

AT A MEETING of the POLICY AND RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle Winchester on Thursday, 19 January 2012.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Carol Leversha

Vice-Chairman
p Councillor Keith Evans

Councillors:

p Adrian Collett	p Bruce Tennent
p Liz Fairhurst	p Chris Thomas
p Brian Gurden	p Pat West
p Robin McIntosh	p Sharyn Wheale
p Elaine Still	vacancy

95. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was noted that Cllr Elaine Still would be attending late due to being on Hampshire County Council business elsewhere that morning.

96. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally at the time of the debate declare their interest, and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Code.

Cllr Collett – Declared that he is a member of the Hampshire Police Authority (in relation to Item 5)

Cllr P West – Declared that she is a member of the Andover Museum Statutory Joint Committee (in relation to Item 6)

97. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Policy & Resources Select Committee Meeting held on 27 October 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

98. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chairman's announcements on this occasion.

99. **REVENUE BUDGET 2012/13 – POLICY & RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

The County Treasurer gave a presentation to highlight the key points from the written report, giving an overview of the budget situation for the County Council as a whole, and the budget proposals for 2012/13 for the services within the Policy & Resources Portfolio (see Item 5 in the Minute Book).

It was noted that the Executive Member for Policy & Resources was due to attend the meeting to respond to questions, but the meeting conflicted with another commitment.

It was reported that central government was offering a grant to compensate councils that froze Council Tax in 2012/13. However, it was noted that a grant of this type was not anticipated for 2013/14 onwards, therefore the County Council would need to consider carefully the impact of this on the County Council's budget planning for future years.

Members heard that the County Council had a target to save £45 million in 2012/13 (8% of the overall budget), and that half of these savings had already been achieved as a result of the full year impact of efficiencies made in 2011/12.

Within the Policy & Resources portfolio, it was noted that grants to voluntary organisations would be reduced by 8%. Members commented that one of the organisations supported by these grants was the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC). Various Members reported Parish Councils in their division had been considering not subscribing to HALC this year. Therefore this could represent an additional pressure on their budget. The committee wished to revisit the situation for HALC in future. It was noted that equality impact assessments would be undertaken on implications of the budget proposals, including the impact on voluntary sector organisations grant funded.

The Chairman went through the budget report page by page inviting questions from the committee. Members received answers to points of clarification. Members commented that there was inconsistency between Appendices in how increases and decreases in budget

Add HALC to work programme

County Treasurers to ensure consistent budget notations in future

were indicated, and requested consistent notation for this in future for clarity.

RESOLVED:

That the Select Committee supports the budget proposals as laid out in the report to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources.

100. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2012/13 – 2014/15: POLICY & RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

The County Treasurer presented the report (see Item 6 in the Minute Book) regarding the Capital Programme for 2012/13 to 2014/15 for services within the Policy & Resources portfolio. Members received responses to questions on points of clarification.

Members queried where the funding for the capital programme came from. It was noted it was derived from capital receipts and revenue contributions. Members requested that in future the report make clearer how the capital programme was financed (e.g. a break down of capital receipts received), while it was noted that this information would be provided in the full budget papers for County Council in February.

Members commented on the maintenance of the Basingstoke Canal and the importance of other local authorities continuing to contribute to fund it's upkeep. It was suggested that the relevant District Council's be encouraged to include the Canal when considering future application of the Community Infrastructure Levy to Developers.

A number of specific questions on particular budget allocations could not be answered at the meeting and a commitment was given to provide answers in writing to be circulated to committee members.

RESOLVED:

That the Select Committee supports the capital programme proposals as laid out in the report to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources.

101. **SCRUTINY PANEL: PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AGENCY STAFF**

The Chairman reported that the findings of the Panel of this committee that had been considering procurement of temporary agency staff, had been submitted to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources in November

Future Capital Programme report to include further detail on how it is financed.

That the scrutiny officer liaise with County Treasurers regarding a response to questions agreed for follow up.

2011. A paper was tabled giving the response of the Adults Services Department to the specific point's the Select Committee had raised in relation to use of temporary staff to cover care roles.

Members had a number of queries regarding the response. It was noted that a decision regarding the future temporary agency staff contract was not due to be taken until March 2012, and the Chairman would report back on the outcome at the next Select Committee meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman follows up Members questions on the response received, and reports back to the next Select Committee meeting with an update.

102. **ONGOING WORK ACROSS ALL SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

The Chairman invited the Members of the committee who Chaired other Select Committee's to report on the work being undertaken through their committee (see Item 8 in the Minute Book).

It was noted that the Environment and Transportation Select Committee was due to initiate a review of the policy on parking on grass verges, pavements and footpaths. Members commented that this topic had previously been covered by one of the Hampshire Action Teams and that this could inform this piece of work. Cllr Carol Leversha requested to sit in on the Panel meetings to observe.

It was noted that both Environment & Transportation and this committee had an interest in the Community Infrastructure Levy, and that consideration would need to be given to the best way to cover this topic.

Members agreed that the Select Committee's needed to consider the priority of items on their work programme to target scrutiny resources effectively.

RESOLVED:

That Select Committee Chairmen consider the work ongoing across all the scrutiny committee's when committing scrutiny resources to new pieces of work.

103. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman went through the committee's future work

Chairman to seek an answer to Members queries on the content of the response from Adults Services.

Identify appropriate coverage of CIL topic

programme and invited Members views regarding the items listed.

It was agreed to remove the catering topic from the work programme, as the Chairman had evidence that there were good levels of satisfaction with the service provided. It was also agreed to remove the Stubbington Study Centre item. The Chairman indicated her intention to request an update on Human Resources issues for the October 2012 meeting.

Work programme to be updated

The Chairman proposed that a light touch review of consultation be initiated following February County Council. Members were invited to volunteer to take part in the Panel.

RESOLVED:

- That the Committee's Work Programme be approved subject to the amendments made at this meeting.
- That the following Members form a Panel to undertake a light touch review of consultation:

Cllr Liz Fairhurst, Cllr Carol Leversha, Cllr Bruce Tennent, Cllr Chris Thomas, Cllr Pat West.

Steps taken to scope a light touch review of consultation

Chairman, 19 April 2012