

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
Policy and Resources Select Committee

PART II

148. SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update on the work of the following Hampshire County Council Select Committees from April 2014 to March 2015: Children & Young People Select Committee, Culture & Communities Select Committee, Economy Transport & Environment Select Committee and Policy & Resources Select Committee. Highlights of each Select Committee's activity are set out below.

2. Following the dissolution of the Safe & Healthy People Select Committee in May 2014, the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC) covers scrutiny of the Adult Social Care and Public Health portfolios (as well as scrutiny of local health services, previously undertaken by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee). The annual report of the HASC is provided elsewhere on this agenda.

149. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

1. **Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** In considering the budget proposals for 2015/16, the Committee expressed concern about the proposed reduction in funding for short breaks for disabled children. The Committee established a Task and Finish Group to understand the Short Breaks Service and its budgetary framework in the context of the service budget for Children with Disabilities, to consider the possible effect of the proposed cut on parents and the children that use the Short Breaks Service, to explore what alternatives are available for families and how the service could be managed more efficiently. The Group reported in July 2014, with final recommendations forwarded to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services.

2. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** A potential call-in of the decision to commence public consultation on proposals to implement a new short break delivery programme was considered but, following a vote, rejected.

3. **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:** The Committee has continued to monitor the 2014/15 revenue budget over the period and considered the Children's Services revenue budget for 2015/16, recommending approval by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services.

4. The Committee received the Ofsted inspection of Children's Services for children in need of care and protection, which was rated as 'good' and 'outstanding' against all 22 criteria.

5. **Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:** *Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services:* The Committee received an overview of this service from the provider, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, and commissioners, following the forwarding of this topic from the Health and Adult Social Care Select

Committee. Members also heard from Healthwatch Hampshire, who noted a high level of satisfaction with the service, but frustration in relation to how it is accessed. Members discussed and questioned a number of the issues raised in the course of the item, including in particular the increase in referrals, waiting times, specialist training for staff, and the number of child specialist therapists available. It was agreed that this topic, and the issues raised as part of it, be reviewed at a future meeting.

6. *Hampshire Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service:* The Annual Report for this service was reviewed by the Committee, where progress was noted in particular against key stage 2 and GCSE results.

7. *Public Health in Schools:* The Committee reviewed the key aspects of the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme for 5-19 year olds.

8. *School Place Planning:* An overview of planning for school places, including the admissions process and management of waiting lists, was heard by the Committee. Members learned that provision was being made for an additional 8000 primary school places over the next three years, which would require a process of consulting with schools on expansion requirements, as well as agreement as part of the Capital Programme. Members resolved to review the strategy for secondary school placements once available, and to receive a monitoring item on primary school places, specifically in relation to the capital programme.

9. **Upcoming topics:** Potential topics for the 2015/16 year, other than those monitoring items described above, include:

- School place planning
- Child Safeguarding
- Public Health in schools
- Special Educational Needs and Disability reforms
- Teenage Pregnancy

150. CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. 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.

4. **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.

5. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** None in this period

6. **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.

7. **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

8. **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

151. ECONOMY TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** None in this period

5. **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.

6. **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.

7. 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.

8. **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.

9. 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.

10. **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

152. POLICY AND RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE

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

2. **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.

3. **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.

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

5. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** None in this period.

6. **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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. **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.

10. **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.

11. **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.

12. 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.

13. **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.

Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm

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