

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT SELECT COMMITTEES - Progress Report: 2010/11**

**SELECT COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation**

| <b>DETAIL OF SELECT COMMITTEE WORK</b>  |   |  |   |
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| <b>SELECT COMMITTEE role</b>  | <b>Type of activity and date</b>  | <b>Outcome, including action/s</b>   | <b>Impact/Influence</b>   |
| <b>Scrutinising the work of the Executive and the County Council as an organisation</b> | Completion of in-depth scrutiny reviews, begun in 2010/11:<br>a) Road Works       | a) The review has had a very high response rate from stakeholders, which has led to clear ways forward. The review group is due to report to the Select Committee in April 2011.   | a) The recommendations proposed by the review group are designed to build on best practice evidenced by those involved in coordinating works, to further improve communication with all stakeholders, and to drive further innovation and good working practices.   |
|   | Monitoring outcomes of scrutinies from previous year, 2008/09:<br><br>b) Flooding | b) Review outcomes were agreed by the Executive Member for Policy & Resources, where it was agreed that a Flood Guide for all Councillors in Hampshire would be designed and published in 2010/11. The Committee are due to scrutinise Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments in 2011. | b) The distribution of the publication seeks to provide a knowledge base to all levels of Councillor in Hampshire of the steps to take pre, during, and post a flooding event, with particular emphasis placed on aiding Councillors, as community leaders, to assist on the drawing up local resilience plans. |

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| <p><b>Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern</b></p> | <p>Consideration of topics at quarterly Select Committee meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Road Maintenance in Winter Weather</li> <li>b) Pothole Management</li> <li>c) Display Energy Certificates</li> <li>d) Waste Disposal</li> <li>e) Road Works</li> <li>f) Community Infrastructure Levies</li> <li>g) Minerals Plan</li> <li>h) Concessionary Fares</li> </ul> | <p>Various:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Members received a briefing on maintenance of the highways (salting and gritting) in recent winter weather.</li> <li>b) Members questioned the Environment department and the highway term contractor, Amey, on aspects of pothole management, and operations 'restore' and 'resilience'. Members made recommendations relating to finance, data capture and partnership working.</li> <li>c) Members were briefed on the national scheme, and discussed data relating to Hampshire County Council building stock.</li> <li>d) An overview of waste disposal in the Hampshire region was given, and Members requested a visit to waste infrastructure in order to better understand processes around waste collection and disposal.</li> <li>e) Members received an overview of the way in which works by both utility companies and internal contractors were coordinated and regulated. It was agreed that a full scrutiny would be undertaken on the topic matter.</li> <li>f) Members were made aware of the future of planning policy and changes to the application of</li> </ul> | <p>Various:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Policy &amp; Resources Select Committee agreed to undertake a full review of the severe winter weather, and Hampshire County Council's handling of it.</li> <li>b) Issues identified and recommendations made will be subject to ongoing scrutiny external to committee meetings.</li> <li>c) Members were able to identify risk areas for the County Council, and to request further monitoring of the roll out of display energy certificates in 2011/12.</li> <li>d) Members were able to gain a better understanding of waste disposal practices by visiting sites of importance. The Committee will continue to monitor waste disposal.</li> <li>e) The review is due to report in April 2011, following analysis of evidence provided by comparative local authorities, utility companies, internal works promoters and district and borough councils. Outcomes will be monitored in 2011/12.</li> <li>f) Members were able to indicate their dissatisfaction with changes to the application of developer funding, and felt open discussion between central and local government was needed on possible ways forward. A</li> </ul> |
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|  |  | <p>section 106 funding. A request was made by the Committee to the Secretary of State for dialogue on alternatives to the community infrastructure levy.</p> <p>g) Update from Minerals team on the outcome of the apportionment appeal, and the decision to consult on a refreshed mineral plan.</p> <p>h) Committee agreed, based on real-time scrutiny, to conduct a special pre-decision scrutiny of the Hampshire Concessionary Travel Scheme prior to publication. Recommendations were made to the executive member and accepted.</p> | <p>response was received from Greg Clark MP, which stated he was considering the future of the levy, and would make an announcement on it as soon as was practicable.</p> <p>g) Committee will be contributing to the consultation and conducting a pre-decision scrutiny of the final plan.</p> <p>h) The Committee were able to robustly challenge the scheme to ensure it was equitable and fair for all of those eligible to use it. Recommendations were made and accepted by the executive member. Committee will be continuing to monitor the scheme's progress.</p> |
| <p><b>Monitoring the strategic management of performance</b></p> | <p>Monitoring of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (General) Environment Department performance issues, relating these to budgets and corporate priorities</li> </ul> <p>a) Carbon Management and the 10:10 campaign</p> | <p>Various:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Receipt of information, scrutiny of issues and clarification where needed.</li> <li>- Identified areas that required further real-time/in-depth scrutiny.</li> </ul> <p>a) The Committee recommended to the full council that Hampshire sign up to the 10:10 campaign (for a 10% in carbon reduction in one year) in 2010. The Committee continue to monitor carbon management figures and policies to ensure this total can be reached.</p>  | <p>Various:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Members exercised their role as challengers through questioning plans for improving on areas of weakness.</li> </ul> <p>a) The Committee have helped to shape a wide-ranging council policy, and have made recommendations that fit with the council's climate change priorities. Members will continue to monitor recommendations made, and will perform their next real-time scrutiny in Autumn 2011.</p>  |

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| <p><b>Pre-scrutinising recommendations from the Decision Programme</b></p>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Consideration of decision lists relating to Environment Department and Culture, Communities and Business Services Department prior to each quarterly meeting.</li> <li>b) Chairman attendance at Environment Executive Member meetings.</li> <li>c) Certain proposals for decisions have been scrutinised by the Committee: eg.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capital Programme and Revenue budget (mid year 2010/11, and proposals for 2011/12 – 2013/14)</li> <li>- Local Transport Plan</li> <li>- Concessionary Fares</li> <li>- Operation Restore/Resilience</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>Exercise of Committee's duty to pre-scrutinise decisions at quarterly meetings, and at other specially focused meetings in between.</p> <p>Chairman is able to flag issues for future Committee agendas by participating in Executive Member meetings</p>  | <p>Challenge to decisions to be made, through real-time scrutiny.</p>  |
| <p><b>Monitoring impact of external agencies on the people of Hampshire</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Integral to the scrutiny review and monitoring of outcomes processes eg. Road works (Utility companies, Highways term contractor, district and borough councils)</li> <li>b) Carried out through the questioning and exploring of areas of interest eg. road works, community infrastructure levies, etc.</li> <li>c) Direct invitation to external agencies (National Park Authorities, Natural England) and identification of partners to present to Select Committee</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A high response rate from partners has identified routes for partnership working between HCC and external agencies, and methods for building on good working practices.</li> <li>b) Highlighting of, and response to, issues affecting the people of Hampshire</li> <li>c) All external agencies received with interest, with one discussion resulting in an invitation to the Chairman to see the work of the organisation in person.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Review recommendations are due to be monitored 2011/12.</li> <li>b) Questioning and exploring allows Members to decide whether in-depth scrutiny is appropriate.</li> <li>c) Relations with external agencies improved, information and knowledge shared.</li> </ul> |

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| <p><b>Dealing with other topics</b></p> | <p>a) New Coalition Government policies<br/> b) Helped to identify areas for whole Council Member Briefings.</p> | <p>a) Committee kept informed of changes to Environment policies brought about by a change in national government in May 2010.<br/> b) Topics added to briefing Agendas.</p> | <p>a) Members have a good understanding of how central government policy will affect future council decisions<br/> b) Helped to all council members informed of current affairs within department.</p> |
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