

Scrutiny Annual Report: April 2015 to March 2016

Select Committee: Economy, Transport and Environment

Report of Chairman: Councillor Sharyn Wheale

In-depth Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored: N/A

Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:

Parish Lengthsman Scheme

At the April 2015 meeting, the Select Committee considered a report from the Director of Economy Transport & Environment regarding the Parish Lengthsman Scheme and the fact that the funding for the scheme for future years was being considered. The Committee agreed to establish a light touch Task & Finish Group on the subject. This group held meetings in the summer of 2015 and reported back to the full Committee in October 2015. Recommendations were agreed, which were passed to the Executive Member, including that the scheme be retained in 2016/17, with funding maintained at £1,000 per parish, and that parishes in the scheme form clusters.

At the March 2016 meeting the Select Committee heard that it was proposed to the Executive Member that the Select Committee's recommendations be followed. However, it was noted that further consideration of the scheme would be needed for the 2017/18 financial year. The Select Committee resolved to re-convene the Task & Finish Group during 2016 to give consideration to plans for the future of the scheme.

Update: Highways Maintenance Recommendations - 16 April 2015

An update was received regarding the recommendations made by the Select Committee in January 2015 relating to highways maintenance. The Committee had recommended that trials be undertaken with District and Parish Councils, and it was agreed to receive a further update in 2016 once the trials had time to take effect.

Economic Development Working Group – 16 April 2015

In 2014 the Select Committee appointed a small number of members to an Economic Development Working Group, to keep informed of developments in this area. In April 2015 an update on the issues that had been considered was provided to the full Select Committee.

Statutory Duties Undertaken: N/A

Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:

Highways Environmental Maintenance Service Delivery Arrangements- 19 January 2016

The Select Committee considered proposed amendments to the current approach to highways maintenance environmental services, including grass cutting and weed killing around the highway. Following debate, the Select Committee supported the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport & Environment.

Household Waste Recycling Centres Service Efficiencies – Consultation Proposals - 19 January 2016

The Select Committee considered the proposal to consult the public regarding potential changes to the Household Waste Recycling Centre network, and supported this to the Executive Member. The Select Committee also received a briefing in December 2015 regarding the Household Waste Recycling Centres service and the potential options being considered for making savings.

Review of Non-Statutory Home to School Transport Services – 17 March 2016

The Select Committee pre-scrutinised proposed changes to subsidised bus services for conveying non-entitled pupils to schools. The Select Committee supported the proposals to the Executive Member, while encouraging engagement with bus operators regarding the potential to retain services on a commercial basis.

Street Lighting Dimming Policy Review – 17 March 2016

The Select Committee pre-scrutinised proposals regarding dimming of street lights and supported the proposals to the Executive Member.

Future Traffic Management Policy – 17 March 2016

The Select Committee pre-scrutinised proposed changes to traffic management policy. Following debate, the Select Committee supported the proposals to the Executive Member. In addition, the Chairman requested that a briefing be provided for Select Committee Members on traffic management measures and road safety.

Highways Development Control Arrangements – 17 March 2016

The Select Committee pre-scrutinised proposed changes to provision of advice by the highways development control service. The Select Committee supported the proposals to the Executive Member.

Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions: N/A

Referrals: Review of A Board Licensing Trial- 19 January 2016

In 2015 the Executive Member for Economy Transport & Environment initiated a trial A Board licensing scheme in Andover Town Centre, and requested that the trial be reviewed by the Select Committee. In January 2016 the Select Committee received an update on the trial. However, Members requested that a report be brought back once the trial had run its full 12 month course.

Update: Emergency and Urgent Street Works Undertaken by Utility Companies – 17 March 2016

The Select Committee had considered utility works on the highway in January 2015 following referral of a motion by Cllr Simpson. At the March 2016 meeting the Select Committee received an update. The Select Committee welcomed the improvements made by South East Water, and expressed disappointment that Thames Water had not made improvements. It was resolved to invite a representative of Thames Water to attend a future meeting to explain.

Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:

Transformation to 2017 – Revenue Savings Proposals: Economy, Transport & Environment Department – 15 September 2015

The Select Committee considered the savings proposals for the Economy Transport & Environment Department developed as part of the Transformation to 2017

programme, including the feedback from the public consultation. Following debate, the Select Committee agreed a recommendation to the Executive Member for Economy Transport and Environment that the proposals be approved.

Pre-Scrutiny: Economy, Transport and Environment Department Revenue Budget 2016/17- 19 January 2016

The Select Committee pre-scrutinised the Revenue Budget Proposals for the Economy, Transport and Environment Department for 2016/17. Following the debate, the Select Committee supported the proposed budget to the Executive Member for Economy Transport and Environment.

Pre-Scrutiny: Economy, Transport And Environment Department Capital Programme 2016/17 – 2018/19- 19 January 2016

The Select Committee pre-scrutinised the Proposed Capital Programme for the Economy, Transport and Environment Department for 2016/17 to 2018/19, and supported the proposed budget to the Executive Member for Economy Transport & Environment.

Policy Review:

Household Waste Recycling Centres 2015 Changes in Opening Hours- 30 October 2015

The Select Committee reviewed the impact of changes in opening hours for Household Waste Recycling Centres that had been brought in from April 2015. The Select Committee recommended that when further savings from the Household Waste Recycling Centre budget are considered, this evidence be taken into account, and consideration be given to options that minimise impact on congestion.

Catchment Based Approach to Flood Risk Management in Hampshire - 15 September 2015

The Select Committee received a report regarding steps being taken to develop a catchment based approach to flood risk management in Hampshire, and supported the revised approach.

Adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents for Minerals and Waste Safeguarding and Oil and Gas Development - 30 October 2015

The Select Committee considered a report regarding the preparation of two Supplementary Planning Documents, providing further guidance to support the implementation of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan. The Select Committee welcomed their development and supported their adoption.

Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:

Update: Local Flood Risk Management - 16 April 2015

An update was received on management of the County Council's responsibilities as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to manage local flood risk.

Animal Casualties on New Forest Roads- 30 October 2015

Following a request from a member of the Select Committee, the Committee considered a report regarding the role the County Council plays in reducing accidents involving livestock and deer on roads in the New Forest. The Select Committee supported the current approach, and resolved that the Chairman write to the Chief Constable of Hampshire constabulary regarding how enforcement activity is undertaken on routes identified as high risk for animal accidents.

Transformation to 2017 – Future Consultation Plans- 30 October 2015

The Select Committee received an update on the Economy Transport and Environment Department's plans to carry out further consultation on revenue savings proposals being considered to meet savings targets by April 2017, and requested that all Members be notified by email when the consultations on Highway Maintenance and Household Waste Recycling Centres were launched.

Upcoming topics: The following topics feature on the Select Committee's Work Programme;

- Household Waste Recycling Centres – pre scrutiny of proposed service changes following public consultation
- Parish Lengthsman Scheme for 2017/18
- School Crossing Patrols
- Review of A Board licensing trial
- Unadopted Roads
- Review of 20mph speed limit pilots
- Review of Highway Maintenance trials (following Select Committee recommendations)