

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SELECT COMMITTEES - Progress Report: 2009 - 2010

SELECT COMMITTEE: Culture Communities and Rural Affairs

DETAIL OF SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

SELECT COMMITTEE role	Action/s	Outcome/s	Estimated impact / influence
<p>1. Scrutinising the work of the Executive and the County Council as an organisation</p>	<p>Monitoring of in-depth scrutiny reviews, begun in 2008/09:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Library and Information Service Review <p>Continuation of in-depth scrutiny reviews initiated in 2008/9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Hard to Reach Groups Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Report on the Library and Information Service Strategy and Vision considered at the July 2009 meeting. b) The report and recommendations of the review group were compiled and endorsed by the whole committee at the July 2009 meeting, and presented to Cabinet in September 2009. The response from Cabinet was considered by the committee at the November 2009 meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) It was a recommendation of the review that the LIS prepare a strategy and vision for the future of the Library Service, and many of the other recommendations in relation to how the library service should look to position itself have been picked up on within the strategy. b) Cabinet accepted the approach taken by the review, however it was requested that further work be undertaken regarding how some of the recommendations could be implemented. This is due to be picked up by the committee in 2010.

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<p>2. Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern</p>	<p>There has been consideration of various topics at the quarterly Select Committee Meetings:</p> <p>March 09</p> <p>a) Adult Physical Activity</p> <p>b) Rights of Way</p> <p>July 09</p> <p>c) Library & Information Service Strategy and Vision</p> <p>d) Rural Delivery Action Plan</p> <p>e) Access to the Countryside</p>	<p>a) members considered a report regarding the programmes in place to support adult physical activity in Hampshire.</p> <p>b) members considered a report regarding changes to rights of way fault reporting procedures.</p> <p>c) members considered a report outlining the strategy and vision for the Library and Information Service.</p> <p>d) members considered a report regarding the development of the Rural Delivery Action plan and an outline of the work streams contained within the plan.</p> <p>e) the committee received an update on issues relating to access to the countryside, following up on reports the committee had received over the past year.</p>	<p>a) raised non-executive Member understanding of the work done by the County Council to support adult physical activity.</p> <p>b) Committee Members endorsed the recommendations in the report to the Executive Member.</p> <p>c) It was acknowledged that the Library and Information Service Strategy had been developed following recommendations from the committee as a result of the in-depth review undertaken in 08/9.</p> <p>d) Members endorsed the ideas within the Rural Delivery Action Plan, and requested to scrutinise particular elements of the plan in more detail in future.</p> <p>e) raised non-executive Member understanding of issues relating to access to the countryside.</p>

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	<p>November 09</p> <p>f) Renaissance Southeast</p> <p>g) Sites of Special Scientific Interest</p> <p>h) Strategies for the Development of Visual Arts and Literature</p> <p>i) Strategy for Learning Outside the Classroom</p> <p>January 10</p> <p>j) Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs Departmental Business Plan - Aims and Objectives</p>	<p>f) members considered a report regarding 'renaissance southeast' – a development programme for regional museums.</p> <p>g) members considered a report providing an update on the condition of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest managed by Hampshire County Council.</p> <p>h) members considered a report detailing the strategy for the development of visual arts and literature in Hampshire.</p> <p>i) members considered a report detailing the strategy for learning outside the classroom.</p> <p>j) members considered a report outlining the future direction for the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Department and the strands of work the department would be focusing its work around.</p>	<p>f) raised non-executive Member awareness of the funding situation for the museums service. Members requested to look at planning for future funding scenarios as part of their future work programme.</p> <p>g) raised non-executive Member awareness of the issues involved in looking after sites of special scientific interest. Committee Members supported work being done in this area.</p> <p>h) Members endorsed the strategy to the Executive Member.</p> <p>i) Members endorsed the strategy to the Executive Member.</p> <p>j) members endorsed the approach being taken to the Executive Member, and may consider particular aspects of the business plan as part of their future work programme.</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: 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 Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Department prior to each quarterly meeting. Chairman attendance at Culture & Recreation Executive Member meetings. Certain proposals for decisions have been scrutinised by the Committee:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">- Capital Programme and Revenue budget (proposals for 20010/11)</p>	<p>Members considered the capital programme and revenue budget proposals for the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Department at their January meeting. Following clarification and discussion, the committee agreed to support the proposals and endorse 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.</p>

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<p>5. Monitoring the impact of external agencies on the people of Hampshire</p>	<p>Through consideration of topics where this is relevant e.g.</p> <p>a) renaissance south east – future funding for the museums service</p> <p>b) funding for the Runways End Activity Centre</p>	<p>a) Members expressed concern regarding the potential impact that national funding changes could have on the museums service in the future.</p> <p>b) Members took an interest in this project, which has received national government funding from the co-location fund.</p>	<p>a) It was indicated that officers are planning for different funding scenarios. Members wished to follow this up as part of their future work programme.</p> <p>b) Members will be continuing to monitor this project, to have an overview of the impact this external funding makes.</p>
<p>6. Scrutiny of Organisations that receive grant funding from the Culture Communities & Rural Affairs Department</p>	<p>The committee has received presentations from the following organisations:</p> <p>March 09: The Lights, Andover</p> <p>July 09: Hampshire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>November 09: Artsway</p>	<p>Members gained an increased understanding of the valuable work these organisations undertake, and how this supports the priorities of the County Council.</p>	<p>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.</p>

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<p>7. Site visits relevant to the remit of the committee.</p>	<p>Committee members have visited the following sites in support of their work programme:</p> <p>a) the Runways End Activity Centre (November 2009)</p> <p>b) the Lymington & Keyhaven Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (March 2010)</p>	<p>a) Members visited the site prior to the development due to take place as a result of the site receiving funding via the Government's Co-location Fund. It is intended for members to undertake a follow up visit after the work, in order to appreciate the difference the funding has made.</p> <p>b) Members considered a report regarding the status of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest the County Council manages in November 2009. Members wished to visit a site in order to better understand the issues described in the report.</p>	<p>a) The visit demonstrated non-executive Member support for the project.</p> <p>b) The visit increased Members appreciation of the work undertaken to preserve Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and demonstrated non-executive Member support for this work.</p>