

Scrutiny Annual Report: April 2012 to March 2013

Select Committee: Culture Communities & Rural Affairs

Report of Chairman: Cllr Elaine Still

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

Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:

This year the committee has monitored the outcomes of the following light touch reviews undertaken in 2011:

Income Generation Opportunities – in April 2012, Members of the Committee heard the response of the Executive Member to the recommendations of the Income Generation working group. The recommendations were accepted and an action plan had been established to take forwards the aspects identified. The working group was reconvened in November 2012 to consider progress. A further update is due to be provided to the full committee in April 2013.

Grant Funding – in April 2012 the committee considered the detailed plans for the revised grant streams being introduced under the culture and recreation portfolio, following the light touch review of grant funding the committee undertook in 2011.

Reviews/Working Groups initiated: A working group was established to consider the detail of the potential merger of the Arts and Museums Service with those at Southampton City and Winchester City Councils. However, the timetable for the Executive Member to consider the business case was revised and the key decision is now expected in the 2013/14 financial year so this working group only met once in 2012.

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

- Hampshire Arts and Museums service: towards a Fully integrated merger with Southampton City Council and Winchester City Council – the committee has pre scrutinised reports throughout the development of this proposal over the past year.
- Library and Information Service – proposals relating to the closure of Stanmore Library (and re-provision from the Carroll Centre) and proposals concerning the future of North Baddesley Library.
- Grant allocation proposals

Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions: None this year

Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance: 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.

Policy Review: The committee received a report and supporting presentation on the County Council's marketing strategies for Culture and Recreation Services.

Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:

- Members received a presentation on priorities for Culture, Communities and Business Services for 2012/13.
- The Director of Economy, Transport and Environment provided the Committee with a presentation on Tourism in Hampshire.
- The committee received a presentation on the success of Hampshire events linked to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games, and how plans were being developed to fulfil the Olympic legacy.

Upcoming topics: Over the coming year the Committee has the following topics on the work programme: outcomes of the investment in dance review, revisiting the sports strategy, opportunities in sport for the less able bodied in Hampshire, continue to review Income Generation progress, and to pre-scrutinise the Executive Member decision regarding a potential merger of the Arts and Museums Service with that of Winchester City Council and Southampton City Council.