

By: Alex King – Deputy Leader
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To: Cabinet – 11 January 2010

Subject: Decisions from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 9 December 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 9 December 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 – 9 December 2009

Title	Purpose of Consideration	Guests	Decisions	Cabinet Member Response
Strategic Head Quarters Reception Facilities	To consider the proposal to close the Reception facilities at Invicta House, Cantium House and Brenchley House in Maidstone	Mr R Gough Mr K Harlock Mr T Molloy Mr R Palmer	<p>The Cabinet Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thank Mr Gough, Mr Harlock, Mr Molloy and Mr Palmer for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions 2. Express regret that members had not been involved in what was an important issue for them as an employer and also for their constituents. 3. Ask that a copy of the Business Case for the proposal to close the reception facilities, which Mr Harlock confirmed was considered by the Chief Officer Group, be circulated to all Members of the Committee 4. Express concern regarding the logistics of the proposed arrangements in terms of the efficient flow of visitors between KCC buildings' the quality of face-to-face service that Members believe is appropriate 5. Express concern that the proposals overall lacked reality and apparent evidence; and that the relatively small savings that could be realised would be outweighed by additional costs being incurred elsewhere 6. Ask that the issue be considered by the 	

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			<p>Scrutiny Board, possibly through the Corporate POSC, before a final decision is made.</p> <p>7. The Scrutiny Board, and/or Corporate POSC be provided with the following information: Number of people using the Maidstone Gateway; the appropriateness of using a holding area in Sessions House for visitors waiting to access other buildings; full details of all Risk and Health and Safety assessments, particularly with regard to fire evacuation, and security of staff in view of unauthorised access to swiped areas of the buildings.</p>	
Kent Design Guide	To consider whether the consultation process, undertaken before the guidance notes were recommended for adoption by Kent's District Councils, was as thorough and robust as Members consider necessary	<p>Mr N Chard Mr M Austerberry Mrs B Cooper Mr B White</p> <p>Mr Tony Hillier Mr Andy Tull</p>	<p>The Cabinet Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thank Mr Chard, Mr Austerberry, Mrs Cooper, Mr White, Mr Hillier and Mr Tull for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions 2. Welcome the offer from the Cabinet Member that a meeting with Developers and Architects would be held as a matter of urgency in the New Year and the assurance that this would include discussion of the standards being proposed, not just to talk about their implementation. Practical examples of how the proposed standards would operate in practice should be demonstrated to enable members to discuss what the effects of the new standards 	A meeting as outlined in 2. will be arranged.

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			<p>were likely to be on landtake and street scene.</p> <p>3. Members should be invited to attend this meeting and the Chairman and Vice Chairmen of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee should be advised at the earliest opportunity regarding the invitees to the meeting to ensure all relevant parties are present.</p> <p>4. Ask that the KCC consultation protocol be circulated to all Members, as the Committee was concerned that the protocol might not have been properly applied in this instance and that the Scrutiny Board and/or Corporate POSC be asked to examine whether the Consultation Protocol needed to be amended, in the light of the concerns expressed about this particular consultation, i.e. whether the list of consultees is full and appropriate; whether the method of consultation was appropriate; and whether steps should have been taken to chase up non-respondents.</p>	