

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

To: Cabinet – 12 October 2009

Subject: Decisions from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 23 September 2009

Classification: Unrestricted

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

Introduction

1. The Leader has agreed the decisions from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the following meeting of the Cabinet for a response. The responses will be reported back to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.
2. The decisions from the meeting of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee on 23 September 2009 are set out in the Appendix to this paper.

Recommendation

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

Contact: Peter Sass
peter.sass@kent.gov.uk

01622 694002

Background Information: *Nil*

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 23 September 2009

Title	Purpose of Consideration	Guests	Decisions	Cabinet Member Response
Potential to Refocus and Restructure the Overview and Scrutiny Function	Members' views were requested before Cabinet Members made a recommendation to County Council	Mr A King Mr P Wickenden	<p>The Cabinet Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thank Mr King and Mr Wickenden for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions - Agree that the roles of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee, POCC and POCs need to be more clearly defined, particularly in relation to policy development and post-decision call in - Request that the Leader ensures that the Forward Plan is as complete and detailed as possible to enable overview and scrutiny activity to be better planned, resourced and delivered - Request the Leader to ensure that the Cabinet provides as much information as possible when reporting back on recommendations made to it by Overview and Scrutiny Committees, including reasons being offered for not agreeing to any particular recommendations. - Agreed to ask the Cabinet to acknowledge the vital role of local boards and neighbourhood forums in the overview and scrutiny process and use these deliberative structures to engage more with the public - Request that consideration is given to allowing Overview and Scrutiny Committees to introduce more innovative ways of seeking the views/evidence of service users, perhaps by involving the media and increasing the use 	The points are noted pending the final discussion with the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee on 30th September which was arranged to bring together the various comments from the Policy Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet Scrutiny Committees.

Title	Purpose of Consideration	Guests	Decisions	Cabinet Member Response
			<p>of technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ask the Cabinet to re-examine the resources available for Select Committees, as this was regarded by all as one of the most valuable parts of the Overview and Scrutiny process. - Ask the Cabinet to consider the level of resource required to support the Select Committees; 	
<p>Strengthening Local Democracy Consultation Response</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member and Officers were invited to guide Members through the consultation document.</p>	<p>Mr A King Mr P Wickenden Mr E Thomas</p>	<p>The Cabinet Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thank Mr King, Mr Wickenden and Mr Thomas for their helpful comments in relation to the consultation response. - Request that the response relating to the Total Place Initiative be strengthened - Request that a sentence be added supporting the work of the Parish and Town Councils and their role in strengthening local democracy - Welcome Mr King's offer to remove the word 'top-tier' from the end of the third paragraph in response to question 11. 	<p>Total Place has only been used as an example of efficiency initiatives and is not in relation to a specific question.</p> <p>Referred to in Point 11 of the consultation response.</p> <p>This has been done.</p>