

By: Paul Wickenden, Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Scrutiny Board - 24 February 2010

Subject: **Items referred to the Scrutiny Board in accordance with its Terms of Reference.**

Summary: This report sets out items that have been referred to the Scrutiny Board for consideration

Introduction

1. The terms of reference for this Board were approved by County Council on 10 December 2009 and are set out below :-

“This committee has been appointed by the Council under section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, either by itself or by allocation to one or more of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees, to:

- (a) review or scrutinise:
 - (i) decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge of any non-Executive functions
 - (ii) actions taken in connection with the discharge of any Executive functions by the Leader, the Cabinet or Cabinet Members (other than formal decisions)
 - (iii) officer decisions (whether exercising Executive or non-Executive functions)
- (b) request, but not require, that implementation of a decision be postponed when considering any decision taken by an officer or by a Committee exercising functions delegated by the Council.
- (c) co-ordinate the programme of Select Committee reviews during the year
- (d) allocate Select Committee reviews to Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees and decide the appointment, co-ordination, composition and chairing of Select Committees to conduct the reviews
- (e) undertake policy development activity where this is of a cross-cutting nature, or allocate this power to the relevant Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- (f) consider and keep under review the overall mechanisms and functions of the Overview and Scrutiny process and to make recommendations to the Council as appropriate

(g) deploy Policy Overview and Scrutiny support staff and resources.”

References from the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

2. (1) At the meeting of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee on 9 January 2010 the following matters were referred to the Scrutiny Board:-

Developer contributions, section 106 agreements:

(2) The Cabinet Scrutiny Committee asked the Scrutiny Board to review the protocols in relation to future developments, between the County and Districts and the formula used to determine contributions requested. The Scrutiny Board is requested to determine which Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee (POSC) should deal with this issue and when.

Kent Design Guide (consultation protocol)

(3) The Cabinet Scrutiny Committee have requested that the Scrutiny Board, or the Corporate POSC examine whether the consultation protocol needs to be amended in light of the Kent Design Guide Consultation. The Scrutiny Boards views are sought.

Draft Revised Equalities Strategy

(4) This draft three-year strategy sets out how Kent County Council (KCC) meets its current statutory obligations for equalities. It is designed to focus on ensuring that in assessing needs, understanding communities and designing services KCC takes account of the needs of every individual from all backgrounds.

(5) The strategy follows the structure of the Equalities Framework for Local Government and is organised under the headings of:-

- community mapping;
- leadership and corporate commitment;
- consultation and external scrutiny;
- service delivery and customer care;
- employment and training'."

(6) The Scrutiny Board is requested to decide whether to consider this corporate document itself or whether a specific POSC, such as the Corporate POSC, should be tasked with commenting on this document.

Recommendations that either the Scrutiny Board or a specified POSC consider the following issues :-

- (a) Developer contributions, section 106 agreement
- (b) Kent Design Guide (consultation protocol)
- (c) Draft revised equalities strategy

Paul Wickenden

Tel No: 01622 694486 e-mail: paul.wickenden@kent.gov.uk