivery projects.</li> <li>• The 'Towards 2010' Target 46 (lobby to ensure housebuilding does not threaten</li> </ul>

Kent's water supplies) provides focus for specific outputs guided by the Water Policy. For example the principal of a "water policy hierarchy" has ensured that efforts are focused on water use reduction ahead of recycling and the development of new resources.

- Target to reduce KCC's own water use by 7.5% by 2010 on track.
- Successful water efficiency demonstration projects for new housing: KCC organised a major seminar held in March 2007 to disseminate results of water-savings demonstration to major housing developers and local authorities. KCC is also working with Hillreed Homes and Mid Kent Water to trial a water-saving tariff on a new housing development in Ashford. This is the first of its kind in the UK and it is progressing well. The demonstration and trial have won several awards. Recent results show that per capita water use in this development is 20% below the water company's baseline. As a result of this project the housing developer now installs these water saving measures in all their new homes and is now willing to consider increasing their water efficiency standards further.
- New water efficiency demonstration project for existing housing: KCC is leading a 500 home pilot project in Ashford to retrofit water saving measures into existing homes. This is a partnership project with South East Water, Environment Agency, Ashford Borough Council and the Kent Wildlife Trust and it is promoting simple, free water saving measures to households in the Washford Farm area of Ashford. The project started at the beginning of March and aims to offer a cost effective mechanism for off-setting the additional water use from new homes at the same time as helping local residents to save money on their water bills. If successful, this project could be rolled out more widely.
- KCC has set up and, since 2005, has led the Kent Water Demand Management. This partnership with key water industry organisations has established itself as a national exemplar and has won a commendation for 'Inspiring Change' under the Environment Agency National Water Efficiency Water Awards for 2007. Kent Resilience Forum has established a Severe Weather sub-group is currently developing a Strategic Flood Framework for Kent; this will frame any specific plans for high-risk sea-flooding areas in first instance. KRF Severe Weather Group reviewing the recently published DEFRA guidance on preparation of multi-agency flood plans. After flooding, the group will have to consider the need for improved specific plans for areas at high risk of other climate change impacts

	<p>(recognising that in many cases the risks and responses are generic and do not require specific plans).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent Resilience Forum Risk Assessment Working Group have updated Kent Community Risk Register to reflect current likelihood of flooding and other extreme weather hazards (e.g. heatwave, snow, severe gales). Kent LCLIP work (see Recommendation 2 and 9) will inform this further.</li> <li>• Kent’s Community Risk Register has been assessed against 2006 guidance for inclusion of climate change risks (based on current understanding – Kent LCLIP work will help inform this further in future).</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Provide support for better sustainable energy advice to Kent's residents.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with the Energy Saving Advice Centre and Districts to provide advice and help to households in reducing emissions. All departments across the LSP who have direct contact with the public will be made aware of the advice centres and targeted mail outs will be carried out to households with high carbon profiles to raise awareness and offer support.</li> <li>• Completed the Low Carbon Communities pilot project (working with Kent Energy Centre to help four Kent communities become low-carbon). The project has created significant public interest, has the potential to make real carbon savings, and has produced what is probably the most comprehensive and practical community toolkit currently available (launched Dec 08).</li> <li>• Carbon Challenge Fund distributed to pilot communities in Dec 08 to enable further carbon reduction projects.</li> <li>• Energy efficiency promoted on KCC website and aligned to national “Act on CO2” campaign.</li> <li>• Held several Big Green Fairs to engage schools about tackling climate change.</li> <li>• Funding opportunities identified in principle (e.g. Interreg IV, Kent Improvement Partnership) for several parts of this action plan (not just limited to sustainable energy advice).</li> <li>• Priorities for KCC involvement in Interreg projects for climate change objectives have been agreed with EHW&amp;P.</li> </ul>

<p><b>5. Complete a feasibility study for use of biomass in KCC buildings and replace conventional fuels with bio-fuels in KCC vehicles where possible.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KCC fleet vehicles operated by Commercial Services have been running on 5% biodiesel since 2006. Now technically possible to increase to 30% although currently this does not seem commercially viable (increases vehicle service frequency).</li> <li>• Feasibility studies completed for biomass and other renewable energy sources in schools. 1 or 2 suitable for biomass boilers (will be installed summer 2008), up to 20 ongoing solar photovoltaic / wind projects. This will increase proportion of renewable energy used (and uses Energy Loan Fund as per 6).</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Increase support for energy efficiency and renewable energy, particularly micro-generation, in the KCC estate and across Kent as a whole.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon emissions reduction targets for KCC (10% by 2010, 20% by 2015 on 2004 baseline) agreed by Cabinet (March 07).</li> <li>• Carbon emissions reduced by 4% to date.</li> <li>• Commitment in principle to BREEAM “very good” design standard for KCC buildings. Government now requires all new buildings to be “excellent / zero carbon” by 2019. Formal monitoring of BREAAM uptake under Towards 2010 reporting.</li> <li>• KCC Energy Loan Fund extended (total £1m fund for capital investment in energy / water efficiency and renewables projects within specified payback period) and making significant emissions and budget savings. Additional support officer now in post to manage fund.</li> <li>• Participating in Carbon Trading Councils initiative 2008-10 to help prepare for Carbon Reduction Commitment (mandatory cap and trade scheme from 2010).</li> <li>• A Carbon Hub web-based resource is currently being developed. This will enable more accurate measuring of energy usage across Kent and increase engagement. 10 schools took part in the pilot and the resource is being rolled out to all KCC buildings.</li> <li>• Sustainable Estates Taskforce established as formal KCC Environment Board working-group, overseeing benchmarking and prioritisation exercises to support further retrofitting of energy efficiency and water efficiency measures.</li> <li>• Ongoing training programmes on energy management for facilities managers, school caretakers etc.</li> </ul>

<p><b>7. Review transport policy to achieve an overall reduction in emissions from transport in the KCC estate and across Kent as a whole.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Transport week 2007 promoted range of available sustainable travel options for KCC (e.g. Kent car share, Streetcar etc) although lasting impact was low.</li> <li>• Cross-cutting Sustainable Travel and Transport working group now established and has commissioned in-depth KCC travel carbon footprint study (due later in spring 2008) to improve baseline data, prioritise and take forward a range of further actions.</li> <li>• Switch to low energy traffic signals to be undertaken; streetlights subject to the outcome of pilot testing.</li> <li>• KCC Streetcar fleet now VW Polo Blue Motions (low emission vehicles).</li> <li>• Majority of schools now have travel plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Make more efficient use of land in the development process and meet higher standards of sustainable construction.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KCC submitted responses to consultations including on PPS on climate change (which has now been published in final form).</li> <li>• High-level training sessions provided to Planning colleagues on climate change.</li> <li>• Report published and implementation in progress about impacts of climate change on Kent biodiversity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Introduce a Climate Change Action Plan, supported by clear targets.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KCC's own emissions targets adopted and published.</li> <li>• Climate change mitigation (NI 186) and adaptation (NI188) targets for the county agreed under the Kent Agreement 2 (2008-11), under both the Environmental and Economic themes.</li> <li>• Comprehensive, yet pragmatic delivery plans have been created, identifying the activities necessary to ensure progress on the KA2 targets. Template plans for districts include examples of best practise, support mechanisms and identification of where resources are available.</li> <li>• The climate change programme team provide a central resource of expertise for the LSP, becoming a Centre of Excellence for the county as a whole and are beginning to gain national recognition.</li> <li>• Work has started on a comprehensive, partnership-wide Local Climate Impacts Profile.</li> <li>• Climate change officer network established with participation from all district councils, working on delivery of the climate change KA2 targets. Climate Change Project Board has also been created.</li> <li>• Engaging with a range of business sector leads to take action forward, range of</li> </ul>

	<p>funding opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work aligned with wider ongoing work to review Kent Environment Strategy, including Kent-wide eco-footprint exercise.</li> </ul>
<b>10.High profile communications programme.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revamp of kent.gov climate change pages with new Kent case studies and greater detail on actions that can be taken by schools and communities.</li> <li>• The 'Greener Kent' brand is currently being developed.</li> <li>• Work is underway on a climate change briefing pack for Members and senior managers, to be launched in June 2009.</li> <li>• Continue to engage with 'Act on CO2' brand and other regional brands as appropriate.</li> <li>• Strong local media opportunities through Low Carbon Community project pilot areas.</li> </ul>
<b>11.Clarify political and management leadership and accountability on climate change within KCC.</b>	Please see R1.
<b>12.Improve education on climate change impacts.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Education Working Group now set up under KCC Environment Board and will seek to develop programmes to influence public behaviour through adult education, libraries, schools, youth service, youth council etc.</li> <li>• The KCC Climate Change Pack for schools was launched in Dec 2009, together with the Kent Schools Action on Climate Change Pledge. The pack builds on the recent Government pack and drills down to make the information and activities more Kent-specific and aligned to the new curriculum changes as far as possible. The pledge asks schools to commit to joining in action to reduce the carbon emissions of Kent.</li> <li>• Held several Big Green Fairs to engage schools about tackling climate change.</li> </ul>

PSHE/CHILDREN'S HEALTH – APRIL 2007	
Recommendations	Progress at end March 2009
<p><b>1. That all those dedicated individuals working to provide young people in Kent with high standard sexual health services be commended. (Section 3.6, p29)</b></p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p><b>2. The Committee urges that all key agencies be wholly committed and signed up to the Kent Teenage Pregnancy Strategy in an effort to decrease the rate of teenage pregnancy. (Paragraph 3.6.7, p31 to Paragraph 3.6.15, p32)</b></p>	<p>Partnership working between LCSP Managers, Director of Public Health, CFE and Teenage Pregnancy Board is established. All key agencies are signed up to the KCC PSHE Education Strategy. A directory of local services to support schools in PSHE Education is being developed by all partner agencies.</p>
<p><b>3. The Committee endorses and supports all the efforts of the Kent Teenage Pregnancy Partnership. It recommends expanding the Partnership's reach to all the young people in Kent by further promoting its sexual health services in places young people frequent. (Section 3.6, p29)</b></p>	<p>The media campaigns and distribution of promotional materials to support KTPS is ongoing. Sexual health outreach nurses are available to the most vulnerable young people. School-based sexual health services are being developed in increasing numbers of secondary schools. Youth and community tutors are supporting KTPS through projects such as 'The House' Project.</p>
<p><b>4. The Committee strongly recommends the broad production, promotion and distribution of discreet information on local sexual health services and support. (Paragraph 3.6.19, p34 to Paragraph 3.6.26, p36)</b></p>	<p>'For young people' resources are available in increasing numbers of schools. Some progress has been achieved through the use of on-line resources, e.g. Teen Health Check. Dissemination of sexual health literature for young people is being co-ordinated through Health Promotion services.</p>



<p><b>5. The Committee recommends that all partner agencies involved must facilitate the expansion of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme, to ensure full screening coverage of all sexually active young people in Kent under the age of 25. (Section 4.3, p44)</b></p>	<p>Chlamydia screening teams have been very active in increasing uptake of the service. The screening programme is supported by KTPP in addition to C Card scheme.</p>
<p><b>6. That GUM clinics must replace appointments with a “walk in” service. The Committee insists that the proportion of Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinic attendees offered an appointment within 48 hours of contacting the service must reach 100% by 2008. (Section 4.3, p44)</b></p>	<p>West Kent NHS is developing Contraceptive and Sexual Health Clinics for young people. The West Kent GUM clinic targets are being achieved.</p>
<p><b>7. That the number of school nurses working in secondary schools in Kent be increased, and that the number of accessible, confidential and young people friendly sexual health clinics in all secondary schools in Kent be raised by at least one per cluster by 2008. (Paragraph 4.3.15, p46; Section 4.3, p44)</b></p>	<p>47 schools/colleges across Kent now have a School based Sexual Health service, including 11 offering a full service including contraception. These are staffed by school nurses and sexual health outreach workers. Additional school based services are under development through LCSP plans.</p>
<p><b>8. The Committee commends and supports all those working with disengaged, vulnerable young people, and urges the effective re-integration of more young mothers and fathers into school to complete their statutory education. (Section 5.3, p52)</b></p>	<p>LCSP plans include opportunities to support re-integration of teenage parents, e.g. Care to Learn programmes. The Re-integration Manager for Teenage Parents is working as part of the CFE Attendance and Behaviour Service. Six Pinnacle Co-ordinators are working county-wide supporting young parents to access YAPs and YAPs Plus Groups, as a route back into education.</p>

<p><b>9. The Committee recommends that all schools in Kent work towards Healthy Schools validation by March 2009, through a process which is all inclusive to parents and governors. (Section 5.4, p56 and Section 5.5, p58)</b></p>	<p>All Kent schools are working towards Healthy Schools validation or have achieved this status. A new enhanced model for Healthy Schools status is to be launched in September 2009.</p>
<p><b>10. The Committee strongly recommends a strategy for a more consistent and systematic Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) delivery, that is coupled with more robust assessment and monitoring methods and that is adopted in all primary and secondary schools in Kent. (Section 5.6, p59)</b></p>	<p>The PSHE Education Strategy (2008-2012) was approved and launched in autumn 2008. An action plan to deliver the strategy has been developed and is being implemented by a multi-agency group.</p>
<p><b>11. The Committee urges that the new RE and Citizenship Advisor remains permanently in place to ensure that one advisor is permanently and wholly responsible and accountable for PSHE in Kent. (Paragraphs 5.3.14 and 5.3.15, p54)</b></p>	<p>Advisor in place. Funding position for the future confirmed.</p>
<p><b>12. That PSHE certificates for both teachers and nurses be widely promoted and supported. That each school cluster in Kent has a PSHE lead and each secondary school in Kent has at least one PSHE certified teacher. That PSHE awareness be raised through a countywide multi-agency conference, which includes all the decision makers, by March 2008. (Section 5.6, p59)</b></p>	<p>Programme in place and oversubscribed. This programme has now been extended to enable other professionals to undertake this training. Places will be promoted to the target schools. The course is heavily promoted to school nurses. However, there is an optional module within the Specialist Practitioner course regarding SRE and Drugs/Alcohol with regard to young people. Nurses will be asked to undertake this module on accreditation course due to government agenda to significantly increase numbers of Specialist Practitioners.</p>

<p><b>13. The Committee strongly urges the County Council to press Government to make PSHE statutory and therefore part of the core curriculum, thereby ensuring that a selection of PSHE lessons are duly observed during inspections by Ofsted. (Section 5.2, p51)</b></p>	<p>DCSF announcement in Oct 08 of intention to make statutory provision for PSHE. Final guidance due in Summer 09.</p>
<p><b>14. The Committee insists that all secondary schools in Kent ensure access to websites such as “foryoungpeople”, “RUthinking” and “Frank”, and that they provide permanent information on local sexual health services on a visible notice board. (Paragraphs 5.6.24 and 5.6.25, p63)</b></p>	<p>Completed. Firewalls lifted in schools. Web based resources promoted through display at headteachers conference.</p>
<p><b>15. The Committee recommends that school governors ensure that strong and consistent sex and relationships education within a PSHE framework is delivered. That SRE be taught appropriately from primary school and by specialist teachers. (Section 6.4, p70)</b></p>	<p>Ongoing training for teachers, head teachers and school governors supported by ASK is available and promoted to schools.</p>
<p><b>16. The Committee strongly recommends that the “relationships” aspect of SRE be emphasised more than the biological aspect, and that, in order to reflect this emphasis, the name “sex and relationships education” be</b></p>	<p>The new national guidance for PSHE and SRE is awaited. Kent guidance promotes the teaching of sex within the context of relationships.</p>

<p>changed to “relationships and sex education”. (Paragraphs 6.4.16 and 6.4.17, p73)</p>	
<p><b>17. That the nature of SRE lessons reflects equality of responsibility between boys and girls, and therefore that it has a stronger focus on young men and on their attitudes and responsibilities when negotiating sexual relationships. That it be considered to teach particular aspects of SRE in single-sex groups. (Paragraphs 6.4.18, 6.4.19 and 6.4.20, p74)</b></p>	<p>Kent guidance reflects the equality of responsibility between girls and boys, and schools are encouraged to pay particular attention to the attitudes and behaviours of some young men.</p>
<p><b>18. The Committee commends that schools encourage greater involvement of both pupils and parents/carers in the planning and evaluation of SRE programmes. (Paragraphs 6.4.10 and 6.4.11, p71; Paragraph 6.4.21, p74; Paragraphs 6.4.22 and 6.4.23, p75)</b></p>	<p>The involvement of parents and pupils/students is promoted in information to schools. This is further supported by national guidance as part of the Children’s Plan.</p>

<b>TRANSITION TO A POSITIVE FUTURE – MAY 2007</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Progress at end March 2009</b>
<p><b>1. That KCC work with all providers to increase the availability and choice of leisure facilities for young disabled people and promote and publicise ‘taster sessions’ to encourage participation.</b></p>	<p>KCC is one of 21 Pathfinder authorities allocated £15m for short breaks and access to leisure activities for more young disabled people. Partnership working is being developed to take this forward across the county. The Kent Partnership Board, local Learning Disability groups and KASS teams have worked with colleagues, for example, the District Council Sports Development Officer in Thanet. Bluewater management were engaged through Dartford LDPB resulting in a ‘Changing Place’ to facilitate better disabled access at the centre. Members would like good practice to be emulated across the county to bring consistency and continuity.</p>
<p><b>2. That KCC and schools promote a variety of initiatives to raise disability awareness among peers of young disabled people in mainstream schools and the wider community.</b></p>	<p>The Kent Children’s Trust will be signing up to the Charter proposed under ‘Every Disabled Child Matters’. KCC also works with organisations such as Partnership with Parents, Parents Consortium and the Centre for Independent Living, all of whom are engaged in raising disability awareness. There is evidence that projects in particular districts have raised levels of confidence and improved access by disabled people to a noticeable degree in some shops.</p>
<p><b>3. That the Cabinet Members for Children Families &amp; Education and Adult Social Services Directorates are made aware of the Hampshire transition documents and protocols, particularly the new Transition Handbook and Multi-agency Guide, with a view to working towards a similar scheme, for Kent.</b></p>	<p>Kent’s Transition Protocols are now in place having been developed in consultation with numerous stakeholders and informed by best practice in a variety of authorities. They were signed off by the Children’s Trust Board and formally launched by the Leader on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008.</p>
<p><b>4. That KCC should evaluate the capacity of current data systems to enable strategic monitoring of transition plans.</b></p>	<p>A non-technical solution is in place ensuring that key data is, with parental consent, shared across agencies. The introduction of ICS should facilitate further improvements in the future.</p>

<p><b>5. That the Transition Task Group investigates the potential for the increased use of Trans-active in Kent schools, colleges and other settings.</b></p>	<p>Trans-Active and other models have been investigated.</p>
<p><b>6. That KCC should identify the source and type of advocacy available for parents and young people to facilitate better transition planning and make provisions to meet any gaps in service.</b></p>	<p>For the first time ever, a contract for advocacy services for adults with LD has been let to a national organisation. KPB and the 2010 Transition Executive are overseeing training of peer mentors identified through local LD groups. Partnership with Parents provides independent advice and representation.</p>
<p><b>7. To ensure that Children, Families and Education and Adult Social Services' commissioning strategies are co-ordinated, including the use of jointly-resourced budgets where appropriate, to provide a more graduated and consistent approach to service provision for young disabled people in transition from childhood to adulthood. Such strategies should incorporate Transition Worker roles or demonstrate clearly alternative means of providing similar support.</b></p>	<p>This longer term aim will be helped by the Kent Protocol (Rec 3) which requires KASS to have early involvement in planning for children with complex needs and the continued involvement of CFE staff beyond a young person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in an advisory role. The 'transition worker' role is under review and an 'Invest to Save' business case is being put forward.</p>
<p><b>8. That the Managing Director of Adult Social Services and the Managing Director of Children, Families and Education must ensure that information about transition and Adult Social Services is available in a range of accessible formats and is brought to the attention of young disabled people and their parents in advance of meetings to enable them to participate in transition planning.</b></p>	<p>The KASS/CFE officer team are checking that this sharing of information is happening as it should. The Transition Protocols include information for families and there is an Easy Read version for people with LD.</p>

<p><b>9. That KCC, Connexions and partners identify how to use available resources more effectively to benefit young disabled people (including those with learning difficulties) in transition.</b></p>	<p>The Protocols should lead to more effective use of multi-agency resources and KCC's influence over Connexions resources is increasing.</p>
<p><b>10. That individuals identified as Lead Professional for young people in transition to adulthood have the capacity to undertake the function and are provided by KCC and partners with training and support.</b></p>	<p>LP role was rolled out April-September 2008 and the requirements of the Transition Protocol were included in guidance.</p>
<p><b>11. That KCC, schools and other partners promote the use of Direct Payments by young people whose social care needs will extend into adulthood, by raising awareness and understanding of Direct Payments among CFE staff and ensuring that Direct Payments are discussed (with the involvement of a peer-mentor or Direct Payment Support Worker/Adviser where possible) as part of transition planning from Year 9 onwards.</b></p>	<p>Aiming High Pathfinder funding will enable more staff to be recruited, more Personal Assistants and a higher take up of DP. DP are addressed in the Protocol and Legislative barriers will largely be rectified by the Health and Social Care Bill when it becomes law in 2009. (A complex situation remains for a large number of young people placed in Kent by other local authorities for whom Kent would take on considerable cost if they choose to stay in the county and access its services at 18.)</p>
<p><b>12. That KCC, through Kent Supported Employment and its partners, explore the potential of a programme whereby disabled young adults are employed as peer-mentors to assist with transition planning in schools and elsewhere.</b></p>	<p>The Job Action Group has been established to increase employment opportunities for people with LD. KSE lead on a pilot (DwP) project to help disabled young people to achieve their employment aspirations</p>

<b>FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SELECT COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER 2007</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Progress at end March 2009</b>
<p><b>1. That KCC look into setting up and resourcing a permanent Flood Risk Committee, in partnership with District Councils, to monitor: organisational changes affecting the management of flood risk in order to minimise the effect of such changes; the KHS gully clearance programme; non-structural means adopted by KCC and District Councils to reduce flood risk, and the Environment Agency's progress on proposed flood defence works as well as maintenance of existing defences.</b></p>	<p>It is suggested that a new forum is not required as many of the listed actions are already covered by established groups. Instead communication between Natural Environment &amp; Coast Team, KHS, Strategic Planning and Emergency Planning should be improved and to enable a more coordinated and cohesive approach it is suggested that dedicated Flood Risk Officer post be created.</p>
<p><b>2. That there should be adequate, ring-fenced, direct government funding for flood risk management to provide a more transparent system which will reassure the public that vital plans, strategies and flood defence work will not be compromised by competing demands within DEFRA or elsewhere.</b></p>	<p>LGA coastal issues Special Interest Group continues to lobby on flood risk management.</p>
<p><b>3. That KCC should lobby the government to consider re-designating the flood management arm of the Environment Agency as a dedicated flood risk agency as well as giving the EA a strategic overview of all types of flood risk.</b></p>	<p>No action (EA objected).</p>



<p><b>4. That KCC promotes the further development of an Engineering Consultancy led by Canterbury City Council Engineers to disseminate good practice and offer training/apprenticeships to build a practical skills-base and retain local knowledge/expertise in flood risk management.</b></p>	<p>A county-wide drainage team has been established within KHS.</p>
<p><b>5. That KCC supports development in brownfield and other areas subject to the rigorous application of site specific sequential and exception tests of Planning Policy Statement 25.</b></p>	<p>KCC Planners have noted and observed – no further action required.</p>
<p><b>6. That KCC oversee the development of further sub-regional flood risk assessments, based on river catchments, and undertakes to monitor this development.</b></p>	<p>EA are leading on work with districts to identify gaps in assessments and to complete assessments for the county.</p>
<p><b>7. That KCC ensures that its Environment and Waste Team are sufficiently resourced to enable them to: develop a county-wide coastal policy; maintain their oversight of Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) to promote consistency across the county; and raise public awareness of plans.</b></p>	<p>The Coastal Officer post has been secured and (see R1) it is suggested a Flood Risk Officer post be created.</p>
<p><b>8. That KCC should lead on the co-ordination of work with landowners and other agencies to identify options for the funding of changed land-use or buy-out to ensure that plans to achieve more</b></p>	<p>No local action has been taken pending the outcome of national work being undertaken to look at issues of blight associated with coastal policy (Defra).</p>

<p>naturally functioning flood plains and coastline in Kent are arrived at equitably.</p>	
<p>9. That KCC works in partnership with the EA to ensure that River Basin Management planning is fully integrated with existing Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) and with regard to SMPs.</p>	<p>KCC and EA are working to ensure integration and no additional action is required.</p>
<p>10. That Kent Highway Services (KHS) and the EA seek to reconstitute Flood Liaison Advice Groups (FLAGS) in Kent (ideally catchment based), with representation from the insurance industry and local communities.</p>	<p>KHS are now working with KRF, with input from Emergency Planning.</p>
<p>11. That KCC instigates discussions between local planning authorities, Southern Water and others on the feasibility, benefit and cost implications of using non-return valves/sealed sewage systems in all new developments and existing developments where sewage flooding is proven to be a problem and requiring it to be a condition of planning consent.</p>	<p>KCC have still to table a suggestion for new developments at the KPOG meeting.</p> <p>KFRR have completed a study in Kent to assess surface water and groundwater risk, identifying at risk areas and providing recommendations.</p> <p>Discussions to be held on Minerals and Waste Development Framework (incl. waste water) with Southern and Thames Water early 2009.</p>
<p>12. That KCC promotes the use of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) throughout Kent with over-attenuation of surface runoff, guided by best practice adopted by Canterbury and Ashford councils and findings of the integrated urban drainage pilots.</p>	<p>Kent Design Guide (with Technical Index) promotes SUDS and no further action is required.</p>

<p><b>13. That Kent planning authorities adopt the requirement for Drainage Impact Assessments for all new developments, following the Canterbury model.</b></p>	<p>Discussion needs to be held at district level to review the requirement of drainage impact assessment and feasibility for its inclusion.</p>
<p><b>14. That the Fire &amp; Rescue Service are included as an active partner in the planning process for new developments.</b></p>	<p>District development control liaise with KFRS and no further action is required.</p>
<p><b>15. That the Kent Design guide is revised to include information on mitigating flood damage and makes reference to innovative designs for the future, such as floating homes.</b></p>	<p>KCC to consider flood mitigation designs etc during next review of Kent Design Guide in 2010.</p>
<p><b>16. That KCC lobbies government to produce a set of Building Regulations for use in flood risk areas so that planners are supported by increased but nationally consistent obligations to assist developers with a high level of flood proofing/mitigation.</b></p>	<p>Pitt Review also identified need for such building regulations – and outcomes of review are awaited before actioning recommendation. Flood and Waters Bill is to be drafted and consulted on in 2009. This issue will be picked up by consultation.</p>
<p><b>17. For KCC to work in partnership with the EA to publicise actions householders can take to increase the flood resilience of their homes.</b></p>	<p>The KRF Public Warning and Informing Group are currently producing a document on public readiness detailing measures to make homes more flood resilient.</p>
<p><b>18. That KCC specifically allocate funding to enable the proposed road gully cleansing work to go ahead without delay and, where necessary, to enable the condition and capacity of highway drainage systems to be improved and the location of gullies</b></p>	<p>The budget for gully cleansing was increased from £1.8 to £2.8 million.</p>

<p>and their characteristics to be recorded on GPS. That the KHS winter maintenance budget is readjusted to become an extreme weather budget.</p>	
<p><b>19. That KCC works in partnership with local authorities, the police and traffic wardens to inform the public about road drainage cleansing activities to address the issue of vehicles obstructing gullies and delaying vital works.</b></p>	<p>KHS will be developing a website over next two years that will list programme of works and facilitate the prioritisation of maintenance.</p>
<p><b>20. That the government should urgently consider the EA's request for funding to enable vital works to proceed at Jury's Gap, Camber.</b></p>	<p>This refers to the Broomhill area, between Jury's Gap and Camber. The EA have brought the works forward and are in the pre-planning design stage. This work is moving on in advance of the strategy approval because of immediate need.</p>
<p><b>21. That the EA should encourage the input of local authority and Internal Drainage Board (IDB) experts on local strategies and schemes and that IDBs gain representation on the Southern Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC) in order to optimise the benefit to be gained from local knowledge.</b></p>	<p>In relation to the SE RFDC, IDBs are represented through the local authority representative, which has been agreed by the RFDC as the correct approach.</p>
<p><b>22. That the EA develop and implement a phased rolling programme of maintenance to include 'low risk' areas (in collaboration with the Kent Internal Drainage Boards).</b></p>	<p>The year of the Select Committee, cuts were made to the rolling programme. These cuts are not reflected in this year's work and the maintenance programme is in place and includes areas classed as 'low risk'.</p>
<p><b>23. That the EA prioritise clearance of waterways in the Romney Marsh Area.</b></p>	<p>Clearance work is carried out on a priority basis – most of Romney Marsh is classed as medium or high risk. Work is underway.</p>

<p><b>24. That the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) Severe Weather Group (SWG) audit and promote the development of emergency plans/specific flood plans for at risk areas in liaison with the Environment Agency and develop a generic flood plan for Kent.</b></p>	<p>This plan is due for ratification and approval by the KRF on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2009.</p>
<p><b>25. That the government consider placing a duty (with funding) on the Fire &amp; Rescue Service to respond to a flood emergency and further considers designating FRS as the lead body in charge of a flood incident.</b></p>	<p>This recommendation has been made by the Pitt Review and has been adopted by Central Government. It will now be a matter for them to incorporate this into legislation.</p>
<p><b>26. That the Kent Resilience Forum Severe Weather Group formulate and publicise an action plan in relation to flooding to raise public confidence in Kent's preparedness for flood events and consideration should be given to merging the SWG with the Flood Warning Planning Liaison Group to reduce duplication and avoid confusion as part of a wider streamlining of the group structure within the Resilience Forum.</b></p>	<p>Classification of the flood plan will be subject to final KRF approval. Once established, levels of information can be extracted and placed into existing warning &amp; informing work streams within the KRF. Regardless of any sensitive detailed information, the KRF continue to underpin county-wide W&amp;I strategies to support this statutory duty under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.</p>
<p><b>27. That KHS should send officers to work alongside local district colleagues in an emergency situation.</b></p>	<p>Arrangements exist for this and no further action is required.</p>
<p><b>28. That the Environment Agency, through its chairmanship of the KRF Severe Weather Group, should ensure there is a systematic survey of critical infrastructure (location and flood defences) and through</b></p>	<p>These discussions are on-going between the EA and the Utility Companies.</p>

<p><b>the SWG promote work with utility companies to ensure supplies can be protected and maintained during flood emergency situations.</b></p>	
<p><b>29. That the Severe Weather Group liaise with partners in the Kent Resilience Forum and east coast authorities to formulate an emergency response plan for an extreme coastal event and, given the risk to life and property from sea flooding, assess whether the current warning system and communication processes are adequate or whether a siren system should be acquired for Kent, and that people are educated about what to do when they receive a flood warning.</b></p>	<p>The generic plan detailed above will deal with many of the issues stated in this recommendation. However, coastal flood risk mitigation and further analysis are continuing to support this approach.</p>
<p><b>30. That KCC support the Environment Agency in raising flood risk awareness (including the appointment and training of flood wardens and to ensure that vulnerable people are identified and supported in emergency situations) via town and parish councils and similar community groups.</b></p>	<p>In direct response to the Pitt Review, KCC are piloting the development of a generic community resilience plan template which is being rolled out to PCs across the T&amp;M area. Response has been positive; therefore we are looking to further rollout county-wide.</p>

<b>CARERS SELECT COMMITTEE – DECEMBER 2007</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Progress at end March 2009</b>
<p><b>1. Need to raise awareness and profile of carers and carer support services and make information available out of standard hours.</b></p>	<p>To raise the profile of young carers a range of events have been held, which have included training for school governors, school staff, and events with children organised via the projects working in schools. Children, Families and Education have developed young carers leaflet available through key statutory and non-statutory organisations countywide. To help raise professionals' awareness of how to identify and support young carers a DVD has been produced featuring input from Kent's young carers.</p> <p>Kent Adult Social Services HQ and area based staff supported carers' week events.</p> <p>The KASS carers' website has been revamped to make it easier to use.</p> <p>Carers' issues featured prominently in a Conference held in May 08 on the economic, social, employment and housing implications of the ageing population. This helped highlight the critical role carers' play with partner organisations across Kent. The conference attracted national/ international experts including one on carers' policy.</p> <p>KASS continues to involve carers in recruitment process where possible. Users and carers have been engaged in drawing up shortlists of candidates, contributing interview questions, sitting on interview panels. Users and carers have also been involved in selecting panels to appoint providers.</p> <p>The work of the standing Adult Services Carers Advisory Group has also added weight to raising the profile. West Kent NHS and NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent (Primary Care Trusts) have carer leads identified which has had the effect of pushing carers' issues forward.</p> <p>Inequalities in Health in Kent the Director of Public Health's annual report contained a chapter about the health inequalities experienced by carers. This is an influential report read by health and social care commissioners, which contains specific recommendations to</p>

	<p>improve the health &amp; well being of carers.</p> <p>Work is underway to raise the profile and the support offered to carers within KCC workforce. A staff survey is planned to gain insight into the number of employees juggling caring with employment. The carers leave pilot scheme has been well received and extended until August 2009.</p> <p>KASS is planning a Carers and Personalisation event to provide carers the opportunity to inform the implementation of Self Directed Support</p> <p>Work has been undertaken with County Duty Service to ensure a more consistent and proactive response to carers' issues and enquiries when raised through the duty service.</p>
<p><b>2. Promote single point of contact for carers.</b></p>	<p>The Department of Health is soon to launch and promote a national Single Point of Access for Carers. KASS has supplied local carers' information to this scheme and is pursuing opportunities to utilise this scheme locally. We do not want to duplicate or confuse carers with two single points of access and hence we are eagerly awaiting the national scheme to see how best to supplement with more local information.</p> <p>The Carers Emergency Card Scheme has created a unique telephone number for carers 08458 247 105. This number is operated by the Kent Contact Centre and could be further utilised as a single point of contact if necessary.</p> <p>The Carers Emergency Card is promoted and administered on KASS behalf by seven Carers Support Organisations across Kent. When carers make a request to join the scheme if they wish they will also be informed of other carers services available in their area, such as support groups etc.</p>
<p><b>3. Involvement of the Carer Support Organisations at assessment and subject to carers consent sharing the statutory assessment should be considered.</b></p>	<p>A new Carers Assessment Policy has been written and formally agreed at KASS Policy Development and Review Board. The policy clearly sets out KASS duties in assessing and providing support to carers.</p> <p>In conjunction to developing the policy it has been agreed to trial the outsourcing of carers' assessments to Carers Support Organisations. Work has begun to progress this trial, two pilot sites have been identified in Tonbridge &amp; Dover. The pilots are planned for a year with</p>



	<p>monthly monitoring of three key quality markers, quantity, quality (including carers experience) and cost.</p> <p>We are exploring mechanisms for information sharing across health, social care and the voluntary sector. Carers Assessments have been considered in discussion regarding Kent Adult Social Services decisions to procure a Common Assessment Framework /Single Assessment Process tool. We are actively exploring enhancing self-assessment for carers (online and paper) as part of the Self Directed Support.</p>
<p><b>4. Reviews or contact from Care managers should be regular with annual reviews as a minimum.</b></p>	<p>The present policy is clear in that service users and carers needs should be assessed as follows:  Within 3 months of the initial service, annually there after or sooner if a significant change in needs/circumstances do arise.</p> <p>The revised carers' policy makes it clear to carers who and how to contact the relevant teams.</p> <p>The issue will be addressed further as KASS finalise its development plans for Self-Directed Support.</p> <p>Performance monitoring systems on reviews are in place and reported to the Government and KASS Senior Management Teams. These reports will also be shared and discussed at the Carers Advisory Group.</p>
<p><b>5. District Social Services Teams to address and overcome issues around call management.</b></p>	<p>The launch of the revised Carers Assessment Policy will provide the opportunity to further raise the profile of carers within KASS.</p> <p>To compliment the new policy, training is being developed to reinforce the policy implementation and further clarifying duties and responsibilities towards carers. The aim is to create a far more consistent approach to the assessment and support offered to carers.</p>
<p><b>6. Emergency Card Schemes, backed up by emergency plans and response teams</b></p>	<p>On Carers Rights Day December 5<sup>th</sup> 2008 a Kent Carers Emergency Card Scheme was launched. The scheme is designed to provide carers with peace of mind when away from the person that they care for that should something untoward happened to them that</p>

<p><b>should be expanded and developed Kent wide if the pilot is successful.</b></p>	<p>emergency assistance could be accessed. Currently there are over 300 carers signed up to the scheme and the number is growing steadily, since the launch there have been 107 applications generated from the website alone. When applying Carers are offered as much support as necessary to complete their emergency plan if they have no friend or relative to step in at short notice or their emergency plan fails for any reason, either County Duty or the Out of Hours service will step in to arrange emergency support. This support is available to all carers not just those carers of people receiving community care services.</p> <p>To compliment the scheme additional carers grant funding has been commissioned with the voluntary sector to provide increased levels of community based respite.</p>
<p><b>7. KCC together with Health and VCO's need to ensure that provision of respite/breaks is flexible, of the right type and that provision meets the needs of carers as well as the cared for person.</b></p>	<p>A standing Carers Advisory Group has been established. The Group is jointly chaired by Steve Leidecker, and Barbara Hagan, a representative of carers support organisation. The Group was instrumental in shaping the service development priorities for 2008/9. These are;</p> <p><b>A Single Point of Contact</b> - a county-wide dedicated advice and information helpline service for carers</p> <p><b>Carers' Emergency Card</b> - 24/7 contact number in case of an emergency. This means that if a carer becomes ill or is involved in an accident they can be assured that there will be someone to look after the person that they care for</p> <p><b>Carers' Training and Education</b> - to cover topics such as moving and handling, medication, dealing with difficult or challenging behaviour, coping with specific conditions and employment. A group of Kent carers support organisations, supported by KASS are bidding for funding to provide the Expert Patient Programme for carers called 'Caring with Confidence'.</p> <p><b>Carers' Emergency Support Services</b> - developing time-limited (48-72 hours) home-based emergency cover to provide support in times of crisis e.g. carer's unplanned admission to hospital or a medical emergency, a family member being taken ill and requiring help or attention, the death or funeral of a close friend or family member.</p>

	<p><b>Short breaks</b> - Increasing the type and availability of short breaks, including at home, in the evening and overnight.</p> <p>KASS will use its influence via the Carers Advisory Group and other methods to ensure that the PCT sign up to joint commissioning plans to ensure that the additional carers' money routed through the NHS is spent to compliment existing services, addressing gaps and delivering against the agreed priorities. Emergency or crisis support will be a priority commissioning area for the NHS.</p>
<p><b>8. Multi Agency Adult Carers Strategy to be progressed as a priority.</b></p>	<p>Work has begun to develop a Kent Adult Carers Strategy; the strategy will be our Kent response to delivering the National Carers' Strategy which was published in June 2008. To take the works forward a sub group of the standing Adult Services Carers Advisory Group has been established with representation from KASS, the voluntary sector, both Kent PCT and carers. The group will develop a high level strategy to show how in Kent we intend to implement the National Carers Strategy. Following on from the strategy there will be two separate joint commissioning plans for East &amp; West Kent.</p> <p>KASS will ensure that links are made between the Kent Adult Carers Strategy and work within Kent to deliver the imminently expected National Dementia Strategy and the recently published End of Life Strategy 2008.</p>
<p><b>9. Need to ensure that awareness is raised within schools to increase understanding of what it means to be a 'young carer', and find ways to identify and support Young carers.</b></p>	<p>In 2008 guidance was issued to all schools regarding the needs of young carers and how to support them in the school environment. In order to support schools in applying this guidance an additional 20K was allocated to each of the five young carers projects across the county to enable them to work directly with local schools. This has enabled us to identify additional young carers across the county.</p> <p>Awareness raising and training has taken place with a number of Local Children's Services Partnerships (LCSP) and with specific groups of staff who work in schools or support the school environment i.e. Family Liaison Officers, Parent Support Advisors etc. Strategic links have been made with other initiatives that support the well-being of pupils in school e.g. PSHE and Healthy Schools.</p> <p>The Anti-bullying Strategy makes specific reference to bullying that takes place as a result of disability and the KSCB Anti-Bullying Policy specifically identifies young carers as a group of</p>

	<p>vulnerable young people at risk of bullying. The Joint Protocol between Children’s and Adult Services (see below) clarifies the routes of referral into children’s services for those young carers with additional needs.</p>
<p><b>10. Consider the need for a clearly identified lead professional for young carers on CSS operational front and education, alongside those for policy/strategy.</b></p>	<p>The additional monies identified during the last year to support local young carers projects working more closely with local schools will have helped to begin to share the expert knowledge held within the projects to other agencies, specifically schools. This year, to support the LCSPs in developing links with the young carers projects and to prioritise support for young carers, each LCSP has been offered £500 per 1000 of child population to develop young carers support. To date the majority of LCSPs have taken up this offer and a report will be made next year on the outcome of this work will report.</p> <p>In a year of great change in children services the majority of agencies have identified leads for young carers. These leads are proactive in promoting the needs of young carers within their agency and as a result a range of awareness raising events have taken place and are planned. Further work will take place to clarify young carers leads for all agencies. It is as yet too early to judge the impact of the CAF in identifying and meeting the needs of young carers. It will be important to monitor this during the coming years.</p>
<p><b>11. Need to ensure clear responsibilities and referral pathway for young carers between Kent Adult Social Services, and CFE and other agencies, and ensure that protocols between Kent Adult Social Services and Children’s Social Services are developed as a matter of urgency.</b></p>	<p>A Joint Protocol between Adults and Children’s Services is now in place within KCC. Recommendation will be made to the Kent Children’s Trust Board that the Protocol is adopted children’s and adult services across the county.</p> <p>The joint protocol identifies the appropriate person to carry out assessment within households. It is anticipated the adoption of the protocol will increase the number of young carers identified and therefore support offered to them.</p> <p>Staff awareness/briefing plan is being developed.</p>
<p><b>12. Invisible People – the multi agency young carers strategy and accompanying commissioning strategy</b></p>	<p>Invisible People- Kent’s Young Carers Strategy was subject to formally launched in July. The document is available via Kent Trust Web and the KCC web-site. The multi-agency implementation plan that supports the document is subject to annual review by CFE POC and the Kent Children’s Trust Board.</p>

<p><b>(currently in draft) should be implemented urgently and monitored to ensure objectives and targets are met.</b></p>	<p>Work has begun on a 'Hidden Harm Strategy' this multi agency strategy will pull together the work necessary to protect vulnerable children (many of whom will be young carers) who live with parents of guardians with substance misuse problems.</p>
<p><b>13.KCC in partnership with Health and the VCO's need to improve understanding and signposting from Health sector to available help and support for carers in the county.</b></p>	<p>The new standing Carers Advisory has for the first time in Kent brought all the key strategic partners involved in supporting carers together. Both PCT have identified Carers Leads who are working in partnership with KASS to develop the Kent Adult Cares Strategy and associated commissioning plans. The identification, sign posting and support offered by primary care is a consistent theme and one that will feature heavily in the strategy.</p> <p>We expect that training for GPs, a requirement of the dementia strategy will also contribute to improving the current situation.</p>
<p><b>14.KCC to pursue with Health the need to consider how carers of mental health patients (and service users) can be better supported, particularly at times of crisis and out of hours.</b></p>	<p>The provision of carers assessment workers, piloted in West Kent, has now been extended to cover all of Kent. These workers ensure that all carers of people with severe mental health problems are offered their own assessment of their needs and are signposted to the support they need. Likewise, funding for Carers Breaks has in the last year been implemented in all parts of Kent. These are designed to give carers a break and are arranged by carers support projects.</p> <p>The Mental Health Matters help-line is now funded from 5PM to 9AM on weekdays and 24hrs weekends and holidays. The service is available to carers and referrals can be made to the Crisis Resolution and Home treatment Teams.</p> <p>Kent Adult Social Services will aim to influence how the local NHS intends to allocate the new funds that they are receiving for carers, increasing services available to carers out of hours and at time of crisis will be a priority.</p> <p>Further work needs to be done to ensure carers needs are fully recognised in crisis and out of hours. We will be finding ways to include mental health in the Carers Emergency Card scheme. A seminar is shortly to take place with all mental health carers projects across Kent which will examine how carers needs can be better recognised at times of crisis and out of hours.</p>

<b>ALCOHOL MISUSE – MARCH 2008</b>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Progress at end March 2009</b>
<p><b>1. Kent County Council (KCC) establishes, in partnership with Kent Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), an independent task board which will carry out a comprehensive and systematic needs assessment of alcohol service provision in Kent. This review should investigate, quantify and evaluate the current level of need and the financial resources available in both East and West Kent; it should consider coordination, commissioning and provision mechanisms involved; it should assess the effectiveness of local alcohol treatment systems in all the four tiers of intervention, and it should explore opportunities for savings in order to maximise budget spend on service delivery. The Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team (KDAAT) should produce an annual updating report indicating in the various areas of operation the number of individuals receiving treatment and the reasons for their referral. (Please refer to Sections 3.1 and Section 3.2)</b></p>	<p>Kent Action on Alcohol Steering Group (KAASG) was established to reflect multi-agency representation and resources were identified enabling the commissioning of Oxford PHRU for the completion of a comprehensive alcohol needs assessment. An initial report was received in readiness for the launch in the Alcohol Select Committee Report in July 2008 and a final report is anticipated on 31 July 2009.</p>
<p><b>2. The Committee recommends that the needs of all those individuals requesting assistance, especially those caring for dependants, should be assessed carefully, and that treatment should be prioritised according to the importance and urgency of each situation. (Section 3.2)</b></p>	<p>KAASG is working with KDAAT Young Person's Service in the coordination of a multi-agency group to address issues of Hidden Harm. A gap analysis has been completed and a Hidden Harm Strategy has been prepared for consultation across the County. Via safeguarding structures the identification and assessment of families at risk is prioritised and ongoing work will be developed with substance misuse treatment providers and Children's Social Services.</p>

<p><b>3. The outcomes of the needs assessment should inform the production of an overarching alcohol strategy for Kent. The production of the strategy, aiming at reducing the impact of alcohol misuse in Kent, should be lead by KDAAT. The strategy should address a variety of issues including treatment services, underage drinking, public awareness, alcohol-related crime and responsible retailing. It should clearly identify effective actions to be taken, together with responsibilities and accountability of all the agencies involved in the coordination, commissioning and provision of alcohol-related services. The strategy should include mechanisms that will evaluate and monitor the progress of its implementation, and it should encourage closer collaborative ties between all the agencies involved. (Section 3.1 and Section 3.2)</b></p>	<p>The draft Alcohol Strategy is now ready for consultation across the County with a view to progress to Council in Autumn 2009.</p>
<p><b>4. The Committee urges KCC to lobby Central Government to raise the priority and profile of the issue of alcohol misuse in the UK. KCC should press for an increase in funding to finance services dealing with alcohol misuse. This pressure should be carried out through the influence of the Local Government Association (LGA), as well as through direct contact with Central Government agencies. (Section 4.1)</b></p>	<p>Alcohol misuse and issues relating to licensing and retail costs have been a Central Government priority for action and legislation is anticipated that will amend current licensing laws. The issue of cost is now in the public domain and KAASG can contribute to this ongoing work. Kent is working with the retail industry via Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (KCAP) – see answer to point 27 and a dialogue has commenced with Shepherd Neame.</p>
<p><b>5. KCC should ensure that the distribution of financial resources for alcohol-related services is monitored, amongst other methods, through Local Area Agreement (LAA) structures and mechanisms. KCC should prioritise the allocation of resources for these crucial alcohol services, given their impact across so many other aspects of life. (Sections 4.1 and 4.2)</b></p>	<p>KAASG has identified, within the Alcohol Strategy, the areas that contribute to the LAA process, namely treatment services, Accident &amp; Emergency Admissions and young people and alcohol. Additional resources have been secured from PCTs and a further growth is planned in expenditure in 2009/10.</p>

<p><b>6. KCC establishes closer links with local academic institutions, such as the University of Kent, in order to deal with alcohol misuse. Work should be carried out with the European Institute of Social Studies (EISS) of the University of Kent, in an effort to attract European Union funding to finance alcohol misuse services in Kent. KCC should liaise with EISS to encourage the participation of both the alcohol industry and Kent-based agencies dealing with alcohol misuse in the EU Alcohol and Health Forum. Care should be taken to present the Forum with the many projects that the alcohol industry in Kent may initiate. (Section 4.2)</b></p>	<p>KCAP is to be externally evaluated by the University of Kent and other treatment services will be assessed and evaluated as appropriate and as funding permits. In the Autumn 2008 a dinner was held at the University of Kent to establish links and areas for future exploration.</p>
<p><b>7. The Select Committee urges that the effectiveness of GPs in early identification and referral of alcohol misusers in Kent should be improved. All GPs in Kent should be strongly encouraged to attend special training that will help them identify alcohol misusers, especially those with dependants. (Section 5.1)</b></p>	<p>GPs with Special Interest (GPSI) have become established in respect of the drugs agenda. KDAAT is seeking to address GPSIs with a specific alcohol brief once funding becomes available. Via the Accident &amp; Emergency pilots briefing intervention models are being developed via existing providers in the treatment field.</p>
<p><b>8. GPs and other primary care staff should increase the provision of “motivational brief interventions” and advice to individuals drinking excessively, but not yet experiencing major problems resulting from excessive consumption. Funding sources to finance these brief interventions should be identified by Kent Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). (Sections 5.1 and 5.2)</b></p>	<p>See answer to Recommendation 7.</p>
<p><b>9. The Committee urges that KCC offers immediate intervention to support those with urgent needs, such as children mistreated by alcoholic parents, young carers of misusers and misusers suffering from alcohol withdrawal crises. If during assessment a parent is identified as in need of alcohol treatment, KCC Social</b></p>	<p>See answer to Recommendation 2.</p>



<p><b>Services should ensure that support is provided to ascertain that the children are properly cared for. (Section 5.3)</b></p>	
<p><b>10.It is paramount that additional temporary sheltered housing should be facilitated by KCC for individuals recovering from alcohol addiction, particularly those discharged from hospitals, prisons and residential alcohol treatment, in order to prevent relapse. (Section 5.4 and Section 8.1)</b></p>	<p>Discussions have commenced with service providers in the county who act as registered social landlords (RSLs) for this targeted group. Existing provision is currently coping with demand and additional resources from Supporting People to provide floating support at the point of move on has enabled a more fluid and flexible accommodation response.</p>
<p><b>11.The Select Committee supports the promotion of a hard-hitting health campaign targeted at the young to increase their awareness and so reduce the damaging effects of alcohol. The Committee urges that this campaign should stress personal responsibility and self esteem, give information about sensible drinking and about the variety of alcohol- related services available in the County (Section 6.1)</b></p>	<p>House has been developed as a multi-agency response across the county. The programme will be assessed and evaluated externally but already evidence is emerging that young people previously outside treatment services are being identified and support is being given and where necessary referral on to more structured programmes.</p>
<p><b>12.In order to help those seeking support, the Select Committee recommends that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>• A logo, which facilitates the identification of all alcohol services in the County, is adopted. (Section 6.2)</b></li> <li><b>• The “alcohol” section in the KDAAT website is developed and expanded. (Section 6.2)</b></li> </ul>	<p>The issue of a logo is a matter for resolution at a corporate level and has not been progressed. The KDAAT website is being refreshed and new leaflets supporting the NHS campaigns have been produced.</p>
<p><b>13.KCC should produce a directory in hard copy of all alcohol-related services available in the County which includes all voluntary sector provision, to aid partners and clients to access help for individuals in crisis. (Section 6.2)</b></p>	<p>KDAAT has produced a new leaflet identifying treatment providers and other avenues of support. This links to the national directory. No hard copy document has been produced but a Communication Strategy has been established to ensure that the timeliness and accuracy of information available to professionals and other groups is available.</p>

<p><b>14. More consistent Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), which includes effective alcohol education, should be delivered in both primary and secondary schools in Kent. PSHE accreditation for both teachers and nurses should be widely supported. The organisation and promotion of this training should be carried out by Schools Drugs Education Advisers through Local Children’s Services Partnerships. The Kent PSHE Advisory Group should pay particular attention to this recommendation when investigating young people’s personal health and wellbeing in the County. (Sections 7.1 and 7.2)</b></p>	<p>Kent is now compliant with the PSHE requirements and further opportunities are being developed by the Kent Safer Schools Health model.</p>
<p><b>15. The Committee recommends that the inclusion of persons recovering from alcohol addiction in the delivery of alcohol education in schools in Kent should be considered by Local Children’s Services Partnerships. Guidance for schools will ensure that lessons delivered by outside speakers, including previous alcohol misusers, comply with a clear quality assurance framework. (Section 7.2)</b></p>	<p>Within the Alcohol Strategy workforce development is recognised as a key strand and through the Progressions Awards at South Kent College, we are developing opportunities for service users to develop the skills and confidence to begin to contribute to the overarching agenda. LCSPs in their Needs Assessment can access these resources via local treatment providers.</p>
<p><b>16. The Committee commends that parents and Kent-based primary and secondary schools should work in partnership to promote legal, safe and sensible drinking. Schools should involve parents in their children’s alcohol education by transferring learning about sensible drinking into the home. (Sections 7.2 and 7.3)</b></p>	<p>Parental Awareness has been developed using the national tool kit and a booklet has been issued to all schools to engage parents in the promotion of the work.</p>
<p><b>17. Successful initiatives dealing with other related health issues, such as drug misuse, drink driving and sexual health, should be explored for adaptation to the theme of alcohol misuse. KCC should support the delivery of these initiatives in tackling alcohol misuse. (Section 7.2)</b></p>	<p>This is being addressed through the KAASG Communication Strategy.</p>

<p><b>18. The Select Committee commends and supports the work carried out by the Safer and Stronger Communities Group and its sub-group, in their effort to reduce alcohol-related crime linked to the night-time economy and to deal with domestic violence in Kent. It recommends that this work should be comprehensive, including the diversity of offences fuelled by alcohol misuse which are not necessarily of a violent nature. (Sections 8.1 and 8.2)</b></p>	<p>Work is ongoing with Kent Police, Probation and Children's Services to ensure the sharing of data and information in order that a more coherent approach can be applied and resources can be targeted more effectively. The analysis is being linked to the work being undertaken by Oxford PHRU.</p>
<p><b>19. Communication between agencies at county level and those at more local level should be enhanced. Better data sharing between organisations dealing with alcohol-related crime, such as the police and Crime Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) should be secured. The sharing of best practice between Kent-based CDRPs in tackling alcohol-related disorder should be improved. Both Central Government and the alcohol industry should be encouraged to provide data and finance. (Section 8.2)</b></p>	<p>KAASG is leading on the coordination of the groups that sit within Safer Stronger Communities, Safer Kent Delivery and the Public Health Boards. KAASG has a clear data strategy attached as Appendix 1.</p>
<p><b>20. The Committee strongly recommends that the Kent-based alcohol misuse conference, including representatives of local authorities, CDRPs, KDAAT and the alcohol industry, is established. (Section 8.2)</b></p>	<p>On July 08, the Select Committee Report was launched at a Kent based conference. In November 2009 an EU Symposium will address young people and alcohol.</p>
<p><b>21. All hospitals in Kent improve Accident and Emergency (A&amp;E) data gathering on injuries resulting from alcohol-related violence. All A&amp;E departments in Kent should be strongly encouraged to collect and share data with other agencies in order to pinpoint "hot spots" and sources of crime resulting from alcohol misuse, and should quantify accurately NHS costs of dealing with health consequences. (Section 8.2)</b></p>	<p>Two pilots are currently being completed and evaluated. A review of the evaluation will commence in July 2009 and the outcomes considered prior to further roll out.</p>

<p><b>22. KCC should recommend that magistrates are provided by Her Majesty Court Service (HMCS) with training which will enable them to deal more effectively with alcohol-related crime. (Section 8.2)</b></p>	<p>Magistrates across Kent are in the process of being trained. This is related to the delivery of alcohol treatment programmes ATR (statutory court order) and is being managed by the Kent Probation Service.</p>
<p><b>23. The Select Committee supports the KCC Towards 2010 target 58 to work with off licence pub and club owners to reduce alcohol fuelled crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse. In addition, we recommend that problems of drinking outside the curtilage of licensed premises should be addressed, and that KCC should seek to discourage the practices of discounting alcoholic drinks, charging high prices for soft drinks and other strategies that could promote irresponsible drinking by all retail outlets. (Sections 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3)</b></p>	<p>Drinking outside licensed premises is an area being addressed by Kent Police and other responsible authorities. A number of reviews resulting in licensing conditions have been imposed following crime, disorder or serious nuisance caused outside licensed premises. Examples include a review called by environmental health due to repeated excessive noise and by police following crimes outside a licensed premises. Clearly, each case is considered on its merits and the aim is to work with Designated Premises Supervisors to prevent any issues arising or reoccurring.</p> <p>Police have used dispersal powers requiring that persons leave an area if they are linked to alcohol-related crime and disorder. These are used extensively throughout Kent.</p> <p>Kent Police set a target for 2008-09 of reducing alcohol and drug-related violence in identified night-time economy areas by 5% based on 2007-08 figures, although full year data is not available, the figures for the first 11 months show significant falls in these violent crimes.</p> <p>Second point: If discounted drinks promotions are shown to directly impact on any of the 4 licensing objectives (public safety, crime and disorder, public nuisance and harm to children) responsible authorities can seek a review to impose appropriate conditions.</p> <p>See also answer to 27 re KCAP</p>

<p><b>24. KCC supports, where appropriate and after other measures have been explored, the establishment of alcohol free areas and of Alcohol Disorder Zones, which can require premises failing to implement actions designed to reduce alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in their vicinity to contribute towards the cost of the additional policing necessary to suppress the disruption. Kent Police, Trading Standards and other appropriate agencies should increase their efforts to identify retailers who supply alcohol to under age persons and ensure that penalties are applied. (Sections 9.2 and 9.3)</b></p>	<p>Alcohol Disorder Zones (ADZ). It is widely accepted that designating an area as an ADZ is very much a last resort when all other measures have been pursued. There have been none created to date anywhere in the country, creating an ADZ shows that the partnership has failed to manage the NTE. [An ADZ could be adopted when all other measures failed to reduce the identified disorder. If so, the police and the local authority need to agree that an ADZ is necessary. A 28 day consultation process follows, then an action plan is agreed, if this fails, the ADZ can be designated. This means that premises in that area can be made to contribute towards the costs towards dealing with issues in the night time economy.</p> <p>Underage drinking: Kent Police have used confiscation powers to confiscate drink from underage persons. This also involves investigating where the drink was purchased from and notifying parents of what has happened. Following test purchases KCC's Trading Standards have prosecuted a number of retailers for selling alcohol to young people. Trading Standards Officers have been accredited and have issued a large number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND's) - effectively an £80 fine, where a prosecution is not appropriate. More recently the service has instituted a number of reviews of licenses which have resulted in the licensing authority adding conditions or even suspending a licence.</p>
<p><b>25. The Committee recommends KCC to improve public knowledge of the rights to object to licence applications for the sale of alcohol and to call for license reviews if problems of public nuisance occur. Local experience of public nuisance was previously submitted via Parish Councils, and the Select Committee recommends that KCC engages the support of the Kent Association of Parish Councils to lobby Government to reinstate</b></p>	<p>The 12 District Councils as the licensing authorities receive all the applications for new licences and alterations to existing licences. This same information is also sent by applicants to the statutory responsible authorities, which includes KCC but does not include the Parish Councils. Parishes have expressed a desire to comment on licence applications / changes but it appears that they are not being consulted by the licensing authorities. KCC's Director of Community Safety is writing to the</p>

<p><b>Parish Councils as consultees in license applications. (Sections 9.2 and 9.3)</b></p>	<p>12 DC Chief Executives to establish the position within each licensing authority. Depending on the answers received this matter will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the Crime and Disorder Partnership (CDRP) meetings to consider a local change of policy or, if required, an approach to Central Government for a change in the law or guidance issued to local authorities.</p>
<p><b>26. The Select Committee urges KCC to engage and encourage Central Government to ensure that the rate of taxation of drinks increases proportionally with their alcoholic strength. A greater part of the additional revenue accrued from alcohol taxation should be re-invested for the prevention and treatment of alcohol misuse. (Section 10.1)</b></p>	<p>Since the Select Committee hearings, the low cost of alcoholic drinks and its effect on levels of consumption has been well publicised in the media. The Government are considering a number of possibilities which would result in the price of alcoholic drinks being increased.</p>
<p><b>27. The Committee recommends that KCC supports Central Government's engagement of large supermarket chains encouraging them to review their alcohol marketing strategies, including "loss leader" discounting practices, and to ensure that alcohol is not sold to under-age customers. (Section 10.2)</b></p>	<p>KCC's Trading Standards service is leading on the UK's largest partnership initiative joining forces with Kent Police, the Health Service, District Councils, many services across the County Council (such as the DAAT, Community Wardens, Youth Service, Schools etc) and the retail industry to form the Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (KCAP). Large national retailers are represented by the Retail of Alcohol Standards Group which comprises all the major supermarkets and other national retail chains. The Kent Community Alcohol Partnership has a Steering group led by KCC's Dir of Community Safety and includes a national senior manager for one of the major supermarkets, on behalf of RASG.</p> <p>KCAP aims to change attitudes to drinking by informing and advising young people on sensible drinking, supporting retailers to reduce sales of alcohol to underage drinkers, promote responsible socialising and helping local communities to tackle alcohol related issues.</p>

	<p>The project was launched across the County in November 08 and in the three pilot areas (Edenbridge, Canterbury City Centre and the Westwood Cross area in Thanet, covering a population of almost 100,000) in March 09. The pilots will run until September 09 and if successful (evaluation to be carried out by Univ of Kent at Canterbury), the project will be rolled out across Kent.</p>
<p><b>28. The Committee commends that KCC encourages Central Government to make Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) a statutory subject with inspection by Ofsted (please refer to Appendix 4 for related recommendations in KCC PSHE report). (Section 10.3)</b></p>	<p>Incomplete – the Action Plan indicates work to commence June 2009.</p>

<b>ACCESSING DEMOCRACY – SEPTEMBER 2008</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Action Plan at end March 2009</b>
<p><b>1. Raise profile of elected members and use other strategies to change public perception.</b></p>	<p>This overarching recommendation depends on the delivery of all the other recommendations. It involves the use of technology, development of a Members portal, potential development of Members’ blogs, and Members websites, shadowing opportunities for elected Members and officers, roadshows, the emerging localism agenda etc, etc.</p> <p>Members are welcome and encouraged to use Gateways to hold “surgeries” or as a facility for reaching their local constituents.</p>
<p><b>2. A ‘menu of options’ of how local people can get involved in local democracy in Kent should be promoted.</b></p> <p><b>(a) All proposals taken through County Council or Overview and Scrutiny should be required to state the degree of public involvement to date. This would improve accountability and demonstrate how information from consultations is used (especially the effect on decision making).</b></p> <p><b>(b) Existing good practice should be advertised and promoted, identifying future priority issues for local action/campaign with elected members and/or highlight possible areas for review.</b></p>	<p>Report to Chief Officer Group, Cabinet, Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee and Policy Overview Committees to ensure that the model report enshrines the degree of public involvement to date and how the duty to involve and to promote democracy is being delivered.</p> <p>Gateways are available to promote democracy more generally where this is appropriate.</p> <p>Kent TV is an excellent medium to facilitate democracy and reach younger people in particular. The use of Kent TV during elections is currently being explored by the editor who will be approaching the three political group leaders.</p> <p>The County Council is exploring the various mechanisms available to it to allow the public to express their views which might highlight areas for possible review. This could be piloted through a mechanism to be developed to understand the views which might lead to a Topic Review for the Select Committee Topic Review Programme.</p>



<p><b>3. The Member Charter, and programme of member development to help ensure Kent has high calibre effective community leaders, should incorporate media training and public speaking skills.</b></p>	<p>As part of the County Council's preparation for the South East Employers Member Development Charter all Members were invited to identify those skills on which they would welcome development. Media training was a high priority and this is being built into the ongoing programme of development for all Members. The IMG Member Development and the IMG Member Information will be undertaking a survey of all prospective candidates and interviewing all elected Members on their needs following the County Council elections.</p>
<p><b>4. As part of the Communications Strategy KCC should actively promote the role of elected members as community leaders and advocates within their community using a range of communication tools.</b></p>	<p>The Media and Communications Centre can advise but do not have the resources to promote each Member. It would be possible to run a publicity campaign to promote KCC Members and what they do.</p>
<p><b>5. Embrace democracy in secondary schools and school councils should be encouraged to operate through age range - advocate school councils in primary school.</b></p> <p><b>a. All elected members should be involved in schools democracy week.</b></p> <p><b>b. Ensure all teaching staff are firmly encouraged to undertake Continuous Professional Development on democracy.</b></p> <p><b>c. Linkage between School Councils, Kent County Council and District, Town and Parish Councils should be promoted.</b></p>	<p>Opportunity to embrace democracy in secondary schools through the Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum on School and Councillor Wellbeing, extend the Kent County Council where Year 6 children will join together to form the Kent Primary School Children's Council and discuss the big issues of the day.</p> <p>Explore and develop the Councillors in Schools project which the County Council undertook in early 2006.</p> <p>Explore and shadow Hampshire County Council's involvement in the national programme called "Take Part" and learn from best practice which could be developed into a model for Kent.</p>

<p><b>6. Citizenship pack should include information on how to register to vote, the role of local elected members and how to contact local members at District, County and National level.</b></p>	<p>The Citizenship pack already includes the Electoral Commission leaflet "Register to Vote" which includes an electoral registration form. The leaflet is a generic one. Also enclosed in the pack is a list of the addresses of the 12 district council electoral registration sections in Kent. Many new citizens will have registered to vote prior to gaining citizenship as they already have entitlement to vote e.g. EU elections etc but the leaflet will be useful to those who have not already registered.</p>
<p><b>7. Need to ensure that induction and information pack for new staff includes information on how to have your say and get involved in local decision making and how public involvement has made a difference.</b></p>	<p>Fact sheets are being prepared for inclusion in the induction packs. The induction programme for new staff includes the decision making process and how it is possible to get involved in local decision making. This programme is also delivered to other staff groups across the County Council.</p>
<p><b>8. KCC should provide subtitles and British Sign Language option on all DVDs produced.</b></p>	<p>Strategic Development Unit already do this and the Gateway DVD produced in January 2007 has been used as an example.</p>

<p><b>9. Elected members should have a hard copy summary of all the planned KCC consultations.</b></p> <p><b>a. Information regarding consultations and the need to inform and involve elected members needs to be highlighted and included within future plans to develop a discreet section of information for members on the web and clear commitments reflected within the Consultation and Engagement Strategy.</b></p> <p><b>b. Information on consultations should include note on method of engagement to be used.</b></p>	<p>This will be linked to the new consultation and involvement database being developed for Kent.gov.</p> <p>The Consultation and Engagement Strategy offers the opportunity to explore a range of tools depending on the consultation being conducted to reach the audience using in the most appropriate method(s).</p>
<p><b>10. Facilities for video conferencing should be utilized, maximizing opportunities in Kent with KCC and partners.</b></p> <p><b>Elected members should be supported in using this service through current resources, training and support mechanisms.</b></p>	<p>To ensure that when opportunities present themselves for installing video conferencing facilities this should happen. For example, 'Gateway's' have video conferencing facilities. Through the decision making and democratic processes of the County Council all opportunities should be taken to explore the use of video conferencing</p> <p>This will be built into the Training and Development module for elected Members</p>
<p><b>11. Need effective promotion of E-consultation and decision making to raise profile and encourage local people to have their say and voices heard.</b></p> <p><b>a. All engagement activities and web links should be brought under easily</b></p>	<p>E-consultations represent only one engagement tool. The Consultation and Engagement Strategy offers the opportunity to explore a range of tools depending on the consultation being conducted to reach the audience in the most appropriate method(s).</p> <p>"Access Kent" is one of the key themes being supported by the Kent Partnership and will contribute a lot on streamlining engagement as well as access. A</p>

<p><b>recognisable umbrella and portal e.g. 'Ask Kent', to ensure two way interactive communication.</b></p> <p><b>b. Facilities for blogs, emails, online surgeries, plus training and support should be available for elected members.</b></p>	<p>Member seminar was held before Christmas and there is a paper included on the agenda for today's meeting.</p> <p>Consideration is being given to revamping Member blogs. There is an issue here about developing a policy on the use of blogs.</p>
<p><b>12. In promoting the role of elected members and interaction with communities KCC should embrace e-democracy/ technological solutions to make elected members activities more visible and to open up dialogue and debate, for example e-petition, e-campaigns generated by Local Boards and local people, and e-debate.</b></p>	<p>The emerging localism agenda and the duty to involve and to promote democracy opens up a whole range of ways in which the Council will engage with its local people which will promote the role of elected Members. The Gravesham Neighbourhood Forum recently submitted a bid looking at the feasibility to web cast meetings and provide the opportunity to interact with the meeting by e-mail. Kent TV can potentially offer a range of initiatives on this recommendation.</p>
<p><b>13. Raising interest in both the opportunity and how to become an elected member needs to be clear and transparent. Agree more diversity in elected members is seen to be beneficial but is complex and worthy of separate study.</b></p>	<p>Help KCC embrace the duty to promote democracy when the duty exists and the statutory guidance for this duty needs to be taken into account.</p>
<p><b>14. 'Top tips' and contact details on making contact with seldom heard/ perceived hard to reach communities should be included in all new ward packs.</b></p>	<p>To raise awareness and use of the Social Innovation Laboratory for Kent "method deck". Ofcom published a report that highlighted minority ethnic groups as having more likely to access information by broadband than other Britons. Kent TV can therefore help to reach minority ethnic groups.</p>
<p><b>15. a. The introduction of role descriptions for all elected members needs to be supported.</b></p>	<p>(a) All this work is being picked up in the work that is being undertaken in the County Council's bid to achieve the Member Development Charter. Work is also being undertaken to identify the support councillors need to carry out their role</p>

<p><b>b. The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) Councillors guide should be actively promoted and need to ensure all elected members have a copy.</b></p> <p><b>c. Training for elected members in ways of local government and ongoing training to help elected members carry out their role effectively should be actively supported.</b></p>	<p>and the County Council will be invited to sign up to the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) declaration of giving councillors the support they need.</p> <p>(b) All County Council Councillors will be issued with a copy of the Councillors Guide.</p> <p>(c) An ongoing and full training and development programme has been prepared and in consultation with the IMG. Member developed and is being delivered.</p>
<p><b>16.To effectively strengthen local structures for community engagement and encourage involvement in local decision making need</b></p> <p><b>a. Localism to be more outcome focussed.</b></p> <p><b>b. mechanism for prompt feedback to the public on specific issues.</b></p> <p><b>c. to explore further with District, Town and Parish Councils and other local partners what they believe would improve community engagement.</b></p> <p><b>d. to devolve power and resources to support local priorities and action, from discretionary funds being delegated to local forums for decision making.</b></p>	<p>Ongoing discussions are taking place with partner organisations to develop a range of pilot models for localism across the county and for ensuring that the localism agenda is more outcome focussed with appropriate feedback mechanisms for the public on specific issues, ongoing.</p> <p>Several Members as well as local fora have expressed a wish to pursue the model of participatory budgeting when allocating its grants which will allow the communities to set its priorities, ongoing.</p> <p>In the County Council Budget for 2009/2010 £25,000 has been set aside for each Member top sliced from the Highways Budget for Members to spend on highways issues and other service areas and budgets are being explored by Cabinet and Chief Officers.</p> <p>“Gateways” and Kent TV are ideal facilities to access communities and effectively engage.</p>

<p><b>e. Chief Officers and Cabinet should identify which services can be delegated to local level and be influenced by members in their representative capacity based on views of community priorities and preferences.</b></p>	
<p><b>17. The opportunity for participatory budgeting from devolved discretionary funds should be provided within the next budget year, with delivery mechanism to be determined, and a sum of underpinning monies to enable local people to determine how the resource should be spent.</b></p>	<p>Participatory Budgeting was one of the workshops featured at the Community Engagement Conference at Oakwood on 28 November 2008. A workshop has been prepared for inclusion in the Member Development programme and several Members have already expressed a wish to try a method of Participatory Budgeting in terms of Member Grants.</p>