

AT A MEETING of the CULTURE, COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle,
Winchester on Thursday, 14 January 2010.

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
p Peter Edgar	p Frank Pearce
p Michael Geddes	a Jenny Radley
a Ron Hussey	p Roger Kimber
	p Thomas Thacker

Also in attendance: Councillor Mrs M Snaith-Tempia, Executive Member for
Culture and Recreation

20. **DECLARATION 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.

21. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Select Committee held on 12 November 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

a. **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**

The Chairman notified members that following agreement at the last meeting for a visit to be arranged for committee members to some of Hampshire's Sites of Special Scientific Interest, officers would be in touch to

identify members availability and make the appropriate arrangements.

b. Artsway

Similarly, a visit to Artsway was requested at the previous meeting, and the Chairman indicated to members officers would be in touch regarding possible timings for this visit.

c. Winchester Discovery Centre

The Chairman reported that she attended an event in December 2009 marking the 2nd Birthday of the Winchester Discovery Centre and was pleased to learn how successful it had been. The following facts were reported:

- In the two years since it opened over 16,000 people have joined the library at Winchester Discovery Centre, which represents around 10% of all new joiners to Hampshire Library Service during that time
- There have been over a million visits to the Winchester Discovery Centre in the 2 years since opening. Comparing annual visit numbers since opening with those to the old Jewry Street Lending Library, visits per year have gone up by 50%.
- Over 900,000 items have been issued from Winchester Discovery Centre since it opened. Issues have increased on average by 14% a year compared to the old Jewry Street Lending Library. Children's book issues used to be less than 30% of total book issues at the Jewry Street Library, now they are close to 40% of total book issues.

d. Museums

The Chairman welcomed Janet Owen, the new Head of the Museums Service at Hampshire County Council.

23. **REVENUE BUDGET 2010/11 – 2012/13**

The Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs presented a report (Item 4 in the Minute Book) regarding the revised budget for 2009/10, detailed proposals for the 2010/11 budget and provisional budgets for 2011/12 and 2012/13 for the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Department. The report included proposals for redeployment of resources, efficiency improvements, the annual review of income and charges and the workforce implications of the proposed budget.

It was reported that the department are confident that by using good management, a balanced budget will be

achieved by the end of the financial year. Members commented on the potential to generate income from our services, and the issue of variability in levels of service from outlets such as cafes across different sites. It was indicated that a review of charging is due to take place later in the year, and that more details on this could be provided to the committee at that time.

The report indicated a potential budget pressure resulting from the funding situation of Audiences South, a Business Unit relating to the Arts Service. The Chairman requested that further information be provided to the committee regarding Audiences South. It was also noted that it is proposed to use the Library service to provide information on and access to other services, linking to personalisation. The Chairman requested that more detail on this be included in the update on the library service due to come to a future meeting of the committee.

RESOLVED:

That the committee recommends to the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation that the recommendations set out in the report be approved:

To approve for submission to the Leader and Cabinet:

- The revised budget for 2009/10 totalling £34.229 million (as set out in appendices 1 and 2)
- The base budget for 2010/11 totalling £34.484 million (as set out in Appendix 3)
- The proposals for redeployment of resources totalling £620,000 in 2010/11 (as set out in Appendix 4)
- The proposals for efficiency improvements totalling £1.017 million in 2010/11 (as set out in Appendix 5)
- The annual review of income and charges (as set out in paragraph 6)
- The summarised trading accounts of business units (as set out in Appendix 7)
- The detailed budget for 2010/11 (as set out in Appendices 8 and 9)
- The workforce implications of the proposed budget for 2010/11 (as set out in Appendix 10)
- The provisional budget for 2011/12 of £35.401 million and for 2012/13 of £36.128 million (as set out in Appendix 11).

24. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11 – 2012/13**

The Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs presented a report (Item 5 in the Minute Book) providing

That the Director of Culture Communities and Rural Affairs consider providing a briefing note or report to this committee in future giving further details about Audiences South.

That the update on the Library Service due to come to a future meeting include details of the proposal to use the Library Service to provide information about other services.

details of the proposed capital programme for 2010/11 to 2012/13 for the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Department. This included funding for countryside and rights of way improvements, community buildings and village halls, ICT developments, health and safety requirements, community libraries and art in place. In addition, the budget contained external funding for schemes under the Playbuilder Project and Aiming High.

Members enquired about the funding allocated by the Department for Children Schools and Families for the Playbuilder Scheme. It was reported that this funding is for playground sites and has previously been allocated to district councils, but on this occasion has been given to the County Council, for the County Council to consider strategically how to allocate the funds. It was indicated that more information on this could be provided to the committee at a later date if required.

RESOLVED:

That the committee recommends to the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation that the recommendation set out in the report be approved:

- That the capital programme for 2010/11 to 2012/13 as set out in Appendix 1 be approved for submission to the Leader and Cabinet.

25. **DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN – AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs presented a report (Item 6 in the Minute Book) on the proposed key themes, aims and outcomes of the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Departmental Business Plan. It was reported that this was the first time there had been a plan covering the whole department, rather than individual services. It was hoped that efficiency savings could be used to further the priorities in the business plan.

The overall objective of the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs Department was to increase and broaden participation in culture, recreation and sport. This objective was expressed through the following themes:

- Adult and Community Learning
- Health and Wellbeing
- Older People and Wellbeing
- Children Young People and Families
- Locality Working and Action for Deprived Urban Communities

- Rural Hampshire
- 2012 Legacy

A Business Plan was to be developed to outline the means of delivering specific aims and outcomes under each of the themes. Members commented on the fact that the cost of transport can be an issue in relation to young people accessing services available to them, and that this was also a factor for deprived communities and rural communities. It was indicated that the Culture Communities and Rural Affairs department would be working in partnership with other departments in order to further these aims. Members also commented on the importance of maximising the opportunities provided by the 2012 Olympics taking place in this country.

RESOLVED

That the committee recommends the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation approve the recommendations in the report:

- Notes the progress made with the development of a Business Plan for the Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs Department
- Endorses the proposed key themes, aims and outcomes as the basis for the Business Plan.

26. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive presented the Committee's Work Programme (Item 7 in the Minute Book). Cllr Edgar indicated an interest in monitoring progress with learning outside the classroom. Members also indicated an interest in finding out more about what the County Council does to support Tourism in Hampshire.

RESOLVED:

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

The Scrutiny Officer to update the work programme.