

AT A MEETING of the CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Monday, 19 January 2015.

PRESENT

Chairman:

p Councillor Anna McNair-Scott

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Frank Pearce

Councillors:

p Phil Bailey	p Fiona Mather
p Peter Chegwyn	p Patricia Stallard
a 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 Frank Rust (substitute Labour Group Member)

Also in attendance:

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

86. **BROADCAST 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.

87. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Shaun Cully and it was noted that Councillor Frank Rust was substituting for him.

It was also noted that Councillor Criss Connor was in attendance at the invitation of the Chairman as he had been co-opted on to the Countryside Access Working Group, whose report was due to be considered. (Minute 94 refers)

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

88. **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 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.

89. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 20 November 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

90. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received.

91. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman congratulated the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside on behalf of the Committee on being made MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours, for his services to arts and culture.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman also expressed sadness at the recent death of former County Councillor Ted Gale, who had served on a previous incarnation of the Select Committee for many years.

The Chairman highlighted the current "Made in China" exhibition at the Willis Museum in Basingstoke. She reported on a recent visit she had made to the Whitchurch Silk Mill and recommended the forthcoming Petersfield music festival to Members.

92. **REVENUE BUDGET REPORT FOR CULTURE,
RECREATION AND COUNTRYSIDE FOR 2015/16**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services and the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 6 in the Minute Book regarding the Culture, Recreation and Countryside budget for 2015/16.

Members were presented with an overview of the broader corporate situation, breaking down spending and income. The medium term financial strategy and the reserves policy were also set out. In particular it was noted that only £81 million of reserves were unallocated.

The specific Culture, Recreation and Countryside budget was introduced and it was explained that this fell within a larger Culture, Communities and Business Services budget, therefore a number of benefits were realised through departmental savings. A number of elements were highlighted, including the Capital Programme and staffing numbers. It was confirmed that no new savings proposals were being made for 2015/16 as implementation continued for the programmes that had been agreed previously. Departmental challenges, including the implementation of a 12 percent spending reduction, the response to Enhanced Voluntary Redundancy (EVR), changes in Countryside Access, Library provision, grants and Country Parks were also highlighted to Members.

The Committee discussed a number of key elements of the budget, including staffing numbers and EVR, the capacity of the Archives, the upkeep of Calshot and the management of the Basingstoke Canal.

The recommendations in the report were proposed and agreed. Councillors Chegwyn, Bailey and Gurden abstained from supporting them

RESOLVED:

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

- The annual review of income and charges (as set out in Appendix 1).
- The revised budget for 2014/15 (as set out in Appendix 2).
- The summary budget for 2015/16 (as set out in Appendix 2).
- The workforce implications of the proposed budget for 2015/16 (as set out in Appendix 3).

93. **PROPOSED MOVE OF EMSWORTH LIBRARY**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 8 in the Minute Book, regarding proposals to move Emsworth library from its current location in a leasehold building in Emsworth to a nearby community building.

The context and benefits of the proposed move were explained and it was noted that the majority of concerns raised through consultation related to the position of the library within the proposed building, which had subsequently been addressed. It was confirmed that in comparison to the original premises, the new building was more flexible and Members welcomed the anticipated cost reductions.

It was proposed by Councillor Wood and seconded by Councillor Chegwyn, that the Select Committee resolve to recommend a further round of public consultation be held on the updated plans. Several Members felt this was unnecessary given that no deputations or expressions of concern had been received in relation to the report to the Executive Member. A vote was held, with the result that 5 Members were in favour and 8 were against.

Accordingly, following a vote on the recommendations in the report, with the result that 8 Members were in favour and 5 Members abstained, it was

RESOLVED:

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

- i. Emsworth library moves from its current location in Emsworth to the Emsworth Community Association building in Emsworth before the lease on the current library building expires in 2018.
- ii. Officers identify potential alternative uses for the existing leased library building

94. **DRAFT HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS PLAN**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 9 in the Minute Book, regarding a revised Countryside Access Plan.

The new Head of Countryside access introduced herself and was welcomed by the Committee.

The position of countryside access within the range of other countryside initiatives was set out and Members were reminded of the need for the updated access Plan. The process of revising the Plan was explained, including the input of the Task and Finish Working Group and liaison with the Local Access Forum, the public and other stakeholders. It was confirmed that the outcomes of this research were consistent and had established the need to retain existing priorities, but to increase the emphasis on multi-use access.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Connor addressed the Committee, to endorse the draft Plan and recommend its adoption.

The new draft document was presented and it was noted that it could be divided into three key policy areas: strategic, working with other stakeholders and information and education. Members heard that the Plan was designed to be realistic and flexible, whilst meeting expectations.

The Committee discussed a number of specific details of the Plan, including management of multi-use routes and disabled access as well as elements of the public consultation process. It was confirmed that input from disabled users had been received.

RESOLVED:

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

- i. Notes the Assessment of Needs, the work of the Culture and Communities Select Committee and its Task & Finish Group in guiding the process
- ii. Endorses the draft Countryside Access Plan 2015-25, pending the outcome of public consultation
- iii. Supports the proposal from the Task and Finish Group to transfer the current existing grants of £59,965 to the Countryside Service, in direct support of on-going volunteer projects in the Countryside Service.
- iv. Approves the proposed public consultation on the draft Countryside Access Plan

95. **GRANTS REVIEW TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 10 in the Minute Book, regarding the proposed Working Group.

The report was received and it was

RESOLVED:

That the Select Committee set up a Task and Finish Group with the Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

Councillors McNair-Scott, Wall, Wood and Chegwyn were appointed to the Working Group and it was agreed that a further two Conservative Members and a Labour Member would be identified and notified to the Clerk.

96. **UPDATE ON BIG THEME AND HAMPSHIRE CULTURAL TRUST**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Corporate Services, regarding the Big Theme and Cultural Trust.

The background to and elements of the on going relationship with the Trust were set out, in particular the governance and legal arrangements.

Members received a presentation, which provided an update on the launch of the trust and the transfer of staff and resources. Performance was outlined and the success of the Big Theme exhibitions was detailed. Highlights planned for 2015/16 were presented, including the new Big Theme of Dinosaurs. Members heard about the strategic ambition, the vision and goals of the Trust, including development plans.

The Committee welcomed the presentation and discussed key points, including the choice of the Big Theme subject and visitor numbers.

It was proposed and

RESOLVED:

That the Select Committee welcome and note the update and invite the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Hampshire Cultural Trust to provide a further update at a future meeting of

the Select Committee.

97. **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.

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme be noted, subject to any amendments arising from items considered at this meeting.

Chairman