

AT A MEETING of the CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Thursday, 19 November 2015.

**PRESENT**

Chairman:

p Councillor Anna McNair-Scott

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Frank Pearce

**Councillors:**

p 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	a John Wall
p Rob Humby	p Chris Wood

p Peter Latham (deputy  
Conservative Group Member)

**Also in attendance:**

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

120. **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:

121. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Wall. It was noted that Councillor Latham, the deputy Member for the Conservative Group was in attendance in his place.

122. **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.

123. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 14 September 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

124. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received.

125. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that she had attended the recent Hampshire Book Awards, organised by the School Library Service and now in its 14th year. This year it involved over 430 students from 50 secondary schools across Hampshire.

Highlighting the report and presentation on the transformation of Country Parks that had been received and supported by the Select Committee at its previous meeting, the Chairman confirmed that subsequently funding was approved for Lepe Country Park and Royal Victoria Country Park by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources. The Chairman had recently visited Lepe Country Park to see detailed plans for its development.

The Chairman was delighted to inform Members that according to the National Highways and Transport Survey undertaken by IPSOS MORI the overall Hampshire customer satisfaction rating for Rights of Way against peer group authorities was now the highest in the country.

126. **HAMPSHIRE CULTURAL TRUST UPDATE**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services and the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Hampshire Cultural Trust (item 6 in the Minute Book) regarding the Hampshire Cultural Trust.

The presentation comprehensively updated the Select Committee on the latest position of the Hampshire Cultural Trust, including the challenges it had faced, its financial situation, the leadership structure and a number of key

successes. The role of the annual “Big Theme” was particularly highlighted and it was explained that retail opportunities were being developed with Hampshire Fayre. The vision of building a world class cultural offering, with the ability to impact on the lives of those who visit, whilst generating a financial surplus for future investment was set out.

Members welcomed the presentation and discussed a number of areas, including the possible options for a Winchester museum, the role of staff in the visitor experience and success in raising revenue through donations.

RESOLVED:

That the Culture and Communities Select Committee:

Receive and note the presentation providing an update on the latest position of the Hampshire Cultural Trust.

127. **OLYMPIC LEGACY UPDATE**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (item 7 in the Minute Book) to update the Committee on the Olympic Legacy work.

The presentation highlighted a number of key features of the Olympic legacy programme. Infrastructure investment in the country parks was detailed and it was explained that this facilitated physical activity such as running or cycling. The success of parkrun and its rapid growth across the County was set out. A ping pong programme for older people had also proven very popular and was continuing to grow. Within schools, the legacy award for the best use of the PE premium had encouraged sport, as had the use of positive role models, especially to girls. At competition level, there had been growth in high calibre athletics events in the County and several Hampshire athletes had been successful at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

The Hampshire Institute of Sport was set out and it was explained that this had been driven by a realisation in 2012 that sporting facilities in Hampshire were only adequate and therefore insufficient to attract high level Olympic teams. The pilot project would work with a small number of athletes to understand the benefits of a focus on sport science. This pilot was funded by Winchester University and it was hoped that drawing other partners together could lead to a collaboration capable of providing world class facilities and support to Hampshire athletes.

Members welcomed the presentation. The choice of sports for inclusion in the pilot project was questioned and the rationale at this stage was explained. The cyclical nature of funding available for sport, relative to the Olympic cycle was also explained.

RESOLVED:

That the Culture and Communities Select Committee:

Note the update on the Olympic legacy programme and support the direction of the programme going forward.

128. **CONSULTATION ON THE LIBRARY SERVICE TRANSFORMATION**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (item 8 in the Minute Book) regarding the consultation on the transformation of the Library Service.

The Committee was reminded of the background to the consultation on the library service and Members heard that over 3000 responses had already been received electronically, furthermore that a telephone survey was due to begin in the coming days. It was confirmed that a final meeting of the Library Working Group would be held to receive the consultation outcomes and make recommendations to the Committee.

Concern was expressed that potential changes to opening hours had not been clearly set out in the consultation and it was confirmed that there were no plans to reduce opening hours.

The Chairman announced that in order to receive the outcomes of the consultation and to enable the Committee to make recommendations to the Executive Member, an additional meeting of the Select Committee would be convened on 22 March 2016.

RESOLVED:

That the Culture and Communities Select Committee:

- i. Note the plans for consulting on the Library Service Transformation – Draft Strategy to 2020
- ii. Asks for a report on the Consultation to be presented at its additional meeting on 22 March 2016.

129. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Policy & Governance - Corporate Services, item 9 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: 21 January 2016