

AT A MEETING of the CULTURE, COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS  
SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle,  
Winchester on Thursday, 21 November 2013.

**PRESENT**

Chairman:  
p Councillor Elaine Still

Vice-Chairman:  
p Councillor Frank Pearce

**Councillors:**

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| p Phil Bailey   | p Fiona Mather      |
| p Peter Chegwyn | p Patricia Stallard |
| p Shaun Cully   | p Alan Rice         |
| p Brian Gurden  | p Tim Rolt          |
| p Rob Humby     | P John Wall         |
| p Mark Kemp-Gee | P Chris Wood        |

**Also in attendance:**

Councillor Jonathan Glen – Chairman of Policy and Resources Select  
Committee

23. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None were received.

24. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting, they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore, Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising

Items to be  
actioned on  
the  
Committee's  
work  
programme:

any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

Councillor Humby declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Minute Numbers 28, 29, 30 as the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development at Winchester City Council. Councillor Humby spoke and voted thereon.

Councillor Kemp-Gee declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Minute Number 29 as Trustee of the Gilbert White Museum and spoke and voted thereon.

25. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee, held on 10 September 2013 (less the exempt appendix), were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported that on 6 November 2013, Winchester City Council formally confirmed their decision to join with Hampshire County Council to progress the Hampshire Solent Cultural Trust. Both Councils were working together to establish the Trust, including the appointment of interim Trustees. Staff briefings had taken place and there would be continuing dialogue with affected staff.

The Chairman also announced that the 2014 Big Theme Programme had been launched on 7 November 2013. This programme commemorates some of the significant events in the county's history and has been funded and developed through collaboration between Hampshire County Council, Winchester and Southampton City Councils. The Programme received over £600,000 of Arts Council (England) investment, including support for a digital platform and digital viral marketing. The success in achieving this work related directly to collaborative work which underpinned the Fully Integrated Merger and the Trust proposals, previously considered by this committee.

27. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received.

28. **OVERVIEW ITEM:**  
**PARALYMPIC SPORT**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, which is available from the website and the Minute Book.

From the officers' presentation, Members noted:

- How the Council encouraged the inclusion of disabled children in recreation and leisure activities; short breaks for disabled children; the Gateway Card; the involvement of arts/museums, archives and libraries, outdoor and sports facilities.
- The presentation also highlighted the need for changing places toilets.
- The Council's strong and continuing commitment to disability sport.
- That the Council was working to deliver the Paralympic Legacy through working with partners, developing coaches, supporting clubs and school sport and identifying talent.
- That participation in disability sport had increased significantly since the Olympics.

During debate, the following issues were raised:

- It was noted that the Disability Sports Officer was working with Winchester City Council on the development of the proposed new Winchester Leisure Centre to maximise disabled access, including consideration for a changing places toilet.
- Given that disabled sports people were likely to have to travel further to participate, travel costs should be part of any grant consideration.
- That the successful expansion of disabled sports in Winchester and Eastleigh was largely attributable to the Disability Sports Forums.
- That authorities were under a duty to make reasonable changes to enable disabled access and that it was important to consult widely to ensure that these changes were effective.
- That the opportunities for partnership working with private organisations should be maximised.
- Members also noted the opportunities to share the Council's experience of accessibility with the private sector and the officer agreed to forward the Sport England's Design Accessibility guidance.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Glen spoke and highlighted the need to provide continuing access to sports facilities for young adults; where necessary signpost good facilities in neighbouring counties and encourage partnerships with the Army.

At the conclusion of debate, the Committee thanked the officers for the presentation and their work in encouraging Disability Sports and accessibility.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

Officers to  
forward

29. **OVERVIEW ITEM:**  
**GRANT FUNDING FOR CULTURAL, COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN HAMPSHIRE**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 7 in Minute Book). The Report explained that a Panel of this committee had worked with officers to review the grants system, to remove inconsistencies and to establish a system robust enough to deal with the funding cuts which were anticipated for 2012/13 and beyond. The report set out the effect of those changes at the end of its first year of implementation.

Members noted that a further report recommending grant awards would be presented to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside at his Decision Day, to be held 5 December 2013. It was likely that this would recommend a 2% overall reduction in grant funding for 2014/15, with the probability of larger reductions in subsequent years.

The Director reported that the following organisations had been shortlisted for the Community Building Capital Fund, which had been increased by £1m for 2013/14. These applications would be considered in detail by the Sub-Committee in February 2014, prior to a decision by the Executive Member:

- Eastleigh Youth and Community Trust
- Emsworth Community Association
- Gosport Community Association
- Hurstbourne Tarrant Development Trust
- Micheldever Station Community and Recreation Centre
- Woolton Hill Church Hall

From the officer's presentation, Members noted the need to further encourage applications to the Organisational Change Fund, which sought to improve organisations' efficiencies and reduce on-going dependency on grant funding.

The Committee re-affirmed its support for the new grants process and underlined the importance of supporting small grant applicants, where often relatively small amounts of money had an important effect on local communities.

However, a concern was raised that an increased requirement on matched-funding could disadvantage some organisations, depending on in which District Authority they were located and that District's level of support.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Glen recommended that all councillors be re-sent information about the grant process and the Director agreed.

Officers to forward

At the conclusion of debate, the Committee thanked the officers for the report and noted the on-going work to improve the grants process.

RESOLVED:

That the report, and the on-going work to improve the grants processes, be noted.

30. **OVERVIEW ITEM:**  
**HAMPSHIRE COMMEMORATES: PROGRESS**

The Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services summarised the key points from the written report (see Item 8 in the Minute Book).

Members noted that the finance for Hampshire Commemorates was dependent on matched-funding. The closing date for the first round of applications was 1 December 2013, which would be taken to the Executive Member's Decision Day on 20 January 2014. In response to a Member's suggestion, the officer agreed to resend to Members a link to the grant scheme application process and to circulate a list of the activities planned to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day.

The officer demonstrated the [1914 Big Theme website](#) and welcomed Members' comments and suggestions to improve this new facility.

In response questions, it was explained that the potential economic benefit of the commemorations had been considered and the Tourism Team had been involved in the programme development and would promote it within existing marketing programmes (e.g. Defence of the Realm). Members were assured that private organisations, such as Winchester College, had also been involved and events of appropriate organisations could be featured on the Big Theme '1914' events listing.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Glen spoke and suggested that officers contact archivists at the National Rifle Association.

At the conclusion of debate, the Committee thanked the officers for the presentation and welcomed the work to date.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Officers to forward

Officers to contact

31. **OVERVIEW ITEM:**  
**TRANSFORMING THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S COUNTRY PARKS**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, which is available from the website and the Minute Book. The presentation set out the case for investment to transform the Council's country parks, to ensure their long term financial viability and provide a high-quality countryside experience for visitors.

From the officers' presentation, Members noted that:

- The Transformation Proposal suggested a five year programme of improvements to include new visitor facilities, programmes of activity with wider appeal, maximise business opportunities and rejuvenate heritage buildings and landscape.
- It was anticipated that this investment would help maintain future visitor numbers and income and reduce running costs.
- The Proposal would be considered in outline by the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside and the Executive Member for Policy and Resources at their Decision Days in December 2013.

During debate, the following issues were raised:

- That the potential to fully maximise potential income streams should be investigated, such as the development of conference facilities and the positioning of each Park's shop and cafe.
- That a reduced entrance fee could encourage more visitors and spending, therefore increasing revenue overall.
- A Member raised a concern that the Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve opened at 9.30am, whereas some bird watchers may want earlier access.
- A caution that the visitor centres were not the primary attraction of the Parks.
- The need to provide facilities for young children and an awareness that the Parks were in competition for the public's leisure time with private organisations.

A Member raised a general concern about the lack of detail within the presentation by which the Committee could usefully scrutinise the Transformation Programme. In response, the Director explained that the item was before Members, not as a pre-scrutiny item, but to provide an overview for the Committee and an opportunity to comment on the broad principles of the Programme.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Glen highlighted

the training and employment opportunities for adults with special needs at the Parks.

At the conclusion of debate, subject to the above comments, the Committee broadly agreed the principles of the Transformation Programme.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

32. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Corporate Services (see Item 9 in the Minute Book) which set out the Committee's work programme.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee's Work Programme be approved as set out.

33. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the following item of business, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintain the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

34. **EXEMPT MINUTES**

The Select Committee considered the exempt minute appendix of the previous meeting, held 10 September 2013, regarding the proposed re-location of the Gosport Post Office to the Gosport Discovery Centre.

RESOLVED:

The exempt minute of the previous meeting, held 10 September 2013, was confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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Chairman, 20 January 2014