

AT A MEETING of the CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Thursday, 2 September 2014.

PRESENT

Chairman:

p Councillor Anna McNair-Scott

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Frank Pearce

Councillors:

a	Phil Bailey	a	Fiona Mather
p	Peter Chegwyn	a	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
		p	Peter Latham (Conservative Substitute)

Also in attendance:

Councillor Keith Chapman – Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside

62. **BROADCAST ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman announced that she was waiving Standing Order 10 for the purposes of this Select Committee meeting to permit the press and members of the public to film and record the proceedings, with the exception of any item of business that has been excluded in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. Anyone remaining at the meeting was consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recordings for broadcasting purposes.

63. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailey, Mather and Stallard. It was noted that Councillor Latham was in attendance as the Conservative Substitute Member.

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

64. **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 any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

65. **MINUTES**

Noting a typing error in Minute 59, the Minutes of the Committee, held on 3 July 2014, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

With regards to the resolution at Minute 61, it was agreed that this position should be further discussed at a future meeting.

Add to work programme

66. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received.

67. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that the new accessible play area for the Royal Victoria Country Park had been successful and very well utilised throughout the school holidays.

The Library Service's Mythical Maze reading challenge was drawn to Members' attention. It was reported that participation had been high and the event had been a success.

An event commemorating the First World War had taken place in the Great Hall with 1100 visitors. This was alongside various other events throughout the County. The Chairman had also recently visited the Artists Rifles exhibition and recommended it to other Members.

It was announced that the Winchester Cathedral archived were now housed in the Hampshire Records Office. This included the "Pipe Roll" records, which provide a valuable insight into working class people. It was explained that a digitisation programme was underway to meet the demands of academics

to view these records. Members expressed an interest in visiting the Records Office and it was agreed that this should be considered in conjunction with a future meeting.

Add to work programme

68. **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT**

The Executive Member for Culture and Communities gave a verbal report to the Committee. He confirmed that items 7, 8 and 9 on the Committee's agenda were also due for consideration at his forthcoming decision day. He outlined the other items that he would also be taking a decision on. He noted that grants decisions and a cycling strategy would be considered in December and explained that he had asked for the parking situation at Lepe beach to be investigated, and reported to the Select Committee.

Add to work programme

The Executive Member highlighted actions that were being taken in relation to the anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, as well as anniversaries of the Gallipoli landings and the battle of Waterloo. He announced that a production of Henry V was being organised to take place in the Great Hall, in commemoration of the anniversary of the battle of Agincourt.

Members of the Select Committee welcomed the Executive Member's report. They were particularly interested in the revenue potential for the County of anniversary events and the Executive Member confirmed that a future calendar of significant milestones was in place.

69. **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THREE SMALL LIBRARIES AND THE MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 7 in the Minute Book regarding the outcomes of a consultation process to change service provision in specific areas.

The financial background to the need to make savings across the County Council was explained and the parameters of the consultation process were outlined. It was confirmed that the proposals in each area of the recommendations to the Executive Member were based on the feedback received through the consultation process and subsequent discussions with the local communities. On this basis, it was explained how the proposals to continue discussions in Kingsclere and Milford on Sea had come about; similarly the proposal to replace Greyshott library with a mobile stop were outlined. The proposals to reduce the mobile service by 98 stops, on the basis of the consultation responses were highlighted. The background to the Family Library Link service was detailed and it was noted that for historic reasons it did not provide full coverage of the County and that investigation was underway as to whether a similar service could be delivered on a more

universal basis in the future. Due to the reliance on the vehicle, which had a short term remaining on its lease, it was explained that the proposal was for the service to end at the end of the vehicle's lease period.

Members expressed some concern that an increasing reliance on volunteers posed a significant risk to service provision and also felt that retaining the status quo should have been a clearer option in the consultation. It was noted that a full review of future library provision was underway and it was accepted that the service needed to move with the times. The Committee was regretful that cuts were necessary, however they recognised that the proposed cuts were based on both financial pressures and low usage.

The recommendations to the Executive Member were considered. A vote was held on recommendation "iv", with the result of 8 in favour and 4 against. An amendment was proposed to recommendation "v" that the Committee receive an update on alternatives to the Family Library Link service in approximately 12 months; this was also voted on with the result of 12 in favour 0 against. It was therefore

RESOLVED:

That the Culture and Communities Select Committee recommend to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside that:

- i. The provision of a library service to Greyshott is changed and the library is closed on 31 December 2014 and replaced with a weekly mobile library stop.
- ii. Discussions continue with community groups in Kingsclere until the end of October, with a further report to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside at his decision day on 4 December 2014.
- iii. Discussions continue with the Trustees of the Village Hall at Milford-on-Sea until the end of October, with a further report to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside at his decision day on 4 December 2014.
- iv. The number of stops made by a mobile library is reduced by 98 and one vehicle is taken out of service.
- v. The Family Library Link service continues until May 2016 when the vehicle's lease expires. The Select Committee receive an update on alternatives to the service at their meeting in autumn 2015.

Add to work programme

70. **PROPOSED NEW GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SPORT HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT TEAM**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Culture,

Communities and Business Services, item 8 in the Minute Book, regarding new governance arrangements for the Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight Team which is hosted by Hampshire County Council.

The Committee were introduced to Adam Walker from Oaks Consultancy, who had undertaken analysis of the future governance options for Sport Hampshire. Adam detailed the consultation that had been carried out with partners, the analysis given to the options considered and the findings of this work. In particular he compared the current position with the projected impact of various options in the future. The conclusion was drawn that the organisation could benefit from a move towards greater autonomy, possibly through transition into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The Committee noted that officers intended to carry out further investigation of this option and also the option of a Company Ltd by Guarantee with charitable objectives

Members discussed the financial situation of Sport Hampshire, including the respective funding streams from Sport England and the contributions of each partner Authority. The level of risk involved in such a move was questioned and the example of Somerset was given, which had reduced its reliance on Sport England to 20 percent. There was some concern that the proposed transition would lead to a loss of democratic control and officers were encouraged to fully examine all the options.

RESOLVED:

That the Culture and Communities Select Committee:

- i. Recommends to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside that he endorses the work that has been undertaken so far on the future governance of SHIOW
- ii. Asks for a report on the viability of options of new governance arrangements for SHIOW be presented to a meeting of the Select Committee in 2015 for a recommendation to the Executive Member Culture, Recreation and Countryside for a decision to proceed.

Add to work Programme

71. **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND RECREATION GRANTS 2015/16**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 9 in the Minute Book, regarding some changes to the revenue grants that fall within the remit of the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside.

The current situation, based on recommendations made by the Select Committee several years ago, was outlined to Members and it was explained that financial pressures meant that the position now needed further review. The proposed immediate reductions were outlined as was the proposal for a full review to establish a longer term solution. Members recalled that a particular aim of the current situation had been to protect smaller organisations and expressed their commitment to continue with this approach.

An additional recommendation was proposed by Councillor Wood and seconded by Councillor Rolt, that:

“That the Select Committee recommend that the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to explain the difficulties and to ask him to consider possible solutions.”

A vote was held with the result of 5 for and 7 against.

Members considered the recommendations in the report and

RESOLVED:

That the Culture and Communities Select Committee recommend to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside that for the 2015/16 grants, he agrees to:

- i. Reduce the maximum grant awarded from the Organisational Change Fund from £10,000 to £5000.
- ii. Reduce the maximum grant awarded from the Activity Grant from £5000 to £3000.
- iii. Reduce the Investment Fund grants by 3% to every organisation.

That the Culture and Communities Select Committee set up a Task and Finish Working Group as soon as is practicable in 2015 to review and make recommendations for these grants for subsequent years.

72. **UPDATE ON THE LIBRARY TASK AND FINISH GROUP AND THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE'S TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME TO 2020**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 10 in the Minute Book providing an update on the progress of the Library Task and Finish Working Group.

The report was introduced and the progress of the Working Group was outlined. The valuable input of the Trade Unions to the process was recognised.

RESOLVED:

That the Select Committee endorse the work of the Library Task and Finish Working Group and the Transformation Programme methodology to develop a Strategy to 2020 for Hampshire's Library and Information Service.

73. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Corporate Services, item 11 in the Minute Book, which set out the Committee's work programme.

It was noted that a number of additions to the Work Programme had been identified throughout the preceding items.

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme be updated to reflect the additional items that had been identified.

Chairman