

## **Scrutiny Annual Report: April 2013 to March 2014**

**Select Committee:** Policy and Resources

**Report of Chairman:** Councillor Jonathan Glen

**Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** None initiated in this period

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

### **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**

Members pre-scrutinised the revenue and capital budget for 2014/15 onwards for the Policy & Resources portfolio at their January 2014 meeting. Following questions, Members agreed with the recommendations set out to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources in relation to both the revenue and capital budget. Some Members of the committee had concerns about proposals to cease the Accredited Community Safety Service, which were passed on to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources (however not as a formal recommendation as not a majority view).

### **Policy Review:**

*Consultation* - At the April 2013 and October 2013 meetings the Committee considered the County Councils approach to consultation and work taking place to develop corporate consultation guidance. As a result of the October 2013 meeting a Working Group was established to feed in Members views on the draft corporate guidance. This Working Group is expected to report back to a future meeting of the Select Committee in 2014/15.

*Corporate Priorities 2013-17* - At the October 2013 meeting the Executive Member for Policy & Resources was questioned regarding the corporate priorities laid out in the refreshed strategic plan 'Shaping Hampshire' and how performance against the plan would be monitored.

*Partnership Working* - At the October 2013 meeting the committee considered the work taking place to progress key corporate policy areas such as increased partnership working across the public sector and improvements in how services are delivered in communities. This topic is due to be pursued further at the April 2014 meeting of the committee.

*Transformation to 2015* - At the January 2014 meeting the Chief Executive presented the County Council's strategy for managing the budget reductions required up to 2015/16 to place Hampshire County Council in a strong position to continue to provide quality public services.

### **Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:**

- Economic Development - the committee considered economic development issues at the April 2013 meeting. Under the new administration, scrutiny of this area now sits with the Economy Transport & Environment Select Committee
- Census Data – the committee received an update in April 2013 on the recently published 2011 census data and how this was being analysed to support service provision

- Financial context – at the first meeting under the new administration the committee was briefed on the financial context for the County Council (July 2013)
- Performance context – at the first meeting under the new administration the committee was briefed on the performance context for the County Council (July 2013)
- Priority Corporate Policy Areas – at the first meeting under the new administration the committee was briefed on priority corporate policy areas, to support consideration of future work programme items (July 2013)
- Managing Attendance – the performance update received at the July 2013 meeting indicated that the corporate stretch target for sickness absence had not been met. The committee considered a report on this at the October 2013 meeting. Members were satisfied that appropriate measures were in place to manage attendance and heard that sickness absence had been reduced compared to previous years to below the average for County Councils.
- Annual IT Update – the committee received the annual update on IT issues at the January 2014 meeting, recognising the contribution of IT to a range of corporate change projects

#### **Oversight of other Select Committees:**

The Policy & Resources Select Committee has oversight of the work undertaken by the other Select Committees. This has been undertaken through this committee receiving proposals for task and finish groups for approval, undertaking regular monitoring of work programmes facilitated by Select Committee Chairmen reporting at the quarterly meetings, and the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Select Committee attending the meetings of the other Select Committees as an observer.

#### **Upcoming topics:**

- Annual Corporate Performance Monitoring
- Joint Working with Communities continued monitoring
- Other topics to be determined