

Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Select Committee

In 2010/11 the Committee has continued to monitor developments in the Library and Information Service. This has included an update on the Vision and Strategy for the service, and consideration of changes made as part of the library service restructure. Members have been kept informed regarding the review of the Mobile Library Service, giving their views on the proposed changes.

The Committee has also undertaken follow up of recommendations made from previous scrutiny review's, such as the Hard to Reach Review, and the Review of Outdoor Centres. This year the Committee has also been monitoring the review of the Museums Service undertaken by the department. An additional briefing was held for Members in October regarding the proposed changes, being made due to anticipated reductions in central government funding. The committee has also been briefed on the merger of the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Department with the Property Business Regulatory and IT Services Department.

In addition to the above reviews, the Committee's work programme has included regular attention to, and follow up of, topics within the Committee's terms of reference, such as the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for the Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight Partnership, aspects of the Rural Delivery Action Plan, and plans to link with the London 2012 Olympics. Work has also been undertaken on monitoring aspects of relevant department budgets and performance, which will be carried through to 2011/12.

Members of the committee also took part in a visit to the Basingstoke Canal, in the light of maintenance works undertaken this year at a section of the bank at risk of flooding.

Presentations have also been received from organisations supported by grants provided by the Executive Member for Culture & Recreation, which provides accountability. Regular pre-scrutiny of Executive Member decisions has also complemented the above work, supporting a well-balanced work programme for the year.

A full summary of the work of the CCRA Select Committee can be found below.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SELECT COMMITTEES - Progress Report: April 2010 – March 2011

SELECT COMMITTEE: Culture Communities and Rural Affairs

DETAIL OF SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

SELECT COMMITTEE role	Action/s	Outcome/s	Estimated impact / influence
1. Scrutinising the work of the Executive and the County Council as an organisation	Monitoring of in-depth scrutiny reviews: a) Partnership Funding to Independent Charitable Outdoor Centres b) Hard to Reach Groups Review	a) Report on the Partnership Funding to Independent Charitable Outdoor Centres for 2010/11 considered at the April 2010 meeting. b) The Committee considered a report at the July 2010 meeting providing an update on progress in relation to specific recommendations.	a) It was a recommendation of the review that applications for grant funding for outdoor centres be considered against a range of criteria. The Committee learned that this had now been adopted. b) The issues identified in the recommendations were being picked up through ongoing work around 'Improving the Customer Experience'.
Select Committee Role	Action/s	Outcome/s	Estimated impact / influence
2. Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern	There has been consideration of various topics at the quarterly Select Committee Meetings: April 2010 a) Vision and Strategy for the Library and Information Service - Update	a) members considered a presentation giving an update on work undertaken following up on the principles established in the vision and strategy for the library service.	a) Demonstrated that issues identified by the committee in their earlier review of the library service had been taken forward.

Select Committee Role	Action/s	Outcome/s	Estimated impact / influence
	<p>b) Rural Delivery Action Plan – Food Farming and Forestry</p> <p>c) Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategy</p> <p>July 10</p> <p>d) Library & Information Service - Update</p> <p>e) Museums and Arts Future Planning</p> <p>f) Aiming High for Disabled Children</p>	<p>b) members considered a report giving an update on actions taken as part of the rural delivery action plan.</p> <p>c) members considered a report outlining the Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight Partnership’s strategy for sport and physical activity.</p> <p>d) members considered a presentation regarding phase 1 of the restructure of the library service.</p> <p>e) the committee considered a report regarding the proposal to re-shape the Museums and Arts Service, to anticipate potential reductions in central government funding.</p> <p>f) Members received a presentation including a DVD on ‘inclusion in action’.</p>	<p>b) Committee Members endorsed the work being done.</p> <p>c) Members supported the work of the partnership and agreed to monitor activity in this area in future.</p> <p>d) Members supported the approach being taken, and their views were taken onboard in relation to areas of concern.</p> <p>e) Members discussed the situation for the service and flagged areas of concern.</p> <p>f) raised non-executive Member awareness of the work undertaken to enable disabled children and families to access cultural services and the positive impact this had on their quality of life.</p>

	<p>November 10</p> <p>g) Museums and Arts Future Planning</p> <p>h) Restructure of the Library Service Phase 2 – Review of the Mobile Library Service</p> <p>i) Rural Delivery Action Plan ‘Community Leisure and Culture’ Theme Update</p> <p>January 11</p> <p>j) 2012 Olympics</p> <p>k) Mobile Library Service Review</p>	<p>g) members considered a report detailing the proposals to re-position the museums service to enable it to operate within a reduced budget, as a result of reductions in central government funding.</p> <p>h) members considered a presentation regarding the mobile library service and plans to look at reducing the service given a decline in use.</p> <p>i) members considered a report giving an update on the activities undertaken under the Rural Delivery Action Plan.</p> <p>j) members considered a presentation regarding work underway to link activity in Hampshire to the 2012 Olympics.</p> <p>k) Members considered the proposals for restructuring the mobile library service, prior to approval by the Executive Member.</p>	<p>g) A deputation was received, and Members debated the proposals. Members views were taken on board, and the recommendations to the Executive Member amended to include support to mitigate the impact.</p> <p>h) Members comments were taken onboard regarding aspects of the service under consideration.</p> <p>i) Members supported the work being undertaken.</p> <p>j) raised members awareness of the programmes underway that are linked to the Olympics, enabling them to promote this message.</p> <p>k) Members had the opportunity to have oversight of the consultation process, and feed in their comments.</p>
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<p>3. Monitoring the strategic management of performance</p>	<p>Monitoring of the following areas:</p> <p>Culture Communities & Rural Affairs Department performance issues:</p> <p>performance considered twice during the year - mid-year and end of year - linked to budgetary information.</p>	<p>Members received performance information, and undertook scrutiny of issues and clarification where needed. Where appropriate members endorsed officer action to tackle performance issues.</p>	<p>Members exercised their role as challengers through questioning plans for improving on areas of weakness.</p>
<p>4. Pre-scrutinising recommendations from the Decision Programme</p>	<p>Consideration of decision lists relating to the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Department prior to each quarterly meeting.</p> <p>Chairman attendance at Culture & Recreation Executive Member meetings.</p> <p>Certain proposals for decisions have been pre-scrutinised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capital Programme and Revenue budget (proposals for 20011/12) 	<p>Members considered the capital programme and revenue budget proposals for the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Department at their January 2011 meeting. Following clarification and discussion, the majority of the committee agreed to support the recommendations in the reports to the Executive Member.</p>	<p>The Executive Member has the support of the committee in taking forward the proposed budget, and could take onboard members concerns.</p>

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5. Monitoring the impact of external agencies on the people of Hampshire	Through consideration of topics where this is relevant e.g. a) Funding for the museums service – Renaissance South East	a) Members have considered the impact of reductions in central government grant supporting museums, and the Hampshire County Council response to ensure the Museums Service is sustainable for the future.	a) Members contributed their views regarding the proposals to adapt how the Museums Service is organised. A deputation at the November Select Committee meeting raised the profile of the impact of the changes on some community museums, and mitigating actions have since been taken.
6. Scrutiny of Organisations that receive grant funding from the Culture Communities & Rural Affairs Department	The committee has received presentations from the following organisations: April 2010: The Making July 2010: Hampshire Playing Fields Association	Members gained an increased understanding of the valuable work these organisations undertake, and how this supports the priorities of the County Council.	This provides public accountability for the funding provided to these organisations by the County Council, and enables members to ensure that the work being done by organisations the County Council supports is in line with the County Councils aims and objectives.
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7. Site visits relevant to the remit of the committee.	Committee members have visited the following sites in support of their work programme: a) the Basingstoke Canal (November 2010)	a) Members were aware that urgent maintenance works were required on the canal in 2010 due to flood risk. This visit enabled members to see the remedial works and appreciate the issues faced in management of the canal.	a) The visit furthered Members understanding of the management of the canal and the need for investment to manage the risks appropriately.