

Environment and Transportation Select Committee

The Committee began its year with follow-up to the major scrutiny reviews from 2008/09: Transport in the Community and the State of Hampshire's Roads. This involved consideration of the Executive response to the recommendations, and identification of aspects the Members wished to continue to monitor. This was built into the work programme for the year, allowing continuing oversight of outcomes in relation to identified recommendations, and on-going challenge.

The Members continued the in-depth scrutiny of Road Infrastructure and Housing Growth, and completed this work in July 2009. The Committee also carried out a light-touch scrutiny of Flooding in Hampshire, which has been taken by the Chairman to the National Flooding Scrutiny Learning Network and is awaiting feedback from the relevant Executive Member. A new topic for in-depth scrutiny is due to be selected in July 2010.

In addition to focused and light touch 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 real-time scrutiny of street lighting, winter maintenance and waste management. Work has also been undertaken on monitoring aspects of relevant department budgets and performance, which will be carried through to 2010/11.

Regular pre-scrutiny of Executive Member decisions, engagement with outside bodies and regular information briefings have helped to complement the above work, supporting a well-balanced work programme for the year.

A full summary of the work of E&T Select Committee can be found below.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SELECT COMMITTEES - Progress Report: 2008 - 2009

SELECT COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

SUMMARY OF PRE SCRUTINY / SCRUTINY WORK

Pre scrutiny / scrutiny areas of investigation and influence	Action/s	Outcome/s	Estimated impact / influence
<p>1. Scrutinising the work of the Executive and the County Council as an organisation</p>	<p>Completion of in-depth scrutiny reviews, begun in 2008/09:</p> <p>a) Road Infrastructure and Housing Growth</p> <p>Identification of and initiation of other reviews:</p> <p>b) Light Touch Review of Flooding</p> <p>Monitoring outcomes of scrutinies from previous year, 2008/09:</p> <p>c) State of Hampshire's Roads</p>	<p>a) Response from Executive Member for Environment in relation to report and recommendations received by the Environment and Transportation Select Committee in July 2009.</p> <p>b) Review outcomes sent to Policy & Resources Select Committee Chairman. Response to key recommendation due to be heard April 2010.</p> <p>c) Response received from Executive Member in March 2009. Outcomes monitored and topic removed from work</p>	<p>a) The report prompted a written response from the key decision maker (Executive Member) , informing the Committee that the main recommendations were in the process being put into practice.</p> <p>b) Report has been highlighted by National Flood Scrutiny Learning Network. Have reviewed topic under context of recent national flooding – influence will be known in 2010.</p> <p>c) Outcome monitoring has shown that the review's comments and recommendations have been taken into consideration in on-going and newly initiated work</p>

	<p>d) Transport in the Community</p> <p>e) Lyndhurst Bypass</p>	<p>programme in October 2009.</p> <p>d) Responses to key recommendations were identified in 08/09 for monitoring and follow up. Review removed from work programme in October 2009.</p> <p>e) Response received from Executive Member who endorsed findings by Committee. Update heard at start of municipal year. Removed from work programme in March 2009.</p>	<p>d) All recommendations accepted except one. Topics taken from review for pre-scrutiny in relation to key decisions.</p> <p>e) The report prompted a written response from the Executive Member, informing the Committee about work that would address the recommendations accepted by the Executive Member and Cabinet.</p>
2. Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern	<p>There has been consideration of various topics at the quarterly Select Committee Meetings, eg. street lighting, trade waste controls, minerals framework (see details in table below)</p>	<p>Various, eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview and `real-time' scrutiny - No further action <p>(see details below)</p>	<p>See details in table below</p>
3. Monitoring the strategic management of performance	<p>Monitoring of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environment Department performance issues, relating these to budgetary issues - LAA Indicators 	<p>See details in table below</p>	<p>See detail in table below</p>
4. Pre-scrutinising recommendations from	<p>Consideration of decision lists relating to Environment</p>	<p>See details in table below</p>	<p>See detail in table below</p>

<p>the Decision Programme</p>	<p>Department and Property, Business & Regulatory Services prior to each quarterly meeting. Chairman attendance at Environment Executive Member meetings.</p> <p>Certain proposals for decisions have been scrutinised by the Committee: eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capital Programme and Revenue budget (mid year 2008/09, and proposals for 2009/10 and 2010/11) - Hampshire Minerals Plan - Community Transport - Carbon Management 		
<p>5. Monitoring the impact of external agencies on the people of Hampshire</p>	<p>Integral to the scrutiny review and monitoring of outcomes processes eg. Flooding light touch (Environment Agency, Utility companies) and through LAA performance monitoring (Highways Agency, etc)</p>	<p>See details in table below</p>	<p>See details in table below</p>

DETAIL OF SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

SELECT COMMITTEE role	Type of activity and date	Outcome, including action/s	Impact/Influence
<p>Scrutinising the work of the Executive and the County Council as an organisation</p>	<p>Completion of in-depth scrutiny reviews, begun in 2008/09:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Road Infrastructure and Housing Growth 	<p>a) Response from Executive Member for Environment in relation to report and recommendations received by the Environment and</p>	<p>a) The report prompted a written response from the key decision maker (Executive Member) , informing the Committee that some recommendations had</p>

	<p>Identification of and initiation of other reviews:</p> <p>b) Light Touch Review of Flooding</p> <p>Monitoring outcomes of scrutinies from previous year, 2008/09:</p> <p>c) State of Hampshire's Roads</p> <p>d) Transport in the Community</p> <p>e) Lyndhurst Bypass</p>	<p>Transportation Select Committee in July 2009.</p> <p>b) Review outcomes sent to Policy & Resources Select Committee Chairman for follow-up. Response to key recommendation due to be heard April 2010.</p> <p>c) Response received from Executive Member in March 2009. Outcomes monitored and topic removed from work programme in October 2009.</p> <p>d) Responses to key recommendations were identified in 08/09 for monitoring and follow up. Review removed from work programme in October 2009.</p> <p>e) Response received from Executive Member who endorsed findings by Committee. Update heard at start of municipal year.</p>	<p>already been put into practice, and some required further investigation.</p> <p>b) Report has been highlighted by National Flood Scrutiny Learning Network. Have reviewed topic under context of recent national flooding – influence will be known in 2010.</p> <p>c) Outcome monitoring has shown that the review's comments and recommendations have been taken into consideration in on-going and newly initiated work</p> <p>d) All recommendations accepted except one. Topics taken from review for pre-scrutiny in relation to key decisions.</p> <p>e) The report prompted a written response from the Executive Member, informing the Committee about work that would address the recommendations accepted by the</p>
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Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern	<p>Consideration of topics at quarterly Select Committee meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) State of the Environment in Hampshire b) Trade Waste Controls c) Community Transport d) Road Networks in Winter Months e) Width of Rural Roads f) Minerals Plan g) Street Lighting 	<p>Various:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Comments collected from Committee Members for integration into report. Members were fully briefed on environment state within Hants. b) Members were satisfied with progress of controls and concerns were explored. c) Followed on from Transport in the Community review. Members showed interest in pilot community transport schemes. Ongoing. d) Real time scrutiny following concern over adverse winter weather. e) Followed on from scrutiny review, Members explored issue and were satisfied with response. f) Update from Minerals team on decision to go to apportionment appeal. g) New tender for street lighting examined, Members pleased to see cuts in carbon emissions. 	<p>Various:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Comments helped to shape final report. Partnership working with Environment Agency highlighted. b) Success of scheme highlighted. c) Ongoing pre-scrutiny. d) Issues identified for follow-up in the next year. Have experience adverse weather again in 09/10, review to take place. e) Together with review of Hampshire's roads, comments and recommendations have been taken into consideration in on-going and newly initiated work f) To be confirmed, final decision on appeal not yet made. g) Agreement with decisions made by Executive Member.
Monitoring the strategic	Monitoring of the following areas:	Various:	Various:

management of performance	a) Environment Department performance issues: performance considered twice during the year - mid-year and end of year - linked to budgetary information b) Identification of LAA areas of priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receipt of information, scrutiny of issues and clarification where needed. - Identified areas that required further real-time/in-depth scrutiny. - Encouragement to officers, where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members exercised their role as challengers through questioning plans for improving on areas of weakness. - LAA areas of priority to be formalised.
Pre-scrutinising recommendations from the Decision Programme	a) Consideration of decision lists relating to Environment Department and Culture, Communities & Rural Affairs Department prior to each quarterly meeting. b) Chairman attendance at Environment Executive Member meetings. c) Certain proposals for decisions have been scrutinised by the Committee: eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capital Programme and Revenue budget (mid year 2009/10, and proposals for 2010/11 and 2011/12) - Community Transport - Winter Maintenance 	Exercise of Committee's duty to pre-scrutinise decisions at quarterly meetings, and at other specially focused meetings in between.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Challenge to decisions to be made, through real-time scrutiny
Monitoring impact of external agencies on the people of Hampshire	a) Integral to the scrutiny review and monitoring of outcomes processes eg. through the	a) Recommendations and emerging findings accepted by external non-statutory partners.	a) Partnership working emphasised and improvement suggestions

	<p>Road Infrastructure & Housing Growth and Flooding reviews (Transport providers, Utility Companies, Environment Agency)</p> <p>b) Carried out through the questioning and exploring of areas of interest eg. waste, street lighting, Project Integra etc.</p> <p>c) Direct invitation to external agency (Environment Agency) and identification of partners to present to Select Committee</p>	<p>Identified routes for partnership working between HCC and external agencies.</p> <p>b) Highlighting of, and response to, issues affecting the people of Hampshire</p> <p>c) Environment Agency received with interest in October 2009, partners identified in October 2009 and will appear in 2010/11.</p>	<p>monitored 2010/11.</p> <p>b) Questioning and exploring allows Members to decide whether in-depth scrutiny is appropriate.</p> <p>c) Relations with external agencies improved, information and knowledge shared.</p>
<p>Dealing with other topics</p>	<p>a) Members have attended the Project Integra Annual Conference to represent scrutiny in Hampshire County Council.</p> <p>b) Helped to identify areas for whole Council Member Briefings.</p> <p>c) Represented Hampshire County Council at Scrutiny of Flooding Learning Network.</p>	<p>a) Represented Hampshire County Council and Scrutiny.</p> <p>b) Topics added to briefing Agendas.</p> <p>c) Provided examples of Best Practice to other Local Authorities in England.</p>	<p>a) Scrutiny highlighted, information taken back to Select Committee.</p> <p>b) Helped to keep Full Council informed of current affairs within department.</p> <p>c) Showed Hampshire County Council to be a lead on the scrutiny of Flooding. Received praise from other attendees for strength of knowledge in field.</p>