

AT A MEETING of the CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Thursday, 14 September 2015.

**PRESENT**

Chairman:  
p Councillor Anna McNair-Scott  
Vice-Chairman:  
p Councillor Frank Pearce

**Councillors:**

a Phil Bailey	p Mark Kemp-Gee
p Zilliah Brooks	p Fiona Mather
p Peter Chegwyn	p Alan Rice
p Shaun Cully	p Tim Rolt
p Brian Gurden	p John Wall
p Rob Humby	p Chris Wood

**Also in attendance:**

Councillor Andrew Gibson – Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside

109. **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.

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

110. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Bailey.

111. **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.

112. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 2 July 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

113. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received.

114. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that HMS M33 had been formally opened on 6 August 2015. She noted that it was the only remaining First World War warship open to the public.

115. **TRANSFORMATION TO 2017 – REVENUE SAVINGS PROPOSALS**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services and the Director of Corporate Resources, Corporate Services, item 6 in the Minute Book, outlining the detailed savings proposals for Culture, Recreation and Countryside Services that have been developed as part of the Departmental Transformation to 2017 Programme.

The wider County Council context of a need to reduce budgets by 14 percent, amounting to a saving requirement across the Council of approximately £100 million by 2017 was set out. It was explained that proposals in the report were for savings equal to approximately £2.5 million and these proposals were presented to the Select Committee.

Members discussed a number of key elements, including the early savings that had been achieved in the library service as a result of enhance voluntary redundancy (EVR) and the impact of EVR generally. Plans for the outdoor service were considered and it was noted that the aim was for full cost recovery by 2017 and for the service to break even. Some concern was expressed about the extent of third sector funding available to replace reduced funding from the County Council.

The decision making process through the Executive Member for Culture and Communities, Cabinet and County Council was explained. The Equality Impact Assessments relating to the savings proposals were acknowledged, as was the consultation process and outcomes.

It was requested that a recorded vote be taken on the recommendations, with the results as follows:

RESOLVED:

That the Culture and Communities Select Committee recommends to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside that he approves the proposed savings options contained in this report and Appendix 1, for submission to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources and Cabinet.

Carried by majority vote:

For (8): Cllr Zilliah Brooks  
Cllr Rob Humby  
Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee  
Cllr Fiona Mather  
Cllr Anna McNair-Scott  
Cllr Frank Pearce  
Cllr Alan Rice  
Cllr John Wall

Against (5):  
Cllr Peter Chegwyn  
Cllr Shaun Cully  
Cllr Brian Gurden  
Cllr Tim Rolt  
Cllr Chris Wood

Abstain (0):

116. **REVIEW OF GRANT FUNDING FOR CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 7 in the Minute Book, regarding proposals in relation to five existing grant programmes managed by Culture, Communities and Business Services.

The key proposals in the report: to cease funding organisations outside of Hampshire, the settlement of a debt with the Theatre Royal Winchester and changes to the minimum grant criteria, were explained to Members. This was set in the context of the requirement for the department to make savings and it was noted that the proposals had been developed through the Select Committee's Task and Finish Group.

Specific issues relating to the ownership of buildings and to the music and dance commission were raised and responded to. The legal position of Councillors acting as trustees on

charitable organisations was also clarified.

Members welcomed the cross Party consensus that had been reached through the Task and Finish Group, particularly supporting the protection of small grants to small organisations and services that improve quality of life for residents. The transactional cost of processing small grants was questioned and it was agreed that further information would be provided on this.

It was requested that a recorded vote be taken on the recommendations, with the results as follows:

RESOLVED:

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

- Approves the proposals set out in Section 4 of this report (which are summarised in Appendix 1 and 2) and approve the criteria changes (as set out in Appendix 3)
- Approves the appointment of a County Councillor as an observer/non voting representative on the Board of every organisation receiving a grant of £30,000 or more
- Approves the reconvening of the Select Committee Task & Finish Group to consider the findings of the County Council's 'Shaping Hampshire' Spending Review Consultation.

Carried by majority vote:

For (11):

Cllr Zilliah Brooks  
Cllr Rob Humby  
Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee  
Cllr Fiona Mather  
Cllr Anna McNair-Scott  
Cllr Frank Pearce  
Cllr Alan Rice  
Cllr John Wall  
Cllr Shaun Cully  
Cllr Tim Rolt  
Cllr Chris Wood

Abstain (2):

Cllr Peter Chegwyn  
Cllr Brian Gurden

Against (0):

117. **COUNTRY PARKS TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Committee received a report and presentation of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 8 in the Minute Book, regarding the progress and delivery of the Country Parks Transformation Programme.

The presentation set out the context of the Transformation Programme and other drivers for change. It was noted that this was an opportunity to preserve the Parks for future generations. The business factors and challenges were detailed, in particular the need to update and improve the consistency of facilities as well as to improve wet weather appeal.

The proposals for each Park were detailed, including timescales and it was confirmed that each Park would have an individual business case. A number of specific issues relating to individual Parks were questioned. The benefit of allowing filming (by television companies) to take place on the sites was discussed and it was noted that this was largely realised through increased publicity and an increase in visitors. It was confirmed that the events programme would continue and that a consolidated programme would show all events in one place. Members were supportive of a focus on income generation.

The future of small sites that did not fit within the broader programme was questioned. It was confirmed that an asset strategy was being prepared to find the right solution for each site.

**RESOLVED:**

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

- Recognises the progress made with the Country Park Transformation programme and endorses the programme to continue with the start up of each park project.
- Recommends more detailed consideration by the Executive Member Policy and Resources as each park project reaches start up.

118. **HAMPSHIRE SPORTS STRATEGY UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Culture,

Communities and Business Services, item 9 in the Minute Book, regarding the Government's recently published draft strategy, "A New Strategy for Sport: Consultation Paper".

Members heard that the trend was for sport to be included as a priority across government departments. Accordingly all County Council departments had been asked to contribute to the consultation response. Furthermore a new sport strategy for the County Council was to be developed.

Concern was expressed that budgets for sport had been reduced and it was explained that this was based on anticipated cuts by Sport England and the need to adjust accordingly. There was support for a release from County Council control, in order that the sport programme could move forward and open up opportunities for development. The benefits of investment in infrastructure on participation were noted with regards to the walking strategy.

RESOLVED:

That the comments outlined above be noted with regards the Government's "New Strategy for Sport: Consultation Paper".

That the Select Committee support a response to the Government's "New Strategy for Sport: Consultation Paper" incorporating comments from all relevant Departments and those outlined in this paper.

119. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Policy & Governance - Corporate Services, item 10 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.

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Chairman: 19 November 2015