

By: Alex King – Deputy Leader
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To: Cabinet – 30 November 2009

Subject: Decisions from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 21 October 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 21 October 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.

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Background Information: *Nil*

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 21 October 2009

Title	Purpose of Consideration	Guests	Decisions	Cabinet Member Response
The Overview and Scrutiny Function as a Result of the Decision made at County Council on 15 October 2009	Members were asked to discuss the operation of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee in light of the County Council decision.	Mr A King Mr G Wild	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thank Mr King and Mr Wild for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions. 2. Welcome the assurance from the Deputy Leader that there would be an early meeting of the Scrutiny Board 3. Welcome the assurance from the Deputy Leader that all party representatives would retain the right to place relevant items on the Scrutiny Board and O&S Committee agendas 4. Welcome the assurance of the Deputy Leader that the recommendations of the IMG on Member Information would be progressed at the next meeting of the Information Management Board 	This is an on-going business now as the new arrangements bed in.
The Decision to Review the Children's Centres Programme	Members raised concerns about the review and asked for a further explanation of the areas that the review would focus on.	Mr L Ridings Mrs A Gamby Ms J Smith	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thank Mr Ridings, Mrs Gamby and Ms Smith for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions. 2. Ask Mrs Gamby to advise all Members of the Round 3 Children's Centres which would be affected by the review. 	The Cabinet Member wrote on 2nd October 09 to explain to members that the review would look at round three children's centres. A paper, highlighting the recommendations of the review, is going to Cabinet

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			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Highlight Members concerns about the lack of Member engagement at the beginning of this review. 	<p>and Policy Overview Committee.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member engaged with all County Councillors by writing to them on Friday 2nd October 09 explaining that a review would be undertaken in October and the findings would be reported to Cabinet in late October/early November.</p>
<p>Kent Highways Services and the Process for Local Member Input</p>	<p>Concerns were raised about the process for Member input into Kent Highways Service.</p>	<p>Mr N Chard Mr D Hall</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thank Mr Chard and Mr Hall for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions 2. Welcome the assurance of the Cabinet Member that Joint Transportation Boards will continue to meet 3. Expresses concern that the decision to subsume the Highways Advisory Board into the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee had not been sufficiently thought through and without back bench Member involvement, with particular reference to the role of the Joint Transportation Boards. 4. Requests that the Cabinet Member, in consultation with the Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership and highways officers consider the following matters: 	<p>The committee's response and requests will be enacted.</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The process for ensuring that contentious matters emanating from Joint Transportation Boards are placed before the Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee, including specific guidance on what constitutes a “contentious” matter b. The appropriate amendments that need to be made to the various agreements in place between the County Council and District/Borough Councils with regard to the composition and operation of Joint Transportation Boards c. The frequency of Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings, and whether they can accommodate the need to raise individual highways issues. d. The outcome of these discussions be reported to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee. <p>5. Welcome the Cabinet Member’s assurance that he would take the views of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee on board and that the issue should be reviewed again by the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee in 6 months time.</p>	