

By: Mr Parry – Chairman, Scrutiny Committee
Peter Sass – Head of Democratic Services

To: Kent Utilities Engagement Sub-Committee – 27 July 2016

Subject: Objectives of the Kent Utilities Engagement Sub-Committee

Status: Unrestricted

Summary: An outline of the purpose of the Kent Utilities Engagement Sub-Committee is set out below – this is for noting by Members of the Sub-Committee

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide oversight and encourage better co-ordination of strategy across partners to enable utilities to better align with development.
- 1.2 To be a Sub-Committee of the Scrutiny Committee, to enable Member led engagement with the Utilities.
- 1.3 To enable partners to overcome challenges locally where possible, but where necessary, engage with national regulators where scrutiny of the utilities is formally held (by Ofwat, Ofgem and Ofcom).
- 1.4 To bring a strategic perspective to the utilities landscape, showcasing best practice where companies have the correct relationships, and focusing attention on those areas where improvement is needed.
- 1.5 To enable KCC, the utilities companies and developers to work together for the benefit of the people and businesses of Kent.
- 1.6 The Sub-Committee should be held in public and be scheduled as required throughout the year. The usual rules will apply to any exempt information, including commercially-sensitive information.
- 1.7 The operations of the sub-committee would be through individual meetings separate from those of the parent Scrutiny Committee, mirroring those of the Flood Risk Management Committee.
- 1.8 In pursuing these objectives it is recognised that KCC has no formal scrutiny role.

Recommendation: Members are asked to note the report.

Report Author: Anna Taylor - Scrutiny Research Officer , 03000 416478
anna.taylor@kent.gov.uk