

By: Eric Hotson – Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services  
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To: County Council – 23 May 2019

Subject: Select Committee Monitoring Process and Topic Review Update  
– May 2015 – March 2019

Classification: Unrestricted

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1. Process for monitoring Select Committee recommendations.

The formal process set out in the Constitution (Appendix 4 Part 4 paragraph 4.26) is as follows:

“4.26 (1) After a Select Committee’s report has been submitted to Cabinet for comment and to County Council for endorsement, it is essential that monitoring takes place in relation to progress with the recommendations.

(2) Three months after County Council has endorsed a Select Committee report, the Scrutiny Committee should receive an action plan from officers setting out how they propose to take the recommendations forward.

(3) One year after County Council has endorsed a Select Committee report, the Select Committee will be reconvened to receive a report from officers that details progress with each of the recommendations.

(4) The Minutes from this Select Committee meeting will be presented to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for comment and noting or to request further monitoring.

(5) It is assumed that once this process has been carried out, the recommendations become embedded in the work of the Council, or an explanation will have been accepted by Members as to why this is not possible. Therefore, in normal circumstances, it should not be necessary to receive a further report specifically on progress with the recommendations.”

The Cabinet Member(s) and lead officer(s) are invited to attend these meetings of the Select Committee and Scrutiny Committee to give a context to the progress with the recommendations and answer questions from Members.

Also, over the past 10 years, at the request of the Leader, the County Council has received prior to each full KCC election an “End of Council” report on progress with the recommendations from Select Committees that have taken place during the life of the Council. This provides an opportunity to highlight the positive outcomes from these cross party Select Committees.

## 2. Topic Reviews 2015 – 2019

(1) There have been six Select Committee topic reviews completed during this period. These are:

- a) Select Committee on Corporate Parenting, which was chaired by Mrs Z Wiltshire and submitted its report to County Council on 10 December 2015.
- b) Select Committee on Energy Security, which was chaired by Mr J Wedgbury and submitted its report to County Council on 19 May 2016
- c) Select Committee on Grammar Schools and Social Mobility, which was chaired by Mrs J Whittle and submitted its report to County Council on 14 July 2016
- d) Select Committee on Bus Transportation and Public Subsidy, which was chaired by Mr A Marsh and submitted its report to County Council on 16 March 2017
- e) Select Committee on Pupil Premium, which was chaired by Mrs L Game and submitted its report to County Council on 12 July 2018.
- f) Select Committee on Loneliness and Social Isolation, which was chaired by Mr K Pugh and submitted its report to County Council on 21 March 2019.

(2) Set out below is the progress made by each of these Select Committees.

## 3. Monitoring of Select Committee Recommendations

(1) Select Committee on Corporate Parenting

- a) The progress made on each of the recommendations from the Corporate Parenting Select Committee was considered by the Scrutiny Committee in March 2016. [Report available online here.](#)
- b) The Corporate Parenting Select Committee met on 23 February 2017 to consider progress one year on from the final report being submitted to County Council. [Minutes of that meeting available here.](#)
- c) The focus for Corporate Parenting within KCC, has been to ensure we deliver our responsibilities under the government's seven principles of Corporate Parenting, to ensure that our staff group, elected members and partner agencies aspire to be the best possible corporate parents we can be, for the children and young people in our care. The Children and Social Work Act (2017) was implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and extended our Corporate Parenting responsibility to young people who are Care Leavers up until the age of 25 years; formerly this duty was up until the age of 21 years. KCC have expanded the Care Leavers 18+ Service to meet this demand and taken on the feedback from our young people from the Care Leavers Survey to make improvements, delivering this through an action plan and in the publication of the Kent Local Offer. The work and achievements of the Corporate Parenting services for Adoption, Kent Fostering, Virtual School Kent (VSK) and the Care Leavers 18+ Service is detailed in our 2018 Annual Report. Within all

our services we are exceeding our statutory targets and our focus is now on our wider vision, to implement our Corporate Parenting responsibility across all KCC departments and with our partner agencies. This has included the launch of a specific pledge scheme on Knet, in which staff and partner agencies can make Corporate Parenting pledges of support. These have included the offers of apprenticeships, work experience, activity days and sporting events, alongside more personal pledges of Christmas gifts for our children and young people. It is our vision to show innovation in our Corporate Parenting offer and our VSK apprentices within the Participation and Engagement Team have been central to supporting this, through workshops and training with both our Senior Leadership Team and through wider government events where Kent have been able to showcase our achievements. These include our pilot Rent Guarantor Scheme, which has received both local and national interest and two Art Exhibitions. "Making my Mark" in 2018 for our disabled children and their foster carers and in summer 2019, an exhibition of art work created by our unaccompanied asylum young people.

- d) An update on the Select Committee recommendations has been provided at Appendix 1.

(2) Select Committee on Energy Security

- a) The progress made on each of the recommendations from the Energy Security Select Committee was considered by the Scrutiny Committee in November 2016. [Report available online here.](#)
- b) As there were very few Members of the Select Committee who remained Members of the County Council after the 2017 Election, the Scrutiny Committee received the "one year on" report on progress on 29 November 2017. [Minutes available here.](#)
- c) There has been much progress with regards to energy improvements and carbon reduction since the Select Committee Report in 2016. KCC, in partnership with Districts, is in the process of developing an Energy and Low Emissions Strategy for public consultation in June.
- d) An update on the Select Committee recommendations has been provided at Appendix 2.

(3) Select Committee on Grammar Schools and Social Mobility

- a) The progress made on each of the recommendations from the Grammar Schools and Social Mobility Select Committee was considered by the Scrutiny Committee in November 2016. [Report available online here.](#)
- b) As there were very few Members of the Select Committee who remained Members of the County Council after the 2017 Election, the Scrutiny Committee received the "one year on" report on progress on 29 November 2017. [Report and Minutes available here.](#)
- c) The 2016 Select Committee report on Grammar Schools and Social Mobility sought to encourage greater take up of grammar school places by bright children from poorer backgrounds. Since then, work has been undertaken to invite primary schools to highlight grammar school where appropriate as an option for disadvantaged children. As well as

providing targeted information for families, the Council has added to its website links to test familiarisation material available free of charge for use by schools or parents, and specific advice to primary schools recommends use of the Head Teacher Assessment Panels where such children narrowly miss the threshold. Awareness of the existing provision of free home to school transport for families on low incomes has been raised, though a number of proposed transport initiatives have not made the progress we would have liked primarily because of the need for major policy change relating to home to school transport and the practicalities of means testing for families earning between £16,190 and £21,000 whom the committee were keen to support. There has been a very positive response to the report from the county's selective schools, with 27 out of 32 now including some form of priority in their admissions arrangements for children from poorer families. Census data for Year 7 admissions across the grammar schools shows an increase in FSM eligible pupils from 141 in 2016 to 217 in 2018. When we last reported on progress some grammar schools were already embracing outreach work, and we are awaiting updates on further activity engaged in successfully by schools for this learner group.

- d) An update on the Select Committee recommendations has been provided at Appendix 3

(4) Select Committee on Bus Transportation and Public Subsidy

- a) The progress made on each of the recommendations from the Bus Transportation and Public Subsidy Select Committee was considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 5 October 2017. [Report available online here.](#)
- b) As there were very few Members of the Select Committee who remained Members of the County Council after the 2017 Election, the Scrutiny Committee received the "one year on" report on progress with recommendations on 10 May 2018. [Report and minutes available online here.](#)
- c) An update on the Select Committee recommendations has been provided at Appendix 4.

(5) Select Committee on Pupil Premium

- a) The progress made on each of the recommendations from the Pupil Premium Select Committee was considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 8 November 2018. [Report available online here.](#)
- b) The Pupil Premium Select Committee will reconvene in July 2019 and the minutes of this meeting will be reported to the Scrutiny Committee at the next available meeting.
- c) An update on the Select Committee recommendations has been provided at Appendix 5.

(6) Select Committee on Loneliness and Social Isolation

- a) The progress made on each of the recommendations from this Select Committee is due to be reported to Scrutiny on 9 July 2019.

- b) The Select Committee will reconvene in March 2020 to enable the minutes to be reported to the next available Scrutiny Committee meeting.

4. Current Select Committee Work Programme

(1) On 3 April the Scrutiny Committee agreed that a Select Committee on Knife Crime be prioritised and following a cross party group meeting on 17 April to discuss the scope of the review the Select Committee held its inaugural meeting on 9 May 2019, at which it confirmed its Terms of Reference as follows:

- To examine the reasons behind the recent increases in knife crime offences in the county.
- To consider current initiatives in Kent focused on addressing knife crime in the county.
- To identify opportunities for KCC to help reduce the incidence and impact of knife crime in Kent.

(2) The review is due to conclude in October 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

County Council is asked to note the report and the progress outlined in the appendices.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Corporate Parenting progress table
- Appendix 2 – Energy Security progress table – to follow
- Appendix 3 – Grammar School and Social Mobility progress table
- Appendix 4 – Bus Transportation and Public Subsidy progress table
- Appendix 5 – Pupil Premium progress table

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