

REPORT OF THE
Policy and Resources Select Committee
PART II

8. SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update on the work of Hampshire County Council's Select Committees from April 2012 to March 2013. Highlights of each Select Committee's activity are set out below.

9. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

2. **Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** The Committee received an update on the issues surrounding the 2012 GCSE results, which had led to unusually low GCSE English results. Members welcomed the Department's and the Executive Member's response to the situation, and it was agreed that they would be kept informed of further developments as they arose.

3. **Scrutiny of Executive Decisions:** A number of decisions by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services were considered by the Select Committee prior to the decision being taken. Of particular significance were the annual revenue and capital programmes. A number of other matters that had been subject to decision by the Executive Lead Member were also reported to the Committee and given consideration, these included: school places, youth services, the school funding formula and the children and young people's plan.

4. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** None in this period.

5. **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:** Members pre-scrutinised the revenue and capital budget for 2013/14 onwards at their January 2013 meeting. Members agreed with the recommendations set out to the Executive Member for Children's Services in relation to both the revenue and capital budget. The Committee regularly received quarterly Budget Monitoring reports and were reassured that the department was successfully managing budgets in a pressurised and difficult environment.

6. The SACRE Annual Report 2011/12 was considered by the Committee, and it was noted that the Hampshire SACRE was taking on a wider leadership role in organising joint meetings with SACRE committees from other Local Authorities.

7. In addition to giving particular consideration to issues surrounding GCSE results, the Committee received the annual educational attainment report, noting the particularly high attainment at Key Stage Two.

8. **Policy Review:** The Committee received an update on changes to the present school funding formula which were agreed by the Executive Lead Member following an extensive consultation process. Members heard that while there would not be a reduction to the total amount of money available to schools, individual schools may experience changes as a result of the new distribution. Members considered and commented on a report regarding Youth Support Services in Hampshire. Members requested a further update 12 months later. The Committee received and commented

on the Children and Young People's Plan 2012-15, noting that it was an umbrella document by nature and focussing in particular on the targets in the Plan.

9. **Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:** In September, Members received a presentation on the pioneering work of Teaching Schools which was part of a government drive to encourage schools to increasingly take responsibility for developing and managing improvements in education through school to school support.

10. The positive impact of the work of EMTAS (Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service) was presented to the Select Committee, who welcomed the initiative that was being taken in this area and urged the Service to continue to develop, in particular in the area of cross-boundary support.

11. **Upcoming topics:** In light of the County Council elections and potential subsequent changes to the membership of the Committee, it is anticipated that the work programme will be given careful consideration at the first meeting of the new Council. It is expected that the Committee will continue its strong interest in policy and performance relating to the protection of children and education and that it will continue to provide advice and support to the Executive Lead Member in relation to executive decisions.

10. CULTURE, COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE

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

13. **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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. **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 reprovision from the Carroll Centre) and proposals concerning the future of North Baddesley Library.

- Grant allocation proposals

17. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** None this year

18. **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.

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

20. **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.

21. **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.

11. ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEE

1. **In-depth Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** 'Coordination and Regulation of all Works on Hampshire County Council's Highways' Recommendation Monitoring (April 2012)

2. **Light-touch reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** Review of the A3 Zip Bus Priority Corridor - The Committee formed a working group, to discuss actions following the Havant and East Hampshire joint scrutiny review of the A3 Zip Bus Priority Corridor. Members had expressed concern over snagging issues during the first three years of the project which it was felt warranted further exploration. As a result of the first meeting of the group in October 2012, a list of concerns were communicated to the Department, and a list of actions were agreed. A second meeting of the group has taken place to follow-up actions, which are still under review.

3. **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:** Electric Vehicle Charging Points - The Committee conducted a pre-scrutiny of the installation of electric vehicle charging points in November 2012. This scheme was part of the Hampshire Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative, which would be implemented after completion of a pilot study. Members were reassured that Hampshire was leading work to lobby the

European Union on electric vehicle charging points. It was noted that work to install such charging points would commence once agreement had been reached nationally on types of charging points. The Committee commended the Electric Vehicle Charging Points report to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, with recommendations around the charging flow at electric vehicle charging points.

4. **Project Integra Action Plan 2012-13** - The Committee conducted a pre-scrutiny of the proposed Project Integra Action Plan 2012/13, which aimed to provide a long term solution for dealing with Hampshire's municipal waste in an environmentally sound, cost effective and reliable way. The Committee commended the Project Integra Action Plan 2012-13 to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport for approval.

5. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** None

6. **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:** Department Efficiencies - The Select Committee received regular updates from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment on the progress of the department efficiency saving following the agreed January 2012 budget, and the overall performance of the department throughout the financial year.

7. **Revenue and Capital Budget 2013/14:** Members pre-scrutinised the revenue and capital budget for 2013/14 onwards at their January meeting.

8. **Policy Review: 'A' Board Policy:** Members of the Committee formed a working group to familiarise themselves with the policy that the Economy, Transport and Environment department had been working on, following the decision to offer a licensing scheme for 'A' Boards. Following discussions and examination of best practice from other local authorities, Members agreed that engagement should be undertaken with all District and Borough Councils on the 'A' Board Policy, which included a formulation of an implementation timetable. Members also requested that the implementation of the Policy should be reviewed six months after adoption.

9. **'Parking on Grass Verges, Footpaths and Pavements':** The Committee formed a working group who were tasked with exploring the current parking policy in relation to this issue. The group reviewed the policy, and as a result, requested that the Department update the current document by streamlining and investigating best practice solutions. The group also explored in detail the various engineering solutions and types of enforcement in relation to parking on grass verges, footpaths and pavements. The Committee approved the revised draft policy in January 2013 and recommended that the final Highway Maintenance Management Plan is pre-scrutinised by the Committee prior to a decision being taken by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

10. **Questioning and Exploring Areas of Interest and Concern:**

- The future of Project Integra
- Energy Strategy
- Large Scale Solar Photovoltaic Cell Programme
- Unadopted Roads
- Taxi-share Service

11. Upcoming Topics:

- Local Flood Risk Strategy (Pre-Scrutiny and Statutory Scrutiny Responsibility)
- Department efficiencies (Pre-Scrutiny)
- Control of weeds on the Highway (Policy Review)
- A3 Zip Corridor Review (Questioning and Exploring)

12. POLICY AND RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE

1. **In-depth Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** None this year
2. **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.
3. **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:** None this year
4. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** None this year
5. **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.
6. **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
7. **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.
8. Employee Engagement – in July 2012 the committee scrutinised how the County Council encourages feedback from its staff and heard about Employee Voice.
9. **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.

10. **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).

11. **Upcoming topics:** Over the coming year the committee has on its work programme 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.

13. SAFE AND HEALTHY PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

1. **Statutory Duties undertaken, In-depth Reviews / outcomes being monitored:** *Crime and Disorder Scrutiny:* The Committee hold the responsibility for the scrutiny of 'Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships' (now termed as 'Community Safety Partnerships'), as per the Police and Justice Act 2006, and therefore invite representatives of the County Strategy Group annually to make reports on the work of such groups. In 2012/13, the Committee received an update on the 'Supporting Troubled Families' programme in Hampshire, as well as an overview on 'Commissioning Domestic Abuse Services' and how responsible authorities across the County work in partnership and with local housing authorities to reduce Anti-Social behaviour. The Committee were also informed on the general progress of the County Strategy Group.

2. **Access to Appropriate Services for People with Alcohol Problems:** The Committee continued to monitor access to services for those with alcohol problems since the last update to the Committee in 2010. Members heard that a number of initiatives had been implemented which included: advertising healthier lifestyles, Safe Space project and the enablement of a countrywide accessible integrated recovery focused treatment system model for those with alcohol problems.

3. **Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** *Safeguarding Adults:* The Committee received a biannual report from Adult Services on safeguarding matters and related issues. Members were regularly informed of the protocols that are in place to support the safeguarding of adults, and the regular monitoring of this topic has allowed Members to make comments and recommendations to key officers and the Executive Member on any issues of concern.

4. **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:** None

5. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** None

6. **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:** A cross-party group of Members continued to meet prior to each Select Committee meeting in order to monitor the Department 'risk-list', and review efficiency saving programmes.

7. Revenue and Capital Budget 2013/14: Members pre-scrutinised the revenue and capital budget for 2013/14 onwards at their January meeting. Following questions, Members agreed with the recommendations set out to the Executive Member for Adult Services in relation to both the revenue and capital budget

8. **Policy Review:** None

9. **Questioning and Exploring Areas of Interest and Concern:**

- Dementia in Hampshire
- Transformation of In-House Learning Disability Service
- Overview of the Care and Support White Paper
- Older People's Day Care

10. **Upcoming Topics:**

- Safeguarding Adults (Monitoring)
- Mental Health Joint Commissioning Strategy (Monitoring)
- Transformation of In-House Learning Disability Services (Monitoring)
- Update on the Village Agents Scheme (Monitoring)

Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm

COUNCILLOR JONATHAN GLEN
Chairman, Policy and Resources Select Committee

THIS PAGE IS LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK