

Scrutiny Annual Report: April 2014 to March 2015

Select Committee: Culture and Communities

Report of Chairman: Cllr Anna McNair Scott

In-depth Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored: In May 2014 the Select Committee initiated a Task and Finish Working Group on the Future Development of the Library and Information Service. The Select Committee considered an update on the work of this group in September 2014. The work of this Task & Finish Group is continuing in 2015.

Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored: In May 2014 the Select Committee initiated a Task and Finish Working Group regarding development of a revised Countryside Access Strategy. The Committee received an update on the work of this Group in November 2014, and the outcomes of the Task & Finish group were incorporated in the report pre-scrutinised by the Select Committee in January 2015.

In January 2015 the Select Committee agreed to establish a Task and Finish Working Group to Review Grants awarded to cultural and community organisations, in preparation for anticipated funding reductions in 2016/17. The work of this Working Group will continue during 2015.

Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:

- In September 2014 the Select Committee considered the Proposed Changes to Three Small Libraries and the Mobile Library Service. The Committee supported the recommendations to the Executive Member for Culture Recreation and Countryside.
- In September 2014 the Select Committee considered a report regarding analysis of future Governance Arrangements for the Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight Team. The Committee supported the recommendation to the Executive Member for Culture Recreation and Countryside that the viability of the options be considered further.
- In September 2014 the Select Committee considered the Proposed Changes to the Culture Community and Recreation Grants 2015/16. The Committee supported the recommendations to the Executive Member for Culture Recreation and Countryside.
- In November 2014 the Committee considered the Proposed Changes to Kingsclere and Milford-on-Sea Libraries. The Committee supported the recommendations to the Executive Member for Culture Recreation and Countryside.
- In November 2014 the Select Committee considered proposals arising from a review of the opening hours of Lepe Beach Car Park. The Committee supported the recommendations to the Executive Member for Culture Recreation and Countryside.
- In November 2014 the Select Committee considered the proposed Grant Funding for Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire for 2015/2016. The Committee supported the recommendations to the Executive Member for Culture Recreation and Countryside.
- In January 2015 the Select Committee considered the Proposed Move of Emsworth Library and supported the recommendations to the Executive

Member for Culture Recreation and Countryside. (note: this is not now proceeding)

- In January 2015 the Select Committee considered the Draft Hampshire Countryside Access Plan, following the involvement of the Task and Finish Group in its development. The Committee supported the recommendations to the Executive Member for Culture Recreation and Countryside.

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

Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance: In January 2015 the Select Committee considered the proposed Revenue Budget for Culture Recreation and Countryside services for 2015/16. The Committee supported the budget to the Executive Member for Culture Recreation and Countryside.

Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:

- In May 2014 the Select Committee received an update on the Olympic Legacy Programme
- In July 2014 the Select Committee received an update on progress with setting up the Hampshire Cultural Trust
- In July 2014 the Select Committee received an update on the programme to Transform the counties Country Parks to increase their self sufficiency
- In July 2014 the Select Committee received a presentation regarding the work of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Sports Partnership
- In September and November 2014 the Select Committee received a verbal report from the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside providing an update on current work relating to his portfolio
- In January 2015 the Select Committee received a presentation providing an update on the Hampshire Cultural Trust and their 'Big Theme' for 2015/16

Upcoming topics:

- Pre scrutiny of grant funding proposals for 2015/16
- Continue to monitor progress with the Hampshire Cultural Trust and the programme to Transform Country Parks
- Updates on other service areas as required