

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
Policy and Resources Select Committee  
PART II

**229. SUMMARY**

1. This report provides an update on the work of the Hampshire County Council Select Committees from April 2015 to March 2016: Children & Young People Select Committee, Culture & Communities Select Committee, Economy Transport & Environment Select Committee, Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee and Policy & Resources Select Committee. Highlights of each Select Committee's activity are set out below.

**230. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE**

2. **Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** none this year

3. **Statutory Duties Undertaken:** *Review of Children and Young People Plan 2015-18* Members commended the Plan, noting that the main five priorities would include outcomes for children and young people to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, and achieve economic wellbeing. The Committee resolved that the Children and Young People Plan be endorsed, and that an annual progress update on the Plan be provided to the Committee.

4. **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:** none this year

5. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** none this year

6. **Referrals:** none this year

7. **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**

a) *Transformation to 2017 – Revenue Savings Proposals: 'Transformation to 2017' revenue budget savings proposals and public consultation feedback* The Committee additionally held a seminar for all Members of the Committee, in order to more fully understand the implications of the Children's Services 'Transformation of 2017 – Revenue Savings Proposals' report. The Committee also made a recommendation to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services, requesting that the total percentage of cuts be reconsidered to enable the reinstatement of £1.8m for short breaks, without jeopardising other areas of provision within Children's Services.

b) *Revenue Budget for Children's Services 2016/17:* The revenue budget for Children's 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 Lead Member for Children's Services.

c) *Capital Programme for Children's Services 2016-17 – 2018/19:* The capital programme for Children's Services for 2016/17 – 2018/19 was the largest capital programme embarked upon by Hampshire County Council, in order to ensure suitable provision for school places. The Committee resolved to request that the Executive Lead

Member specifically note the high level of risk on the capital programme relating to the receipt of capital resources from developer contributions, and also supported the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services.

**8. Policy Review:**

a) *Home Schooling*: The Committee received an overview of elective home education in Hampshire, and the role of the Department in supporting children who are home schooled. The Committee resolved to write to Hampshire MPs and the Government requesting that they legislate to give Local Education Authorities the right to monitor the education of those children whose parents elect to give them education at home. Correspondence to this effect was sent to various parties, and a response was received from Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools, thanking the Committee for widening the Government's knowledge on this area, and suggesting that there may be a review of this subject.

b) *School Place Planning (Secondary Provision)*: Members scrutinised the strategy for planning secondary school places from 2015 to 2025, and supported the strategy.

c) *Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Schools Syllabus*: The Committee received an update on the work of Hampshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and the review of the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 'Living Difference revised 2011'. The Committee noted the report and supported the approach taken by the Hampshire SACRE.

**9. Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:** The Committee received items on the following issues:

- Children's Safeguarding
- Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Reform
- Teenage Pregnancy

**10. Upcoming topics:** The following topics feature on the Select Committee's Work Programme:

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) – further update
- Public Health in Schools
- Revenue and capital budgets 2017/18
- Safeguarding (to include Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE))
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reform - further update

**231. CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE**

**11. 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.

12. **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.

13. **Statutory Duties Undertaken:** none this year

14. **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)

15. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** none this year

16. **Referrals:** none this year

17. **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**

a) *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.

b) *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.

18. **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.

19. **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.

20. **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

**232. ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE**

21. **In-depth Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** none this year

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

a) *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.

b) *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.

c) *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.

23. **Statutory Duties Undertaken:** none this year

24. **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.

25. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** none this year

26. **Referrals:**

a) *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 it's full 12 month course.

b) *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.

27. **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**

a) *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.

b) *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.

c) *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.

**28. Policy Review:**

a) *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.

b) *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.

c) *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.

**29. 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.

**30. 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)

### **233. HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SELECT COMMITTEE**

The work of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee is the subject of a separate item on the County Council agenda.

### **234. POLICY AND RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE**

31 **In-depth Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** none this year

32. **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).

33. **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.

34. **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:** none this year

35. **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** none this year

36. **Referrals:** none this year

37. **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**

a) *2014/15 End of Year Financial Report:* At the 18 September 2015 meeting the Select Committee considered the 2014/15 final accounts.

b) *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.

c) *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.

d) *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.

e) *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.

f) *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.

**38. 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.

**39. 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.

**40. 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.

**41. 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

Further details can be found at [www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm)

**COUNCILLOR ELAINE STILL**  
**Chairman, Policy & Resources Select Committee**