

AT A MEETING of the POLICY AND RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Thursday, 23 October 2014.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Elaine Still

Vice-Chairman
p Councillor Keith Evans

Councillors:

p Ray Bolton	p Andy Moore
p Adrian Collett	p Patricia Stallard
a Criss Connor	p Mark Staplehurst
p Keith House	a Bruce Tennent
a Robin McIntosh	p Ken Thornber
p Anna McNair Scott	p Sharyn Wheale

Also in attendance:

Cllr Andrew Joy, Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships

56. **BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

57. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bruce Tennent, who was attending a meeting for members of the Pension Fund Panel. The liberal democrat substitute Member had been invited but was not in attendance. Apologies were also received from Cllr Criss Connor who was recovering from an operation. Cllr Frank Rust the labour substitute Member was in attendance in his place. Apologies were also received from Cllr Robin McIntosh and Cllr Edward Heron the conservative substitute Member attended in his place.

58. **DECLARATIONS 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

speaking in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 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.

59. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Policy & Resources Select Committee meeting held on 24 July 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

60. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received at this meeting.

61. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman highlighted that a briefing had been arranged for members of this committee on the Digital Strategy for 18 November 2014.

62. **TRANSFORMATION TO 2017**

The Chief Executive gave a presentation on 'Transformation to 2017' (see Item 6 in the Minute Book).

Members heard:

- That of the £102 million target of savings to achieve under 'transformation to 2015' £46 million had already been secured
- That a further £98 million would need to be found under the next phase 'transformation to 2017'
- Twelve themes had been identified as areas where these savings could be found. Opportunity assessments would be undertaken over the next six months on these areas
- The previous round of savings had focused on back office functions. In the next round it was likely that front line spend would need to be considered. The approach would be to innovate, and streamline processes
- Greater integration with health services would be a key focus in future, driven by the Better Care Fund
- It was planned to identify savings targets for each department by spring 2015, to then allow around twenty months to make the savings in time for March 2017
- While there was significant focus on reducing the

costs of public services, the County Council would still be spending £2 billion on providing public services and this remained the core business

- A report on 'transformation to 2017' was due to be presented to Cabinet the following week, which was proposing a change to the budget preparation timetable in 2015. It was planned to set the budget for 2016 in July 2015, to allow additional time to prepare

Following questions, Members heard:

- That the County Council's private sector partner Deloitte would be used to ensure change programmes were robust, for example it was anticipated a digital director would be put in place to ensure the digital strategy delivered as required
- That while integration between health and social care was a challenge, there was good commitment from health colleagues to work with the County Council on this agenda

Members commented:

- If processes are moving to digital, Members will need support to be able to follow up queries on behalf of residents

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Executive be thanked for the presentation. The committee note the challenge faced by the County Council and request to be kept informed as 'transformation to 2017' develops.

Keep Tt2017 on work programme for future update

63. **CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY**

The Director of Policy & Governance gave a presentation on Crime & Disorder scrutiny (see Item 7 in the Minute Book) with support from the Executive Member for Communities & Partnerships.

Members heard:

- That the Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced the duty for local authorities to scrutinise crime & disorder issues; at the county level in two tier areas through scrutiny of the County Strategy Group
- Following the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners in 2011 the funding for crime & disorder projects which previously came through the County Council became at the discretion of the Police & Crime Commissioner instead
- District council scrutiny functions scrutinise the work of district level crime & disorder reduction partnerships, the Police & Crime Panel scrutinises

the work of the Police & Crime Commissioner, the County Council committee allocated the crime & disorder scrutiny duty scrutinises the work of the County Strategy Group principally through the County Community Safety Agreement

- Workshops were planned to provide input to the next iteration of the Agreement, working with the Police & Crime Commissioner to ensure work was aligned
- Recently the County Strategy Group had hosted an event with a thematic focus on working with perpetrators of domestic abuse. The event involved over 100 delegates from across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

Following questions Members heard:

- That a useful role of the County Strategy Group was to provide a forum for the various organisations involved in crime & disorder work to discuss specific issues and consider their collective spending power
- That the scrutiny function could provide an advisory role to help work on solutions in thematic areas

Members commented:

- That it was important this committee didn't duplicate work being undertaken elsewhere
- The thematic approach taken by the County Strategy Group was welcomed
- That the Police & Crime Commissioner had tasked a group of young people to report to him about crime & disorder issues and the resulting report could be circulated to members
- While it was acknowledged the committee held no powers over the Police & Crime Commissioner, that Members were interested in inviting him to speak about his role and priorities

RESOLVED:

That the officer and Executive Member be thanked for the introduction to crime and disorder scrutiny, and the Chairman work with officers to develop the next steps for the committee's scrutiny of this area.

64. **ANNUAL IT UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources providing the annual update on Information Technology issues (see Item 8 in the Minute Book).

Members heard:

- That IT provided support across the Council including contributing to significant change programmes such

Young People's report on crime & disorder be circulated to members

PCC be invited to speak at a future meeting

Chairman take forward next steps

as the Integrated Business Centre (IBC)

- That over 40% of IT activity was now supporting external organisations (including schools)
- Recruitment and retention remained a challenge in a buoyant IT market

Following questions Members heard:

- That processes were in place to manage how IT work was prioritised. If external partners had discretionary projects these would compete on an equal footing with internal projects
- The IT helpdesk was staffed until 6pm. Calls after that would currently divert to staff manning the data centre who could undertake certain tasks. However, it was planned in future that the data centre would not be staffed 24 hours a day, in order to make savings.
- There would be plans in place for a response if there was a fault with critical IT services out of office hours
- The Childrens Services Transformation work referred to work to enable improved sharing of information between the different IT systems used in Childrens Services
- Planning work is taking place to prepare for the IT implications of the changes arising from the Care Act

Members commented:

- If the County Council was moving services to digital streams in future, consideration would need to be given to the provision of technical support out of office hours in order to make this work

RESOLVED:

- The committee thank the officer and note the report
- That an item on the Integrated Business Centre (IBC) be added to the work programme

IBC added to Work programme

65. **ROLL OUT OF SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

The Director of Culture Communities & Business Services gave a presentation regarding the Hampshire superfast broadband programme (see Item 9 in the Minute Book).

Members heard:

- That currently around 80% of Hampshire could access 'superfast' broadband, and the Government had instigated a programme to raise the level of access across the country with a target of 90% coverage by the end of 2015
- It was the government's aspiration to achieve 95% coverage by the end of 2017 and 99% by the end of 2018, although it was acknowledged this may be

difficult to achieve

- BT had won all the bids for implementing superfast broadband across the country so far
- The programme used a gap funding model, and therefore focused on areas where the most people would benefit from the investment. The public sector subsidy covered the difference between the cost of providing the service compared to the anticipated costs that could be recouped from subscribers to the service.
- The Hampshire County Council project was on course to deliver 90% coverage of Hampshire by the end of 2015 and at one of the lowest costs per premise compared to other councils
- The programme purely means the infrastructure would then be available in those areas – if the public want to access superfast broadband they would still need to pay for the service through a provider, connection is not automatic

Following questions Members heard:

- That it was BT policy not to change which cabinet a particular property is connected to
- The number of properties able to access superfast broadband as a result of investment was closely audited
- Providing superfast broadband capacity to the last 10% of the population would be more expensive, and the latest projections suggested not all would be reached for the almost £20 million available to invest. It is anticipated that the next round of investment will lift availability to more than 95%
- There is also an Innovation Fund used to fund trials of new technology that could help to reach 'hard to reach' areas, however these are long term trials and therefore broader implementation may be further off
- BT were also working with some communities on self funded solutions, where the community was able to raise funds towards the project.
- The County Council was engaging with communities to explain what options were possible for them
- A website had been launched in July which the public could use to check when the programme would reach their area, with interactive maps, and the public could register for email updates. Members would also be alerted in future when cabinets were upgraded in their area
- The subsidy of public funds per premise was around £170 under the current programme

Members commented:

- That they would like to be updated in future regarding progress with alternative technologies to help reach

the remaining 5%

RESOLVED:

That the officers be thanked for the update and their work on the provision of superfast broadband in Hampshire be supported.

66. **APPROVAL OF TASK & FINISH GROUPS**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Policy & Governance (see Item 10 in the Minute Book) regarding a task and finish group planned by the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee. The terms of reference was brought to this committee for approval as part of its role to coordinate the scrutiny function.

RESOLVED:

That the Task & Finish Group on Supporting People Services be approved.

67. **WORK PROGRAMME AND ONGOING WORK ACROSS ALL SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

Members noted the work programme for the Committee and the overview of scrutiny activity across all Committees (see Item 11 in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

That the work programme is agreed, subject to any amendments arising from this meeting.

Chairman, 22 January 2015