

REPORT OF THE
Policy and Resources Select Committee
PART II

280. SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the work of Hampshire County Council's Select Committees from April 2011 to March 2012. Highlights of each Select Committee's activity are set out below.

281. POLICY AND RESOURCE SELECT COMMITTEE

1. **In-depth Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** Monitoring: Severe Winter Weather Review implementation of recommendations – in April Members confirmed they were satisfied with the progress made.

2. **Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** Temporary Agency Staff: Options for Future Service Delivery – as the contract for temporary agency staff was due to come to an end in 2012, the committee contributed to the Options Appraisal of alternative methods of procurement. A task and finish group met from August to October, and made recommendations to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources in December.

3. **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:** None this year

4. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** None this year

5. **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:** The committee scrutinised financial and performance issues throughout the year including:

- End of year financial report - 2010/11
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Revenue budget 2012/13 – Policy & Resources Portfolio
- Capital programme 2012/13 – 2014/15: Policy & Resources Portfolio
- New performance management framework - Open for Business Plan

6. **Policy Review:** In April consideration was given to a potential review of the member's motor vehicle mileage rate, following a referral by County Council, however this was not pursued as changes to the constitution subsequently made this unnecessary. Consideration was given to pursuing a review of flooding, however it was agreed to refer this topic back to the Environment and Transport Select Committee. In October Members considered the Strategic Asset Management Plan 2011/12 and made suggestions to be incorporated in the revised version. Members considered a report on the Policy for Managing Sickness Absence in October.

7. **Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:** Members explored the County Council's relationship with the voluntary and community Sector in April. The committee continued to monitor significant IT projects through the annual IT update considered in October. The committee retained oversight of the ongoing work across all the scrutiny committees.

8. **Upcoming topics:** Over the coming year the committee will be considering economic development issues, continuing to monitor IT and receive updates on HR policies, and continue budget and performance scrutiny including receiving the first full year report under the new Open for Business Plan.

282. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

1. **In-depth Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:**

- None initiated this year
- With the HOSC, continuing to monitor progress in relation to the joint scrutiny of Therapy Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs. Representatives of the SHIP PCT and Children's Services will be reporting progress to the HOSC and for circulation to the CYP in March 2012.

2. **Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** None initiated this year.

3. **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:**

- The Committee had identified a number of risk issues arising out of the 2011/12 budget, including (Apr 11):
 - Children Looked after – whether numbers were stabilising, or if not what the 'knock on' effects were likely to be?
 - Proposals for a 'medium term financial plan' covering 2012-15 – what principles would guide the plan and what changes in service would children/parents/carers experience?
 - What would the proposed 'more graduated approach' to remaining universal services result in for children/parents, eg. changes in access criteria, changes of service model etc?
 - What was the likely prognosis for children's centres and Sure Start centres over the next few years?

4. **Policy development:** Proposal that policy is formulated to make more transparent educational achievement of BME pupils, supported by better granularity for better identification of causes for specific groups and contexts, and thus more focused strategies and support for improvement. (Jul 11)

5. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** Children's Centres (Jun 11)

6. **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:** Children & Young People Select Committee along with other Select Committees received a 'budget briefing' (Jan 12)

7. **Policy Review:** Typically through 'live scrutiny' of policy issues through challenging but constructive debate at meetings, in relation to:

- Educational attainment in Hampshire schools 2010-11 – results and priorities (Apr 11)
- Academies in Hampshire (Jul 11) – issues of concern included:
What would Hampshire do in the event of an academy failing?

Are Hampshire's educational services offered to academies, and how does the department intend to respond to the changing educational environment?

- How do we identify if a school is 'punching beneath its weight'? (Sep 11)
- Parenting – its impact on life outcomes for children and interventions when outcomes are not good (Sep 11)

8. **Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:** Ofsted – safeguarding and looked after children – recent inspection report (Jul 11)

9. **Upcoming topics:**

- Monitoring of outcomes in relation to Children's Centres, but initially circulated as information, only to come to the committee if Members have concerns. (possibly May 12)
- Policy and Strategy options for the provision of services to a evolving schools economy (May 12)
- Children's Services Capital Programme Strategy (May 12)
- Short breaks: progress in the provision of through the LA (Jul 12)
- Race strategy / policy (Jul 12)

283. ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE

1. **In-depth reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** *'Coordination and Regulation of all works on Hampshire County Council's Highways'*: The Committee concluded a review which considered alternative methods of coordinating and regulating works on the highway, in order to minimise traffic disruption and improve the way in which such works are carried out.

2. The review group agreed that Hampshire County Council's current method of co-ordination had produced examples of good working, which had built on best practice and strong relationships with utility and internal contractors. However, the written evidence submitted to the review had highlighted areas where improvements can be made, particularly in ensuring that communication takes place between relevant stakeholders, and that there is parity of co-ordination and regulation applied to all of those undertaking works on the road. All of the recommendations made by the Committee were agreed by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, and are now being monitored going into 2012/13.

3. **Light-touch reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** *10:10 Campaign*: The Committee recommended that Hampshire County Council sign-up to the 10:10 campaign in 2010, following a real-time scrutiny of the outcomes that would need to be realised in order to reduce the County Council's overall carbon emissions by 10% in one year. Since this time the Committee has continued to monitor the Council's commitment to reducing it's carbon emissions - pre-scrutinising the carbon management plan and the carbon reduction progress report. Members were pleased with the progress reported in 2011, with the Council and it's staff having met and exceeded the 10% reduction target. Members will continue to monitor this area of the Council's work, scrutinising the energy strategy for Hampshire, as well as related topics

such as the large scale solar photovoltaic cell programme, and electric car charging points.

4. *Concessionary Fares*: Members have monitored the implementation of the Hampshire Concessionary Fares Scheme, since the Committee's initial pre-scrutiny of the proposals in November 2010. At this time, the Committee were satisfied that the Scheme suggested was fair and equitable, and met the needs of those with disabilities across the County, and this agreement was reiterated six months after the Scheme was introduced. The Committee will continue to monitor the scheme going into the future.

5. **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:** *Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment*: Cabinet took a decision in November 2010 to commend the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment to the Committee for consideration, as part of its role holding flood risk management authorities to account through the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. As part of this role, the Committee invited District and Borough councils in Hampshire to make comment on the document. Written responses were received by both Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Rushmoor Borough Council, which went on to form some of the recommendations to the Executive Member from the Committee.

6. The Committee commended the Hampshire Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, with recommendations around flooding incident templates and the communications strategy for the Assessment. The Committee agreed that it would pre-scrutinise the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in 2012.

7. *Review of the Subsidised Bus Service*: The Committee contributed to, and conducted a pre-scrutiny of, the review of the subsidised bus service, which aimed to assess the existing subsidised bus services and the strategy for their support. The Committee scrutinised the outcomes of the consultation conducted as part of the review, as well as the proposed new routes to be operated in Hampshire. Members were assured that all withdrawn subsidised bus service routes would have a 'taxi-share' service in place, and that an engagement strategy had been written to help communicate the changes to members of the public.

8. The Committee agreed with the recommendations put to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport on changes to the subsidised bus service, and proposed to undertake a review of the 'taxi-share' service in 2012, following the introduction of five new routes in 2011.

9. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** N/A

10. **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:** *Department Efficiencies – Economy, Transport and Environment*: The Select Committee received quarterly updates from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment on the progress of the department efficiencies set out in the January 2011 budget, and the overall performance of the department throughout the financial year. Members were able to regularly monitor changes to the department's efficiency programme, leading up to the 2012/13 budget.

11. *Revenue and Capital Budget 2012/13*: Members pre-scrutinised the revenue and capital budget for 2012/13 onwards at their January 2012 meeting. Following questions, Members agreed with the recommendations set out to the

Executive Member for Environment and Transport in relation to both the revenue and capital budget.

12. **Policy Review: 'Parking of Grass Verges, Footpaths and Pavements':** The Committee have formed a four-member working group who are tasked with exploring the current parking policy in relation to this issue. They are due to receive evidence from the department in relation to the current policy, the learning from other local authorities, and to give evidence on the problems that they have encountered within their own constituencies. The working group is due to report to the April 2012 formal Committee meeting.

13. **Questioning and Exploring Areas of Interest and Concern:**

- Carbon Management Plan
- Display Energy Certificates
- Minerals and Waste Plan
- Efficiencies, Innovations and Partnership Working (with Amey, the Highways Term Maintenance contractor)

14. **Upcoming Topics:**

- Review of the Taxi-share Service (Light-Touch Review)
- Local Flood Risk Strategy (Pre-Scrutiny and Statutory Scrutiny Responsibility)
- A Boards (Policy Review)
- Unadopted roads (Policy Review)
- Real-time scrutiny of the large scale solar photovoltaic cell programme (Questioning and Exploring)
- The future of Project Integra (Questioning and Exploring)
- A3 Zip Corridor Review (Questioning and Exploring)

284. SAFE AND HEALTHY PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

1. **Statutory Duties undertaken, In-depth Reviews / outcomes being monitored:** *Crime and Disorder Scrutiny:* The Committee hold the responsibility for the scrutiny of 'Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships' (now termed as 'Community Safety Partnerships'), as per the Police & Justice Act 2006, and therefore invite representatives of the County Strategy Group annually to make reports on the work of such groups. In 2011/12, the Committee invited a report on the recommendations made by the Committee in relation to domestic violence and anti-social behaviour in 2010, as well as the general progress of the County Strategy Group, the future role and impact of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and an overview of the Youth Offending Team service and Integrated Offender Management workstreams.

2. *Age Proofing Mainstream Public Services / Engaging with Older People:* A business case based on the recommendations agreed by Select Committee was submitted to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources in May 2011, where it was agreed that the proposals be implemented by the Council's Research and Intelligence

team. The Committee are now monitoring the recommendations as they are embedded across the organisation.

3. Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:

Safeguarding Adults: The Committee received a biannual report from Adult Services on safeguarding matters and related issues. Members were regularly informed of the protocols that are in place to support the safeguarding of adults, and the regular monitoring of this topic has allowed Members to make comments and recommendations to key officers and the Executive Member on any issues of concern.

4. Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions: *Transformation of In House Learning Disability Services:* Members reviewed the outcomes of the consultation held with service users, their families, carers and staff on the transformation of in-house learning disability services, together with the proposals for the future of the service. Members heard that the proposals had changed significantly following the feedback received during the consultation, and were supported by the majority of individuals involved in the consultation. Members were satisfied that account had been taken of the views of those using the services, and that steps had been taken to assure individuals who had concerns over the future of the service. The Committee commended the recommendations for decision by the Executive Member, and will continue to monitor the two-year transformation of this service.

5. Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions: N/A

6. Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance: *Department 'Risk List' – Adult Services:* The Committee continued to form a three-member 'Adult Services risk-list' working group in 2011/12, which met prior to each formal meeting, and reported back to the Select Committee on areas of concern requiring further scrutiny. The working group's agreed priorities for 2011/12 focused on finances, demography, the transformation of adult services, NHS funding and partnerships, and safeguarding.

7. Revenue and Capital Budget 2012/13: Members pre-scrutinised the revenue and capital budget for 2012/13 onwards at their January 2012 meeting. Following questions, Members agreed with the recommendations set out to the Executive Member for Adult Services in relation to both the revenue and capital budget

8. Policy Review: N/A

9. Questioning and Exploring Areas of Interest and Concern:

- Joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy
- Supporting People programme

10. Upcoming Topics:

- Safeguarding Adults (Light-Touch Review)
- Mental Health Joint Commissioning Strategy (Monitoring)
- Transformation of In House Learning Disability Services (Monitoring)

285. CULTURE, COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE

1. In-depth Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored: None this year.

2. **Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** This year the committee has undertaken two light touch reviews:

3. *Future approach to Grant Aid* – in parallel with a review being undertaken by the Department, a task and finish group of Members of the Committee met between July and October to consider the principles under-pining the allocation of grants to cultural and community organisations. The committee made recommendations to the Executive Member in November regarding proposed principles to form the basis of grant allocation in future, which the Executive Member accepted.

4. *Income generation opportunities* – a task and finish group of Members of the Committee met between September and November to consider opportunities for cultural and community services to generate income. The committee made recommendations to the Executive Member in December regarding areas that could be explored and data that could be collected to assist with income generation, which the Executive Member accepted.

5. **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:** The committee has pre-scrutinised a number of proposals prior to decision by the Executive Member:

- Changes to library charges
- Reductions in library opening hours
- The Play Strategy for Hampshire
- Grant allocations
- The Arts and Museums Service restructure
- Museums and arts service – towards a Fully integrated merger with Southampton city council and Winchester City council

6. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** None this year

7. **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:** The committee received a presentation updating Members on the programmes supporting the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Sports Partnership Strategy, aimed at increasing numbers of people undertaking physical activity. The committee continued to consider the proposed Revenue Budget for cultural and community services at the January meeting, as per the agreed budget scrutiny cycle.

8. **Policy Review:** The committee received updates during the year regarding the arts and museums service – Planning for the future: phase 2.

9. **Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:** Proteus Theatre Company and Forest Forge Theatre Company gave a presentation regarding the work of their organisations (they were supported by grant funding for this financial year). The Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services gave a presentation to update the committee on the merger of the former Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Department with the former Property Business Regulatory and IT Services Department. Members monitored progress with the development of Runways End Outdoor Activity centre, including a number of Members visiting the site in July prior to completion. Members received an update on maintenance works taking place on the Basingstoke Canal to address flood risk.

10. **Upcoming topics:** Over the coming year the committee will be looking into Marketing and Tourism, and continuing to monitor the development of a potential Merger of the Arts and Museums Service with Winchester City Council and Southampton City Council, developments in the Library service as a result of changes agreed last year, the new grant streams due to come in for the 2013 financial year, and action taken in response to the income generations recommendations.

Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm

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