

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview Committee - 16 July 2009

Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEES - UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates Members on the process for identifying a future Select Committee topic review work programme.

1. Future Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme

(1) Following the recent County Council Elections it is necessary for a new two year Select Committee work programme to be established. Members are therefore requested to consider whether there are any potential topics for a Select Committee review that fall within the remit of this Policy Overview Committee, which they would like to put forward for consideration by the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee (POCC).

(2) Any suggestion made for a potential topic review will be subject to an assessment process, part of which will include seeking the comments of the Directorate and Cabinet Members, in order to assist the POCC in agreeing a work programme that adds value for the residents of Kent. The POCC will consider all suggestions for topic reviews and the proposer will be invited to the POCC meeting to put forward their topic review suggestion supported by officers from the Directorate and if appropriate the Cabinet Member. Any Member who wishes to have a discussion on the assessment process or requires a copy of the form should in the first instance contact Karen Mannering who supports this POC.

(3) The Committee are reminded of the recent decision of the County Council that once a Topic Review has been included in the Work Programme as agreed by the POCC the detailed terms of reference for each review will be developed by a cross party Member Group (one from each Group) for approval by the Select Committee.

(4) The POC will be kept informed of potential topics which are within its remit.

(5) The attached suggestion for a topic review has been received which falls within the remit of this POC. It will be put forward to the POCC for consideration with other suggestions received.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to put forward any suggestions for Select Committee topic reviews either at the meeting or by email to overviewandscrutiny@kent.gov.uk or to the Democratic Services Officer for this meeting.

Contact

Karen Mannering
Democratic Services Officer
01622 694367

Background documents – Nil

ASSESSMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC REVIEW

* - sections to be filled in by the proposer of the topic

***Subject of Proposed Review:-**

Energy

***Reason for the Review:-**

1. Key public issue, identified by:

- The Kent Economic Board and Environment Task Group have identified energy as a key issue for Kent.
- Media coverage and public interest in climate change, energy security and fuel prices has been high, and is likely to increase.

2. Issue highlighted via POC activities or previous reviews

- The Climate Change Select Committee highlighted energy as a significant issue for the future, particularly in relation to energy security, energy efficiency and renewable energy

3. Issue recommended to POC by another body

- This Select Committee has been recommended by Dr Linda Davies Director Environment and Waste, EHW.

4. County Council priority

- The Select Committee would be relevant to a number of the National Indicators included in Kent Agreement - NI186 Reduction in Carbon Emissions and NI187 Fuel Poverty as well as Towards 2010 Target 41 and 42. It also fits with the direction of the KCC Regeneration Strategy.

5. Central Government priority/New Government guidance or legislation published

A whole raft of policy and legislation is emerging around this agenda, this includes:

Climate Change Act

The Act requires a 26% cut in carbon emissions by 2020 and an 80% cut by 2050. These targets are legally binding and the act introduces a carbon budgeting system which caps emissions over five year periods to assist progress.

EU Renewable Energy Directive

The Directive requires 20% of the EU's energy requirement to come from renewable sources by 2020, and sets each European country with a specific target. The UK target is 15% of total energy requirement which in delivery terms will mean that 30-35% of our electricity will need to be generated renewably.

Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)

The CRC is designed to deliver carbon emissions reduction and cost savings in the service sector, public sector and other less energy-intensive industries. The CRC is a mandatory cap and trade scheme, targeting emissions not covered by EU ETS or a CCA and includes supermarket chains, hotel chains, office-based corporations, government departments and large local authorities.

Planning Policy

Planning policies requiring new buildings to adhere to design codes and meet a proportion of their energy demand from on site renewable energy generation are now an integral part of Local Development Frameworks.

Building Regulations

Revisions to the Building Regulations are driving the adoption of new low carbon technologies and construction methods.

***Issues to be covered by the Terms of Reference:-**

- Energy Efficiency
- Energy Security, future energy needs and the role of renewable energy
- Low carbon economy

***Scope of the review:-**

The KCC Estate and Kent as a sub region.

***Purpose and objectives of the Review:-**

Purpose: To establish the future direction of energy policies and supply in Kent for the next 25 years.

Objectives - to:

- assess how best to meet the future energy needs of KCC and Kent, particularly in light of carbon and renewable energy targets
- ensure KCC and Kent make the most of emerging opportunities from a low carbon energy economy

Proposer of the review - (Please print name and sign)

Dr Linda Davies

To be completed by the Directorate/Cabinet Member(s)

Are there any reasons why this review should not be put forward for inclusion in the work programme for 2009/10? (see Note 2 below)

None.

How will the review contribute to corporate objectives and priorities?

The review will help deliver reduction of carbon emissions and development of a low carbon energy sector in Kent which will contribute to the delivery of the :

- Kent LAA
- Regeneration Framework
- KCC's CRC obligations

Will the review support the achievement of PSA or LAA targets? If yes, please identify targets:-

Yes – NI185, 186, 187, 188 and 189

Does the review need to be completed within a specific timeframe? If yes, please give details:-

No, but there is an increasing urgency to address this agenda highlighted by UK and EU targets relating to the supply of energy from sustainable sources.

How will this review have an impact on KCC policy development and/or help to influence national policy?

It will impact on KCC's:

- Estate
- Future KCC building programme
- Direction and delivery of the Regeneration Framework

KCC will be better placed to influence and lead on national, regional and local policy.

How will this review add value to the County Council and residents of Kent?

It will add value through:

- Increased confidence in security of supply, and the role of renewable energy in that mix
- Identification of opportunities for reducing energy bills for Kent business and residents
- Promotion of the low carbon economy in Kent and resulting job creation.

Any additional comments from the Portfolio Holder/Strategic Director:-

Portfolio Holder's Signature:-

Strategic Director's Signature:-

Contact Officer:-

Date:-