

AT A MEETING of the CULTURE, COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle,
Winchester on Friday, 28 January 2011.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Elaine Still

Vice-Chairman:
p Councillor Alan Rice, TD

Councillors:

p Alan Broadhurst	p Peter Mason
p Peter Chegwyn	p Alexis McEvoy
a Peter Edgar	a Frank Pearce
p Michael Geddes	p Jenny Radley
p Ron Hussey	p Thomas Thacker
p Roger Kimber	

Also in attendance: Councillor Margaret Snaith-Tempia, Executive Member for Culture and Recreation.

55. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Peter Edgar, who was on other County Council business, and Cllr Frank Pearce.

56. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally at the time of the debate declare their interest, and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Code.

57. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Culture, Communities & Rural Affairs Select Committee Meeting held on 4 November 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising: on Minute 51

The Chairman invited the Director of Culture Communities and Rural Affairs to provide an update regarding the Museums Service. It was reported that the bid for transition funding had been successful, which therefore meant the changes to the service would take effect in July 2011 rather than April 2011. It was also noted that a public meeting had taken place in Alton on 19 January 2011, at which unanimous support was shown for the partnership approach now being taken in relation to the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery in Alton. Tribute was paid to staff who have continued to work hard during this difficult time. It was highlighted that further detail was due to be reported to the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation Decision Day later that day.

58. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman noted that a number of Senior Officers from the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Department would be taking early retirement, and thanked them on behalf of the committee for their hard work over the years. The opposition spokesperson also paid tribute to the Officers concerned.

59. **CULTURE, COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS
REVENUE BUDGET 2011/12 AND CAPITAL
PROGRAMME 2011/12 TO 2014/15**

The Director of Culture Communities and Rural Affairs made an opening statement regarding the budget proposals (see Item 5 in the Minute Book), highlighting that Hampshire County Council would not be cutting cultural services disproportionately as some other Councils had chosen to do. It was noted that the County Council continued to take the policy position to treat cultural services as of equivalent value to other services, and recognise the contribution such services can make to wider priorities.

The County Treasurer then presented the budget proposals for the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Department. It was highlighted that Hampshire had seen one of the greatest reductions in grant compared to other authorities, and had one of the lowest grant settlements in terms of funding per head of population. It was reported that all departments were planning for an 8% reduction in service budgets, and that the approach

of the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Department to address this was through: transformation, income generation, the merger with the Property Business Regulatory and IT Department, rationalisation of grants and ensuring value for money, and using flexible delivery models.

Members asked questions to clarify points and commented on the proposals. Some concern was expressed regarding the permanent reduction in the materials fund for the library service. Members also highlighted the reductions in the communications budget, and commented that publicity was important, particularly for services that generate income. It was agreed that Members views on this be communicated to the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation.

A question was also raised regarding the numbers of staff budgeted for in 2011/12 for the library service under the heading 'Management and Administrative Staff'. It was agreed a written response on this point would be circulated to members of the Committee.

Following the debate, the committee were asked to indicate if they supported the recommendations in the report to the Executive Member. Cllr Chegwyn and Cllr Broadhurst indicated opposition, however the majority of the committee were in favour, therefore the committee:

RECOMMENDS:

That the recommendations listed under 12 in the report be supported to the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation.

60. **2012 OLYMPICS**

The Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs gave a presentation (see Item 6 in the Minute Book) regarding the 2012 Olympics. It was highlighted that this would be the third time the games had been held in London, and no country had hosted four times, so this was our last chance, and would be a once in a lifetime opportunity for many. It was noted that the intention was to use the inspiration of the games to get more people involved in sport, physical activity and culture. It was reported that Hampshire benefited from 26 Olympians and 10 Paralympians who competed at Beijing (the last Olympics) being from Hampshire.

Members learned that Hampshire businesses had already benefited from opportunities linked to the

Members comments regarding communications be passed to the Executive Member.

Consideration be given to adding an item on marketing to the future work programme.

Written response to be circulated to Committee Members.

games, and that work was ongoing with the tourism industry to encourage people to use Hampshire as a base when visiting the games. It was also reported that the aspiration was for the Torch Relay to come through Hampshire and for a lunchtime stop in Winchester, however this would not be known until March 2011.

It was indicated that 2 Paralympic conferences were due to be held in Hampshire, using existing paralympians as role models to raise the profile of disabled sports. In addition, Southampton Airport was expected to receive games related passengers, including a number of VIP's, and plans were underway to put on a show for their arrival and departure.

Work was also underway to develop a programme linked to the Olympics for use in schools, and schools were being encouraged to take part in the national 'get set' network (aimed at schools integrating the Olympic values within the school).

It was noted that a Cultural Olympiad was due to take place alongside the games, and Hampshire had the biggest cultural events planned in the country to date, including five open air concerts. Other services would also be linking in with the games, for example the Countryside Service were designing circular walks to reflect the Olympic rings.

Members were informed that Cllr McEvoy Chaired a steering group involving representatives from District Councils, to support them to get involved. She encouraged other Committee Members to spread the word about the opportunities available in relation to the games, and particularly for Members to look into whether the schools in their division were involved with the 'get set' network. It was noted that an electronic pack was available to publicise this, and it was agreed to circulate this to Committee Members.

The information regarding the 'get set' network be circulated to Committee Members.

RESOLVED:

That the Officer be thanked for their presentation, and members support for the work being undertaken in relation to the Olympics in Hampshire be noted.

61. **MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE REVIEW**

The Director of Culture Communities and Rural Affairs gave a presentation on the proposed changes to the Mobile Library Service (see Item 7 in the Minute Book). It was reported that while the number of stops would be

reduced, the vehicles would stay longer at the remaining stops, and would operate 6 days a week (currently the service operated Monday to Friday). It was proposed to implement the changes in July 2011 and review the situation after 9 months. It was outlined that the revised stops were intended to attract 10 people per stop, and if this target was not reached, the location of the stop would be reviewed.

It was noted that the service to care homes may continue if the care homes paid a charge to cover the costs of delivering books to them, or if their staff collected the books from a local library. In relation to the family library link in Havant, it was indicated that this had been used to take library services into the community to encourage use by non-traditional library users. The services offered through this mobile unit were also available in local static libraries, and these would be promoted to the community concerned as an alternative when the family link ceases in summer 2011.

The proposals were available for consultation until 14 February 2011, and the Executive Member was due to take a decision on the final proposals for the Mobile Library Service on 8 March 2011.

Members asked questions to clarify points and debated the proposals. A Member highlighted that the number of Mobile Library vehicles was due to reduce from 19 to 6, and that these vehicles were leased and therefore costs would be incurred despite the vehicles no longer being used. It was reported that negotiations were underway with other Local Authorities who may take on the surplus vehicles.

RESOLVED:

That the Officer be thanked for the update, and the Committee support the direction of travel being taken.

62. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive presented the Committee's Work Programme (Item 8 in the Minute Book). Members requested a brief update regarding the Runways End project at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee's Work Programme be approved, subject to the issues raised at this meeting.

Update on Runways End be requested for the next meeting