

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Environment and Regeneration Policy Overview Committee
29 May 2008

Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEES - UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates Members on the Select Committee Topic Review programme.

Select Committee: Alcohol Misuse

1. (1) The report of the Alcohol Misuse Select Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr Hirst was presented to County Council on 3 April 2008 where it was well received. The report before the County Council included an appendix which was in effect the start of an action plan which will be built upon. The Cabinet Member for Public Health, Mr Gibbens, has already established a working group to take forward the recommendations of the Select Committee

(2) As part of the agreed monitoring process for Select Committee Topic Reviews i.e. there will be an action plan submitted to the POC in September/November and the Select Committee will be re-convened in April 2009 to receive a report on the progress with its recommendations on year after it was considered by Cabinet.

(3) Linkages have been made with the Working Group taking forward to the recommendations of the PSHE Select Committee

(4) A Conference on Alcohol Misuse is being organised to take place before the summer recess. This will be a launch opportunity for the Select Committee report.

Select Committee: Accessing Democracy

2. This Select Committee under the Chairmanship of Mrs Angell is currently gathering evidence. They are using a number of methods to do this, in addition to the established hearing sessions, County Councillors have also carried out insight gathering exercises, using the Gateways, libraries and attending forums/meetings. Also a hearing session was held Bristol Council using Video Conference which is the first time that we have used this in the Select Committee process. The Select Committee is currently aiming to complete this phase of its work by the end of June 2008.

Select Committee: Autism

3. The Select Committee for Autism's inaugural meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4 June 2008 to elect the Chairman and agree the Terms of Reference and Scoping of the work for the Review.

Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee

4. The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee is due to meet on Friday, 23 May 2008 to discuss the topic review programme and other issues including , building additional capacity for Policy Overview Committees and programming of POC's in 2009. One of the issues before the Committee is resourcing a piece of work to look at the Future Rail Services for Kent. Members will recall that at the Committee's last meeting, in April, it was agreed that one of the Committees priorities should be to revisit the recommendations and outcomes of the Select committee report on CTRL Domestic Services and to update this for the position in 2008.

5. The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee is being asked on Friday, 23 May 2008 hoe it may be able to resource this piece of work if the Committee agrees to include it in the Topic Review Programme. There will be a verbal update at the meeting on the outcomes from the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee.

Recommendation

6. Recommended that the update be noted.

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Background Information: *Nil*