

From: Gaetano Romagnuolo, Research Officer - Overview & Scrutiny
To: **Scrutiny Committee – 6 October 2020**
Subject: Short Focused Inquiry – Visitor Economy
Classification: **Unrestricted**

1. Introduction

- a) At its meeting of 23 June 2020, the Scrutiny Committee agreed that the work programme for the Short Focused Inquiries should begin with an inquiry into Kent's visitor economy.
- b) Oral evidence was gathered from the following people/organisations:
 - David Smith, Director of Economic Development, KCC
 - David Sheen, Public Affairs Director, UK Hospitality
 - David Statham, Managing Director, Southeastern Railways
 - Deirdre Wells, CEO, and Bill Ferris, Chairman, Visit Kent
- c) In addition, the Committee received written evidence from a variety of sources, including the following:
 - KCC Members, who provided feedback from their own division's perspective
 - Kent local authorities
 - Port of Dover
 - Canterbury Cathedral
 - East Kent College
 - Dreamland
 - Shepherd Neame brewery
- d) The recommendations and findings of the inquiry are set out in the report contained in the Appendix.

2. Next Steps

- a) Once agreed, the report and recommendations will be submitted to the Executive.
- b) Subject to any changes of the Short Focused Inquiry work programme by the Scrutiny Committee, the next inquiry will be into the farming economy, as agreed on 23 June.
- c) For Members' information, the Scrutiny Committee also discussed undertaking a Short Focused Inquiry into NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and the impact of Coronavirus on care homes, and what mitigation might be required.

3. Recommendation:

That the Scrutiny Committee approve the Short Focused Inquiry Report into the visitor economy, and that it be submitted to the Leader and relevant Cabinet Members along with a request for a formal response to the recommendations within two months.

4. Background Documents

None.

5. Contact details

Gaetano Romagnuolo
Research Officer - Overview and Scrutiny
Strategic and Corporate Services – Governance, Law and Democracy
03000 416624
Gaetano.romagnuolo@kent.gov.uk