

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

**Select Committee:** Policy and Resources

**Report of Chairman:** Councillor Elaine Still

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

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

### Capital Grants Scheme for Community Buildings

In July 2015 the Select Committee agreed to establish a Sub Committee to consider applications for larger grants (up to £150,000) under the Community Buildings Capital Grant scheme. The Sub Committee met in March 2016 and received presentations from five organisations who had applied for grant funding for capital projects. The Sub Committee made recommendations regarding grant awards to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources (for final decision at a Decision Day in April 2016).

**Statutory Duties Undertaken:**

### Crime and Disorder Scrutiny

This Select Committee has the remit to cover the statutory duty to scrutinise Crime and Disorder issues as per the Police and Justice Act 2006 (However, this does not cover the Police and Crime Commissioner, who is held to account by the Police and Crime Panel). At the 26 November 2015 meeting the Select Committee received an update on the County Council's partnership role in promoting community safety. This included a presentation on work undertaken over the past year on provision of services for perpetrators of domestic abuse. The Select Committee supported the work being undertaken, and requested an update on progress with the project at a future meeting.

**Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:** N/A

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

**Referrals:** N/A

**Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**

### 2014/15 End of Year Financial Report

At the 18 September 2015 meeting the Select Committee considered the 2014/15 final accounts.

### Transformation To 2017 – Revenue Savings Proposals: Policy & Resources

At the 18 September 2015 meeting the Select Committee pre-scrutinised the savings proposals for the Policy & Resources budget developed as part of the Transformation to 2017 programme. Following debate, the Select Committee supported the proposals to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources, however the Select Committee also made a recommendation expressing concern at the proposal to reduce the level of member devolved grants budget in April 2017. The Executive Member took a decision to agree the budget proposals, however he also agreed 'That an internal analysis of the effectiveness of Member Devolved grants be carried out and reported back to the Executive Member for further consideration. A copy of this report to also be made available to the Policy and Resources Select Committee'. This report is due to be provided to the Select Committee in 2016.

### Budget Setting

Following a request from a Member of the Select Committee, at the 25 January 2016 meeting the Select Committee considered an item on budget setting and provisional cash limits for 2016/17.

### Pre-Scrutiny: Revenue Budget – Policy and Resources for 2016/17

At the 25 January 2016 meeting the Select Committee pre scrutinised the proposed Policy and Resources revenue budget for 2016/17, and supported the proposals to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources.

### Pre-Scrutiny: Capital Programme – Policy and Resources for 2016/17 To 2018/19

At the 25 January 2016 meeting the Select Committee pre scrutinised the proposed capital programme for Policy and Resources for 2016/17 to 2018/19, and supported the proposals to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources.

### Annual Corporate Performance Monitoring

At the 14 July 2015 meeting the Select Committee considered a report reviewing performance across the County Council in 2014/15, including a summary of progress against the 'Shaping Hampshire' Plan and key findings from the annual self assessment.

### **Policy Review:**

#### Transformation to 2017 Update

At the 18 September 2015 meeting the Select Committee received an update regarding the overall Transformation to 2017 programme.

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

#### Havant Locality Working Pilot Update

At the 14 July 2015 meeting the Select Committee received an update regarding the Locality Working Pilot in Havant.

### Annual IT Update

At the 25 January 2016 meeting the Select Committee received an annual update regarding Information Technology (IT) issues and the Digital Programme.

### **Management of the Scrutiny Function/Oversight of Other Scrutiny Committees:**

The Policy & Resources Select Committee has a remit to manage the work taking place across the scrutiny function. This is achieved through oversight of proposals to establish task and finish groups by other Select Committees, and receiving a summary of activity taking place through the other Select Committees at each meeting.

### **Upcoming topics:**

- Consultation Policy Review (following recommendations from the Select Committee accepted by Cabinet in 2015)
- Trading Standards
- Presentation from Hampshire Association of Local Councils
- Annual Corporate Performance Review
- Annual Budget Scrutiny
- Annual IT Update
- Annual Crime and Disorder Scrutiny