

## **Scrutiny Annual Report: April 2015 to March 2016**

**Select Committee:** Culture and Communities

**Report of Chairman:** Councillor Anna McNair-Scott

### **In-depth Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:**

Library Service Transformation – Strategy to 2020 (multiple meetings)  
Regarding the consultation on the transformation of the Library Service.

The Select Committee supported the review of the Library Strategy to 2020 and contributed to the development of the Strategy through a Working Group. The position was also reviewed at formal Select Committee meetings, where the public consultation was supported and, at an additional meeting in March 2016, where the updated Strategy was pre-scrutinised prior to a decision by the Executive Member. The Select Committee welcomed the level of response that had been received to the consultation and the consequential updates that had been made to the Strategy. The recommendations to the Executive Member to agree the new Strategy and to close the Mobile Library Service for replacement by the Home Library Service were supported. In addition it was noted that there were no current plans to close any existing libraries or reduce opening hours. The Select Committee also requested an update on the delivery of free online library learning sessions at its next meeting.

### **Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:**

Review of Grant Funding for Cultural and Community Organisations

A Task and Finish Group considered grant funding for cultural and community organisations, prior to pre-scrutiny in September 2015 of proposals in relation to five existing grant programmes managed by Culture, Communities and Business Services. 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 recommendations to the Executive Member were supported.

**Statutory Duties Undertaken:** N/A

### **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:**

Finalising 'Hampshire Countryside Access Plan 2015-2025' - 2 July 2015

The Select Committee recommended that the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside note the public consultation responses and approve the final Hampshire Countryside Access Plan 2015-2025 for publication.

New Governance Arrangements for the Sport Hampshire and Isle Of Wight Team - 2 July 2015

The Select Committee considered the proposed arrangements and recommended that the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside: approve the transfer of services and funding of SHIOW from its current HCC hosting relationship to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to be fully operational from 1 April 2016; and that SHIOW continue to deliver certain elements of Hampshire County Council's sports development programme.

Library Service Transformation – Strategy to 2020 (multiple meetings)  
(see above)

**Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** N/A

**Referrals:** N/A

**Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**

Transformation to 2017 – Revenue Savings Proposals - 14 September 2015

With regard to the detailed savings proposals for Culture, Recreation and Countryside Services that were developed as part of the Departmental Transformation to 2017 Programme, the Culture and Communities Select Committee recommended to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside that he approve the options set out in the report, for submission to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources and Cabinet.

Revenue Budget Report for Culture, Recreation and Countryside for 2016/17 – 21 January 2016

The revenue budget for Culture, Recreation and Countryside Services for 2016/17 outlined the overall County Council financial position, setting out the complex and significant announcements made by Government in relation to the Revenue Support Grant settlement and other budget-related matters. The Committee resolved to support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside.

**Policy Review:**

Transforming the County Council's Country Parks – Multiple Meetings

The Select Committee has received regular updates on the transformation of the County Council's Country Parks, with presentations focussed on the progress of individual projects including the financial position of each.

**Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:**

Hampshire Sports Strategy Update - 14 September 2015

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.

Hampshire Cultural Trust Update – 19 November 2015

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.

Olympic Legacy Update – 19 November 2015

The Committee received an update on the Olympic Legacy work and supported the direction of the programme going forward.

**Upcoming topics:**

- Culture, Recreation and Countryside Services Budgets
- Review of Representation on Outside Bodies
- Update on Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight (SHIOW)

- Update on Hampshire Cultural Trust
- Basingstoke Canal
- Outdoor Service Transformation
- Marketing and Targeting of Services
- Transforming the County Council's Country Parks