

Scrutiny Annual Report: April 2012 to March 2013

Select Committee: Policy & Resources **Report of Chairman:** Cllr Carol Leversha

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

Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored: Procurement of 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 in Autumn 2011, and made recommendations to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources in December. The committee received an update at the April 2012 meeting on aspects raised by the panel in relation to Adult Services use of agency staff.

Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions: None this year

Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions: None this year

Referrals: In September a Notice of Motion made to County Council was referred to this committee. This was considered at the October meeting, and related to the provisions in the constitution governing 'Call in' of Executive decisions by the scrutiny function. Following debate including representations from other Members of the Council, the committee made recommendations back to County Council which were accepted and then followed up by the Member Working Group considering governance issues.

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

- End of year financial report - 2011/12
- Open for Business: 2011/12 Annual Performance Report
- Revenue budget 2013/14 – Policy & Resources Portfolio
- Capital programme 2013/14 – 2015/16: Policy & Resources Portfolio

Policy Review:

Voice of the Customer/consultation – in April 2012 the committee scrutinised how the County Council consults, and listens to the feedback and needs of the public it serves.

Employee Engagement – in July 2012 the committee scrutinised how the County Council encourages feedback from its staff and heard about Employee Voice.

Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:

Members explored the current landscape for Economic Development and how the County Council was positioning itself in this area in April 2012.

The committee also received a report in April 2012 on the proposals of the Coalition Government for Local Authorities to retain a proportion of business rates.

The committee continued to monitor significant IT projects through the annual IT update considered in October 2012, and Members requested an update from HR on Absence Management, which was provided to the Committee in October.

Other: The committee retained oversight of the ongoing work across all the scrutiny committees, to ensure the resources of the scrutiny function were effectively prioritised

and targeted. This included approving terms of reference for Review Panels established by other committees (e.g. HOSC Adult Mental Health Working Group).

Upcoming topics: Over the coming year the committee will be receiving updates on economic development, consultation policy, the new system of distribution of business rates, considering the corporate efficiency workstreams for identifying savings for 2015 and the County Councils new responsibilities for public health, as well as continuing to monitor IT and undertake budget and performance scrutiny.