

Scrutiny Annual Report: April 2014 to March 2015

Select Committee: Policy & Resources

Report of Chairman: Cllr Elaine Still

In-depth Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored: none in this period

Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored: During 2013/14 a working group of the Select Committee met to consider the development of corporate policy regarding how the County Council consults. In July 2014 the Committee approved the outcomes from this Working Group and recommended a draft policy to the Cabinet. The Cabinet agreed the policy in February 2015, with some minor amendments following subsequent developments in legal advice nationally. The Committee retains the topic on the work programme to monitor the implementation of the policy in 2016.

Statutory Duties Undertaken: Following the discontinuation of the Safe & Healthy People Select Committee in May 2014, the duty to scrutinise Crime and Disorder issues was allocated to the Policy & Resources Select Committee. The Select Committee received an introductory Item on this topic in October 2014. The Committee were mindful that the Police & Crime Commissioner is held to account by the Police & Crime Panel, and that district level Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships are scrutinised by District Council scrutiny committees. It was agreed that the Chairman work with officers to identify the aspects to which this Committee could add value, for further scrutiny in 2015.

Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions: none in this period

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

Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance: In July 2014 the Committee considered the 2013/14 end of year financial report, an update to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Capital Programme Review.

In July 2014 the Committee also considered the Annual Performance Report for 2013/14 against the Shaping Hampshire Plan. Members used this information to inform the work programme for the Committee.

In January 2015 the Committee considered the proposed Revenue Budget for Policy and Resources for 2015/16 and the Capital Programme for 2015/16 to 2017/18. The Committee supported the proposed budget to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources.

Policy Review: In April 2014 the Policy & Resources Select Committee meeting was held at Havant Plaza and Members heard from the joint Chief Executive of Havant Borough Council and East Hampshire District Council and the Director of Policy & Governance at Hampshire County Council, regarding work taking place to join up public services in the Havant area. Members heard that the Plaza co-locates a number of public services under one roof including private and voluntary sector partners, and processes had been redesigned focused on the customer. Mapping of services in a community in Havant had identified that a large number of public

services were provided, and therefore there was opportunity to reduce duplication and simplify and improve the experience for residents. The committee received a further update on this work in July 2014, and will be continuing to monitor developments in 2015.

Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern: In October 2014 the Committee heard from the Chief Executive regarding the Transformation to 2017 programme.

In October 2014 the Committee received an Annual IT Update.

In October 2014 the Committee received a presentation regarding the Roll Out of Superfast Broadband.

Management of the Scrutiny Function/Oversight of Other Scrutiny Committees: This Committee has continued to maintain oversight of the work of the other Select Committees, receiving an update at each meeting.

This committee also considers proposals by the other Select Committees to initiate Task & Finish Groups. This enables this Committee to ensure the resources of the scrutiny function are being focused appropriately on key issues.

Upcoming topics: The committee will continue to scrutinise management of the budget and corporate performance, and undertake the crime and disorder scrutiny duty.

In 2015 the committee is also due to give consideration to scrutiny of the large grants allocated under the Community Buildings Fund.