

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Policy & Resources Select Committee
Date of meeting:	23 January 2014
Report Title:	Work Programme
Reference:	5576
Report From:	Director of Policy & Governance – Corporate Services

Contact name: Marie Mannveille, Scrutiny Officer

Tel: 01962 845018

Email: marie.mannveille@hants.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. To consider the Committee's forthcoming work programme.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

<i>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</i>	(No)
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<i>Maximising well-being:</i>	(Yes)
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<i>Enhancing our quality of place:</i>	(Yes)
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. This is a forward plan of topics under consideration by the Select Committee, therefore this section is not applicable to this work report. The Committee will request appropriate impact assessments to be undertaken should this be relevant for any topic that the Committee is reviewing.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. This is a forward plan of topics under consideration by the Select Committee, therefore this section is not applicable to this work report. The Committee will request appropriate impact assessments to be undertaken should this be relevant for any topic that the Committee is reviewing.

3. Climate Change:

- 3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

This is a forward plan of topics under consideration by the Select Committee, therefore this section is not applicable to this work report. The Committee will consider climate change when approaching topics that impact upon our carbon footprint / energy consumption.

- 3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

This is a forward plan of topics under consideration by the Select Committee, therefore this section is not applicable to this work report. The Committee will consider climate change when approaching topics that impact upon our carbon footprint / energy consumption.

WORK PROGRAMME – POLICY & RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE

Topic	Issue	Reason for inclusion	Status and Outcomes	23 Jan 2014	10 April 2014	24 July 2014	23 Oct 2014
Overview/Pre-Scrutiny - <i>To maintain an overview of Policy and Resources issues, and to consider proposed scrutiny topics for inclusion in the work programme.</i>							
Pre-scrutiny	Revenue and Capital Budget	To pre scrutinise the budget proposals for the Policy & Resources portfolio, prior to approval by the Executive Member.	Considered annually in January.	✓			
Overview	Performance	To monitor how performance is managed corporately, and consider the performance information to support identification of areas to focus scrutiny.	'Open for Business' Plan considered October 2011, and full year performance against the plan considered July 2012. Members requested to consider the performance report annually. Update presentation received July 2013.			✓	
Overview	Priority setting and Performance Management	To comment on the Plan to follow on from 'Open For Business'.	Item received Oct 2013 on the 'Shaping Hampshire' strategic plan. Requested delivery plan circulated when available.				

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<p>Overview</p>	<p>a) Economic Development</p> <p>b) Changes to funding streams</p> <p>c) IT developments and issues</p>	<p>a) Member interest in action by the County Council to support the Hampshire economy in a difficult economic climate.</p> <p>b) Member interest in understanding the impact on the County Council of changes to funding streams received by the County Council from central government.</p> <p>c) Monitoring contribution of IT to change programmes, major projects (e.g. rural broadband) and policy issues in relation to underpinning council services (e.g. disaster recovery plans)</p>	<p>a) Update last received April 2013. As of Nov 2013 Economic Development now sits within the remit of the Economy Transport & Environment Select Committee. July 2013 Member interest in update, as business rates will be a key funding stream in future.</p> <p>b) Item on Business Rates retention heard April 2012. Interest in Community Infrastructure Levy – note this is also on the work programme of the Environment & Transportation Select Committee.</p> <p>c) Update has been considered annually, usually at the Autumn meeting. Last update received Oct 2012, next update due Oct 2013. Aug 2013 Chairman request to postpone due to agenda pressures.</p>	<p>✓ (c)</p>			

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	d) Employee Engagement	d) Member interest in opportunities for employees to suggest improvements to working practices/service delivery.	d) Employee engagement item heard July 2012 including 'Employee Voice'. Member interest in future update. Note – quarterly updates on suggestions received through 'Employee Voice' and action taken is published on the intranet.				
Overview	Budget Monitoring	<p>(a) Final Accounts considered at summer meeting, to see how the budget was managed for the year compared to plan.</p> <p>(b) Medium Term Financial Strategy – considered when appropriate to provide longer term financial context.</p>	<p>(a) Last considered July 2013. In 2012 recommendation that Select Committee Chairmen attend Cabinet Members budget preparation meetings – took place December 2012.</p> <p>(b) MTFS last considered July 2013.</p>			✓ (a)	

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Scrutiny Review - <i>to scrutinise, in-depth, priority areas agreed by the Committee</i>							
None at this time							

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Real-time Scrutiny - to scrutinise light-touch items agreed by the Committee, through working groups or items at formal meetings.							
Corporate Efficiency workstreams 2013/14 – planning for 2015	To consider planning to prepare for anticipated further reductions in central government funding from 2015.	Members identified from consideration of the budget in January 2013 that further corporate workstreams were due to be developed in 2013.	Presentation received July 2013 on priority corporate policy areas. Chairman to work with Director of Policy & Governance to identify areas with potential for future scrutiny.				
Consultation Policy	Whether improvements could be made to how the County Council engages with the public.	Members were aware of examples of consultations that had not been well received by the public, and wanted to review corporate guidance on consultations.	Briefing received to April 2012 meeting on corporate work undertaken to consolidate guidance on consultation. Update received April 2013 on progress, including Borough Transport consultation as an example. (April 2013 request that future update include developments in use of social media as an engagement tool). Update received Oct 2013 – initiated working group.				

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New Schools Parking Provision	To consider the Council's policy in relation to parking provision outside schools.	Members were aware of examples from their areas of difficulties experienced when parents drop off children to school.	Chairman of Environment & Transportation Select Committee attended a working group led by the ETE Department on this in late 2012 and gave a verbal update to this committee Jan 2013. Further update could be fed back if the working group continues in the new administration.				
Public Health	How public health priorities have been integrated into the wider work of the County Council.	In January 2013 Members noted that the Public Health budget comes within the Policy & Resources budget heading, and wished to understand more about the role of public health once it became a function of the County Council (in April 2013).	At the April 2013 meeting of the Select Committee Members recommended that the Cabinet formed after the May 2013 election include an Executive Member whose remit included public health. Planning to scrutinise this topic needs to take account of the role of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in scrutinising health issues.				

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Monitoring Scrutiny Outcomes - <i>to examine responses to the Committee's reports or comments and check on subsequent progress.</i>							
Recruitment and Retention of Staff	Light touch scrutiny in 2009 regarding how the County Council manages its workforce.	Member interest in ensuring the County Council has a workforce fit for the future in a changing environment for local government.	In 2011 the committee considered the County Council's sickness absence policy. Update in October 2012 on developments to the policy. July 2013 members requested to receive quarterly updates on performance against sickness absence targets. Item received Oct 2013 – confirmed further updates only required if absence falls below previous years for 3 consecutive months.				
Collation of Annual Report of Select Committee activity	To support oversight of the scrutiny function, and the role of this committee to ensure scrutiny activity is having impact and being evaluated.	The constitution requires that this committee report to full Council annually providing a summary of the activity of the select committees	In recent years this has been prepared by financial year. The report for 2012/13 was approved by the Select Committee in April 2013, and reported to full Council in July 2013. July 2013 members requested in future the annual report focus on evaluating the effectiveness of the scrutiny undertaken over the past year.		✓		

Future topics:

- Communication of Local service changes to local people and local members – issue raised at April 2013 meeting. Need to identify how to approach. (note links to consultation item elsewhere on the work programme)
- Cost effectiveness of contracts including sub contracting arrangements (Cllr Moore, reference Amey sub contracting bridge repairs for a fee above the cost passed on to the sub contractor) – Information about Amey contract circulated to Members Oct 2013, Item on performance monitoring of Amey contract on work programme for E&T Select Committee
- Effectiveness of the Health and Wellbeing Board (Cllr Pat West) – to allow time to get going before reviewing (and consider role of HOSC and S&HP SC to scrutinise this)