

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SELECT COMMITTEES - Progress Report: 2010-2011

SELECT COMMITTEE : Policy & Resources - April 2010 to March 2011

DETAIL OF SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

SELECT COMMITTEE role	Action/s	Outcome/s	Estimated impact / influence
Scrutinising the work of the Executive and the County Council as an organisation	In-depth Scrutiny Review: Severe Winter Weather	Following the severe winter weather experienced in Hampshire in December 2009 and January 2010, the committee initiated an in-depth review of how the County Council and partners ensured access to key services during this time. The committee's report of findings and recommendations was accepted by Cabinet in September 2010.	Work has been undertaken on the issues raised by the committee. The review panel held a monitoring meeting in January 2011 and were satisfied that improvements had been made.
SELECT COMMITTEE role	Action/s	Outcome/s	Estimated impact / influence
Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern	Various topics considered at quarterly meetings of the committee including: July 2010 a) Fairtrade Motion referred from Full Council	a) The committee considered a report regarding current levels of County Council support for fairtrade and the additional measures required to achieve Fairtrade County Status. Members concluded that the County Council already provides a high level of support to fairtrade, while treating other ethical brands and priorities fairly such as local producers. It was recommended that County Status not be pursued at this time, and that if this were considered in future, details of the financial implications would be required.	a) The views of the committee were endorsed by Full Council.

	<p>b) Corporate Improvement Plan</p> <p>October 2010</p> <p>c) Budget Monitoring</p> <p>d) Hampshire Economic Assessment</p> <p>e) IT Update</p> <p>f) Special Recognition Awards</p>	<p>b) Committee received a presentation regarding how performance against corporate priorities is measured.</p> <p>c) Committee received a presentation regarding the Comprehensive Spending Review and the impact this would have on the County Council.</p> <p>d) Committee received a presentation regarding the Economic Assessment of Hampshire and how this would be used to identify mechanisms to support the Hampshire economy.</p> <p>e) Members considered a report giving an update on major IT developments.</p> <p>f) A Member of the committee raised concerns regarding Special Recognition Awards made to Chief Officers in 08/9 ,details of which had been published. The committee made recommendations to strengthen the accountability of the process for approving such</p>	<p>b) Raised members awareness of corporate performance management. Members agreed to re-visit this should amendments be made as a result of the changing financial context.</p> <p>c) The committee indicated support to the Leader for lobbying central government regarding the impact of grant funding changes on Hampshire.</p> <p>d) Members comments regarding the importance of skills development suitable to local job opportunities, and the importance of broadband internet provision to businesses, were taken onboard. Members agreed to continue to monitor economic development issues.</p> <p>e) Members demonstrated their support for a well managed IT function.</p> <p>f) The Executive Member for Policy & Resources acknowledged the views of the Select Committee and indicated that this would be addressed through the revised constitution anticipated to be approved in 2011.</p>
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	<p>January 2011</p> <p>g) Elizabeth II Court Building</p>	<p>payments.</p> <p>g) Members received a presentation regarding the refurbished Elizabeth II Court building and the savings that had been achieved.</p>	<p>g) This provided accountability for the funding spent on the refurbishment, demonstrating the benefits gained such as reductions in energy usage and increases in flexible working.</p>
<p>Monitoring the strategic management of performance</p>	<p>Annual cycle of budget and performance monitoring including:</p> <p>Final Accounts and Medium Term Financial Strategy (July 2010 meeting)</p> <p>Capital Programme and Revenue Budget for Policy & Resources Portfolio for 2011/12 (January 2011 meeting)</p>	<p>Performance and budgetary information scrutinised twice during the year, at mid-year and year-end. In year monitoring reports considered where appropriate.</p>	<p>Increased opportunities for information gathering, pre-scrutiny and challenge of budget decisions throughout the year.</p>
<p>SELECT COMMITTEE role</p>	<p>Action/s</p>	<p>Outcome/s</p>	<p>Estimated impact / influence</p>
<p>Monitoring impact of external agencies on the people of Hampshire</p>	<p>Regular monitoring of the impact of Government legislation on overview and scrutiny.</p>	<p>Members briefed on emerging legislation as appropriate e.g. the Localism Bill, the Health and Social Care Bill etc.</p>	<p>Members are fully aware of the impact of new legislation and regulations on overview and scrutiny and have a good knowledge of the mechanisms available for engaging partners in future work.</p>

<p>Scrutiny of Organisations that receive grant funding from the Executive Member for Policy & Resources</p>	<p>The committee continued receiving presentations from organisations that receive grant funding from the County Council, relevant to the remit of this committee:</p> <p>a) in July 2010 a presentation was received from Citizens Advice Hampshire</p>	<p>a) A presentation on the work of this organisation was received, demonstrating the value of the County Council providing support to this organisation through a grant.</p>	<p>a) This provided public accountability for the grant funding provided.</p>
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