

REPORT TO: CABINET

6 February 2008

BY:

PETER GILROY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - DETAILS OF DECISIONS
TAKEN AT MEETING ON 23 JANUARY 2008**

SUMMARY

1. The report provides details (attached as Appendix 1) of the decisions taken by Cabinet Scrutiny Committee at its most recent meeting held on 23 January 2008.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Cabinet and/or the relevant individual Cabinet Member is invited to respond to, comment on or note each of the decisions taken by Cabinet Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 23 January 2008. Responses and comments will be reported back to Cabinet Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting on 15 February.
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Background Documents: None

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CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DETAILS OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT MEETING ON
23 JANUARY 2008

Minutes – 12 December

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) On Minute 33(1), the Leader's agreement (reported by Mr Law) to meet the Committee's Chairman and Spokesmen to discuss concerns that, at its meetings, Cabinet did not appear to be giving any consideration to Committee's recommendations, be welcomed.
- (b) On Minute 37(d) and (e), the Informal Member Group on Member Information be asked to look particularly at the quality of information being provided to local Members about all KCC proposals or decisions affecting (indirectly, as well as directly) their Division.

Audit Commission Inspection of Kent Supporting People Programme

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Mr Lynes, Mr Mills, Miss Highwood and Ms Martin be thanked for attending the meeting to answer Members' questions.
- (b) The Managing Director, KASS, be asked to circulate to all Members of the Committee in due course the Action Plan to be prepared in response to the Audit Commission recommendations.
- (c) The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services' offer to distribute the planned Supporting People Commissioning Body (SPCB) Member Induction Pack to all Members of KCC, and to arrange briefing meetings on the Supporting People Programme for KCC Members, be welcomed.
- (d) The Cabinet Member and Managing Director be requested to ensure that the planned SPCB Member Induction Pack included an explanation of the process by which service-users could give feedback or express concerns about the Supporting People services provided to them.
- (e) The proposals to do more to facilitate independent feedback from users of Supporting People services through 'mystery shopping', user groups, etc, be welcomed and the Managing Director be asked to inform Members of the Committee of the outcome.

The Case for Establishing a Credit Union for Kent

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Mr Ferrin, Mr Gough, Mr Wilkinson, Mrs Haswell and Mrs Toher be thanked for attending the meeting to answer Members' questions.
- (b) In the light of the assurance by the Cabinet Members for Environment, Highways & Waste, and Regeneration & Supporting Independence, that the feasibility study was expected to cost approximately £20k, and that the incurring of any further expenditure on pursuing the Credit Union proposal would be subject to a further formal decision by Cabinet, the decision by Cabinet on 14 January be supported.
- (c) The Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Supporting Independence's agreement to establish an all-party Informal Member Group (IMG) of Members with knowledge of and/or interest in Credit Unions to oversee the feasibility study be welcomed, and the Cabinet Member be urged to:-
 - (i) include also on the IMG, Members representing areas of high deprivation; and
 - (ii) establish the IMG as quickly as possible.
- (d) Cabinet be advised that, while the Committee was concerned at the potential risks of proceeding with the Credit Union proposal, it hoped that these risks could be mitigated by the carrying out of the feasibility study and the establishment of an all-party IMG to monitor that study.