CABINET

AGENDA

Thursday 27 October 2005

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest Members may wish to make including the term(s) of the Grant of Dispensation(s) by the Standards Committee.

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2005

4. URGENT ITEMS

The Chairman will announce his decision as to whether there are any urgent items and their position on the agenda.

4A. POLICE FORCE AMALGAMATIONS AND MERGERS - RESPONSE TO KENT POLICE AND KENT POLICE AUTHORITY CONSULTATION

Summary:

To bring to Members’ attention, the Home Office review of the number of Police Forces and the potential for the Kent Police Force to merge with another Force/s. To advise Members of the views of Kent Police and Kent Police Authority and to seek endorsement to the response to their consultation, sent by the Strategic Director on behalf of the Council.

Recommendations:

1. That Members endorse the response to the Kent Police and Kent Police Authority consultation, sent by the Strategic Director on behalf of the Council.
ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PUBLIC

5. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE CABINET ADVISORY PANEL HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2005

6. Reference from Committees

6A. REFERENCE FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL: QUALITY SERVICES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2004 - 2005

Summary:

1 To review the activities detailed in the Annual Report of the Quality Services Committee for the 2004 – 2005 municipal year (Appendix A) and in particular:

(i) To consider actions taken as a result of the recommendations made by the Tourism and Heritage Working Group, which were subsequently endorsed by Cabinet on 25 November 2004.

(ii) That the final report from Development Including Executive and Affordable Housing Working Group is still outstanding.

2 To review the frequency of Quality Services Committee meetings.

Recommendations:

1 That Members consider the Annual Report of the Quality Services Committee for the 2004-05 municipal year and propose any comments or matters to be referred to the Quality Services Committee.

2 That actions taken in fulfilment of the Cabinet resolutions on 25 November 2004, be noted and considered.

3 That the Quality Services Committee be asked to address the absence of a final report from the Development Including Executive and Affordable Housing Working Group.

4 That no change be proposed to the frequency of meetings
of the Quality Services Committee and that the Committee’s Work Programme be noted.

6B.REFERENCE FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, MEETING 14 SEPTEMBER 2005-ISSUES RELATING TO OUT OF HOURS SERVICE/NOISE NUISANCE

Summary:

To consider the request of the Scrutiny Committee regarding the reintroduction of the out of hours call out service, as soon as possible.

Recommendation:

To consider the view of the Scrutiny Committee that a call out service be reintroduced as soon as circumstances permit, in the light of resources available.

A - Strategies, Policies, Key Decisions, Consultations

7. CONSULTATION DOCUMENT : SOUTH EAST PLAN : EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN KENT

Summary:

On 5 September the County Council and Medway Council published a consultation document on the planning advice to be given to the South East England Regional Assembly. This report seeks to present a summary of the main points of the Consultation Document and suggests a response.

Recommendations:

1 That the Council thanks Kent County Council and Medway Council for the opportunity to comment on the Consultation Document.

2 That the comments set out in the emboldened text of this report be submitted as the formal response of the Council to the content of the Consultation Document.

8. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

Summary:
1 The Medium Term Financial Plan is approved by the Council at the budget meeting in February/March each year. It is updated throughout the year for known changes and reported to Members in the Autumn, to set the scheme for the following year’s budget.

2 The report will consider the national picture for local government finance, comment on the likely grant settlement for 2006/7 and make recommendations for the 2006/7 budget strategy.

Recommendation:

1 That Members note the report.

2 That Members approve the letter to the Minister for Local Government, attached as Appendix B to the report.

9. **HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE TARIFFS**

Summary:

Under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council is empowered to fix Hackney Carriage fares to operate within the Borough. A review is usually carried out annually and, historically, any changes in fares are introduced in November or December. The report offers three proposals for an increase in the Hackney Carriage Fare Tariffs for Members’ consideration.

Recommendation:

That the Hackney Carriage fare structure, detailed in Appendix E of the report, proposed by Enforcement and Regulatory Services be implemented by 30 November 2005.

10. **CONCESSIONARY FARES**

Summary:

The Government announced, as part of the 2005 budget, that from April 2006 the statutory half fare scheme will become a free scheme.
The report considers the operational and financial implications of this for the Council.

Recommendation:

That, subject to full re-imbursement of additional costs by the Government, the Council adopts a free countywide concessionary fare scheme from 1 April 2006.

B - Non-Key Decisions, Monitoring Reports

11. DARTFORD CRICKET CLUB

Summary:
To seek approval for a capital grant to Dartford Cricket Club which will allow the club to improve facilities and the security of its pavilion and to bring the facilities to a standard which will allow its youth development to continue.

Recommendations:

1 That Members approve a capital grant of £30,000 to assist Dartford Cricket Club in bringing its pavilion facilities to a standard that ensures the club’s continued youth development work and its efforts to raise the profile of cricket in Borough.

2 That Members authorise the Regeneration Director, in consultation with the Portfolio Member for Grants, to agree the terms for the capital grant.

3 That officers be authorised to assist Dartford Cricket Club actively in developing a bid to external funding organisations, to ensure that the club has the full range of facilities needed to continue providing youth development opportunities.

12. PRINCES PARK STADIUM PROGRESS REPORT

Summary:
To advise Members of the actions taken to enable a start on site to
be made in November 2005.

Recommendation:

That Members note the current position and the proposed start date for construction works.

13. **J & E HALLS BOWLS CLUB - INVESTIGATION INTO RELOCATION TO STONE LODGE**

Summary:

1 To provide an update on the present position and feasibility study into the provision of a new bowling green, pavilion and associated facilities at Stone Lodge.

2 To seek approval for action to be taken to bring forward this new project.

Recommendations:

1 That Members note the results of the feasibility study.

2 That authority be granted to the Project Director to proceed with the project at an estimated cost not exceeding that contained in the confidential appendix.

3 That in order to take the project forward authority be granted for the Council to enter into separate contracts with the existing design team and cost consultants for the Judokwai project and that these contracts be on terms to be agreed by the Project Director in consultation with the Head of Legal Services.

4 That authority be granted to the Project Director, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, to submit a planning application once the design work has been completed.

14. **POWDER MILL LANE - RE-NAMING OF SECTIONS DUE TO STOPPING UP ORDERS**

Summary:
To update Members on the outcome of discussions with the management of Questor Industrial Estate and the Kent Fire and Rescue Service regarding the implementation of the stopping-up order and to propose a consequential re-naming of sections of Powder Mill Lane.

Recommendation:

That Members determine which of the proposals to adopt for re-naming one or other of the two sections of Powder Mill Lane shown in red and green on the map at Appendix B and that Officers be authorised to make the necessary Orders.

15. KENT AND MEDWAY STRUCTURE PLAN - CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

Summary:

To inform Members of the content of the Proposed Modifications to the Kent and Medway Structure Plan and provide a basis for deciding whether any representations should be made.

Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet note the contents of the report.

2. That Cabinet respond to KCC on the basis set out in the main body of the report.

16. PREPARATION OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR DARTFORD: SUBMISSION DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Summary:

To inform Members of the results of the consultation on the submission Statement of Community Involvement and recommends changes to be put to the Planning Inspectorate.

Recommendations:

1. That Members agree the proposed changes set out in Appendix B to be put to the Planning Inspectorate and recommend its content to the General Assembly of the Council.
for approval.

2 That the Policy Manager/Planning Policy Manager be granted delegated approval in consultation with the Portfolio Member for Planning to respond to or clarify any matters raised by the examination inspector.

3 That respondents be thanked for commenting and be advised of the changes when approved by the General Assembly of the Council.

17. OAKFIELD LANE CHILDREN'S CENTRE DARTFORD

Summary:

To seek Members' approval for Dartford Borough Council to take a ground lease from Kent County Council on behalf of Surestart-Dartford at Oakfield Lane Infants' School, Dartford as shown by a thick black verge, for identification purposes only, on the plan attached as Appendix A to the report.

Recommendations:

1 That Members agree to the Council taking a ground lease at Oakfield Lane Infants' School Dartford on behalf of Surestart-Dartford.

2 That Members grant delegated authority to the Head of Finance and Resources in consultation with the Project Director and the Head of Legal Services to negotiate and agree lease terms.

18. THE A2/A282 DARTFORD IMPROVEMENT (M25 JUNCTION 2 IMPROVEMENTS) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER PART 2 (MP NO 41) 2005

Summary:

1 To declare the parcel of land (Plot 2/2 [0.29 hectare]), forming part of Darenth Country Park east of Green Street Green Road and on the north of the A2 Trunk Road surplus to the Council’s requirements, as shown by a thick black verge, for identification purposes only, on the plan attached as Appendix A to this report.
2 This land is held as public open space and therefore any proposed disposal will be advertised in the local press for two weeks. Any objections received will be reported to Cabinet at a later date.

3 To approve the exchange of the parcel of land (Plot 2/2 [0.29 hectare]) forming part of Darenth Country Park east of Green Street Green Road and on the north of the A2 Trunk Road for the lands (Plots 4/1 [0.8 hectare] and 4/2 [0.05 hectare]) east of green Street Green Road and on the north of the A2 Trunk Road hatched black, for identification purposes only, on the plan attached as Appendix B

Recommendations:

1 That Cabinet declares the parcel of land (Plot 2/2 [0.29 hectare]), shown by black verge on the plan attached as Appendix A forming part of Darenth Country Park east of Green Street Green Road and on the north of the A2 Trunk Road, surplus to the Council’s requirements as it falls within the A2/A282 (M25 Junction 2) Improvement Compulsory Purchase Order Part 2 (MP No 41) 2005.

2 That Members note that the parcel of land (Plot 2/2 [0.29 hectare]) is held as public open space. Any representations will be reported to a future meeting.

3 That the Head of Finance and Resources be granted delegated authority to agree terms for the two parcels of land (Plot 4/1 [0.8 hectare] and 4/2 [0.05 hectare]) for the exchange of land (Plot 2/2 [0.29 hectare]) in consultation with the Project Director, the Head of Legal Services and the Regeneration Director.

19. REMOVAL OF RESIDENTIAL PARKING SCHEMES AT HOPE COTTAGES AND GORE ROAD

Summary:

1 To advise Members of the result of consultation undertaken with the residents of Hope Cottages and Gore Road relating to the continuation of residents parking schemes in their respective roads.

2 To seek Members’ approval for the termination of the residents’ parking schemes in Hope Cottages and Gore Road
by obtaining the appropriate Traffic Regulation Orders, in accordance with the wishes expressed by the majority of residents in the respective roads.

Recommendation:

That Members approve the termination of the residents parking schemes currently in operation at Hope Cottages, Bean and Gore Road, Darenth, by obtaining and implementing the appropriate Traffic Regulation Orders.

20. **THE ORCHARD THEATRE BUDGET MONITORING**

Summary:

To update Members on financial performance against budget to the end of July for 2005/06 for The Orchard Theatre and provide Members with an early indication of the Theatre’s overall budgetary position at the end of the current financial year.

Recommendation:

1. That the financial performance compared to budget to date in 2005/06, for The Orchard Theatre, be noted.

2. That the early indication of the end of year budgetary position be noted.

C - Items for Information, noting, endorsing

21. **ENVIRONMENTAL PROMOTION ACTIVITIES**

Summary:

To update Members on activities undertaken this year to promote a range of energy efficiency, environmental awareness and waste reduction schemes both internally and across the borough.

The report also recommends actions that the Council could undertake to raise environmental awareness, increase take-up of Council-funded schemes and to promote the Council as a community
leader in this area.

Recommendations:

1. That Members note the Environmental Promotion Activities undertaken to date and planned in the current financial year 2005-06

2. That Members note the proposal to introduce an Environmental Statement to show a commitment to protect and enhance the environment for Dartford Borough Council.

22. MEETING OF DARTFORD ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2005

Summary:

To present to Cabinet the notes of the meeting of the Dartford Association of Parish and Town Councils held on 19 September 2005.

Recommendation:

That the notes of the meeting of the Dartford Association of Parish and Town Councils, held on 19 September 2005, be considered and noted.

Exclusion of the Press and Public

TO RESOLVE: That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

D - Items for Consideration in Private

A. REPORT OF THE NORTH KENT INVESTMENT UPDATE REVIEW WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2005 Exempt Category SO46 (1) Annex 1, Paragraph 9

Summary:

To present the unconfirmed notes of the meeting of the North Kent Investment Update Review Working Group held on 6 October 2005, attached as Appendix A.
Recommendation:

That the unconfirmed notes of the meeting of the North Kent Investment Update Review Working Group held on 6 October 2005 be considered and noted.

B. LAND ADJACENT TO 11 DARENTH ROAD DARTFORD
Exempt Category SO46 (1) (b) Annex 1, Paragraph 9

Summary:

Dartford Borough Council owns a small area of land adjacent to No 11 Darenth Road, as shown on the plan attached as Appendix A to this report. The land was formerly used as public car parking in association with the adjacent Darenth Road car park, which is no longer in existence due to Fastrack.

Various requests to purchase or lease the land have been made to the Council for use as private car parking. Officers requested bids from all interested parties for a lease of the land. This report outlines the bids received and seeks Members’ approval to the leasing of the land.

Recommendation:

That the land as shown on the plan attached as Appendix A to the report be leased on the terms attached as Appendix B to the report or on such other terms as may be agreed by the Head of Finance and Resources in consultation with the Project Director and the Head of Legal Services.

C. EXEMPT APPENDIX - ITEM 12 - PRINCES PARK STADIUM PROGRESS REPORT
Exempt Category SO46 (1) (b) Annex 1, Paragraph 9

This appendix has been placed on the closed part of the agenda because it contains exempt information within the category contained in Standing Order 46 (1) (b) Annex 1, Paragraph 9, namely, any terms to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the supply of goods or services.

D. EXEMPT APPENDIX - ITEM 13 - J & E HALLS BOWLS CLUB - INVESTIGATION INTO RELOCATION TO STONE LODGE
Exempt Category SO46 (1) Annex 1, Paragraph 9

This Appendix has been placed on the closed part of the agenda because it contains exempt information within Standing Order 46 (1) (b) Annex 1, paragraph 9 namely, any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a
contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

E. **EXEMPT APPENDIX - ITEM 17 - OAKFIELD LANE CHILDREN'S CENTRE DARTFORD**
   Exempt Category SO46 (1) (b) Annex 1 Paragraph 9
   This appendix has been placed on the closed part of the agenda because it contains exempt information, within the category contained in Standing Order 46 (1) (b) Annex 1 Paragraph 9, namely any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

F. **EXEMPT APPENDIX - ITEM 20 - ORCHARD THEATRE BUDGET MONITORING**
   Exempt Category SO46 (1) (b) Annex 1, Paragraph 7
   This appendix has been placed on the closed part of the agenda because it contains exempt information within the categories contained in Standing Order 46 (1) (b) Annex 1, Paragraph 7 namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority).