

## **Scrutiny Annual Report: April 2014 to March 2015**

**Select Committee:** Economy, Transport & Environment

**Report of Chairman:** Cllr Sharyn Wheale

### **In-depth Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:**

In April 2014 the Select Committee agreed the report and recommendations arising from the scrutiny of Flood Risk Management undertaken in late 2013. In July 2014 the Committee received an update on responses to the recommendations made. The Executive Member for Economy Transport & Environment and Government Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs had welcomed the recommendations. The topic remains on the work programme for future updates in 2015.

### **Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:**

As a result of consideration of the Future for Highways Services at the April 2014 meeting, in July 2014 the Select Committee agreed to establish two Task & Finish Groups on highways:

- 'Highways Phase 1' regarding trialling new ways of working during the extension of the current Highways Maintenance contract
- 'Highways Phase 2' regarding the future options for carrying out the highways maintenance service following the end of the current contract

The outcomes from both Task & Finish groups were approved by the Select Committee in January 2015 and the recommendations reported to the Executive Member for Economy Transport & Environment.

**Statutory Duties Undertaken:** not applicable

### **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:**

- In April 2014 the Committee considered a report on the Future of Highway Service Delivery Arrangements. The committee made a recommendation that the current contractor be granted a one year extension, rather than a two year extension as recommended in the report. This recommendation was accepted by the Executive Member for Economy Transport & Environment.
- In April 2014 the Committee considered a report on a revised Statement of Community Involvement and supported the document to the Executive Member.
- In April 2014 the Committee considered a report on The Future Strategy for Waste and Resource Management in Hampshire. The committee supported the approach, subject to requesting opportunity to consider the detail arising prior to further decisions being taken.
- In October 2014 the Committee considered a report and presentation on the Passenger Transport Review and Hampshire Concessionary Travel Scheme 2015/16. The Committee received a deputation in relation to this item from a representative of Basingstoke Dial a Ride. The Select Committee supported the proposals in the report, subject to two additional recommendations relating to bus subsidies in the Fareham & Gosport area, and the Basingstoke Dial a Ride service. The additional recommendations were not accepted by the Executive Member.
- In October 2014 the Committee considered a report regarding policy changes to the Household Waste Recycling Centres service. The Committee supported

the proposals to the Executive Member with some additional recommendations. The additional recommendations were not accepted by the Executive Member.

- In October 2014 the Committee considered a report regarding the Waste Disposal Contract. The Select Committee supported the proposal to extend the contract.
- In January 2015 the Committee received a report regarding Changes to Household Waste Recycling Centre Hours of Operation. The Select Committee recommended a different option to that recommended in the report, to better reflect the feedback received through public consultation. The Executive Member accepted the recommendation by the Committee.

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

**Referrals:** A Motion was referred to this committee from County Council regarding Urgent and Emergency Utility Works on the Highway, which was considered in January 2015. The committee agreed recommendations to make to County Council, which were accepted. It was therefore agreed that the Chairman of the Select Committee and proposer of the Motion meet with the utility companies undertaking the highest proportion of immediate works, and that the Committee review the situation in 2016.

**Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**

In October 2014 the Committee received an update on the savings required by the Economy Transport & Environment Department for 2015.

In January 2015 the Committee considered the Capital and Revenue Budget for the Economy Transport and Environment Department for 2015/16, prior to approval by the Executive Member. The Select Committee supported the proposed budget.

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

In April 2014 the committee received a report and presentation on Economic Development – Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Growth Deals. The committee established a small Working Group to consider the issues in further detail and report back to the full committee as required. It is anticipated this group will report back in 2015.

In July 2014 the Committee received a report regarding the Flood Incident Investigations undertaken following the flooding experienced in Hampshire in the winter of 2013/14.

**Upcoming topics:**

In 2015/16 the Select Committee will be:

- continuing to monitor flood risk management
- following up the recommendations made by the two highways task and finish groups
- scrutinising the Parish Lengthsman Scheme
- pre-scrutinising any significant service changes arising from the ongoing transformation programme