

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee:	Policy & Resources Select Committee
Date of meeting:	26 January 2011
Report Title:	Work Programme
Report From:	Chief Executive

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1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Please find attached for consideration the work programme for the Policy & Resources Select Committee for 2010/11, as of 17 January 2011.

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

WORK PROGRAMME : POLICY & RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE – 2010/11

Overview / Pre-Scrutiny - To maintain an overview of issues relevant to the terms of reference of this committee, and to consider proposed scrutiny topics for inclusion in the work programme.								
Topic	Priority	Issue	Lead Member / Officer	Status	28 October 2010	26 Jan 2011	14 April 2011	21 July 2011
Organisations that Receive Grants from the Executive Member for Policy & Resources	Low	To provide overview of the work these organisations do, supported by HCC funding.	Jane Goodwin, Corporate Equalities and Third Sector Manager	To invite organisations that receive significant grants to present to the committee about what they do. One per meeting.				
IT update	Low	Overview of I.T. issues and developments.	Jos Creese, Head of I.T.	IT Disaster Recovery item received Oct 2009. Annual general IT update (last received Oct 2010)	Annual Update received			
Budget and Performance Monitoring	High	To provide an overview of performance and budget issues as relevant to the terms of reference of this committee.	County Treasurer's	Following agreed cycle of budget scrutiny, final accounts are considered at the July meeting, and the proposed revenue budget and capital programme is considered at the January meeting. Other monitoring reports when necessary.	monitoring report received and presentation on CSR	Budget proposals due		Budget Monitoring

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Business Continuity Planning	Low	To consider how the County Council plans to ensure business continuity in the event of possible disasters/emergencies.	Ian Hoult, Head of Emergency Planning	Following I.T. disaster recovery item considered Oct 09, Members requested to look at disaster recovery plans more broadly. When this was considered in Jan 2010 members requested a future update on progress. Could be late 2011				
Corporate Improvement Plan	Medium	To consider how key performance issues are monitored through the corporate improvement plan.	Gary Smith, Head of Performance	Cabinet in January 2010 requested that the appropriate select committee scrutinise the corporate improvement plan. Considered July 10, update requested if significant changes are made.				
Economic Development	High	To consider the key opportunities and challenges for this department and its future direction. New Director of the department taking over in summer 2009.	Alison Quant, Director of Economic Development	Oct 09 members requested item on how the county council is responding to the recession, received March 10. Also requested item on the Economic Assessment required in the LDEDC Act 2009, received Oct 10. Director offered to provide an update in future on the strategy informed by the Economic Assessment.	Draft Economic Assessment considered			

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Budget Strategy	Medium	To consider the foundations from which each years budget is derived.	County Treasurers	Following consideration of the budget in January 2010, members requested potentially considering the budget strategy in future, before the budget proposals are formulated.				
Landholdings Policy	Low	To consider the County Council's current policy in relation to purchasing land.	PBRs	This issue was mentioned at the January 2010 meeting and members requested potentially receiving a report on this in future.				

Scrutiny – to scrutinise priority areas agreed by the Committee

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Recruitment and Retention of Staff	High	At the meeting in Jan 09 members requested this issue be reviewed, to look into what policies HCC has in place to ensure a workforce fit for the future, given anticipated challenges and	Gavin Wright, Director of Human Resources	A workshop was held in April 09 where members of the committee received evidence. Report of findings endorsed by committee Oct 09. Update from HR requested on certain issues. Oct 10 Members requested an update after initial staff reductions anticipated as a result of reduced funding from central government from April 2011. To				Report ?

		changes to local government.		include reference to current policy on use of consultants.				
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Winter Resilience	High	To consider how robust the Counties planning is for adverse winter weather.	Stuart Jarvis, Director of Environment and Ian Hault, Head of Emergency Planning	Invitation from Cabinet in January 2010 that this committee consider scrutinising this topic. Review undertaken Feb to Aug 2010, recommendations accepted by Cabinet Sept 10. Initial response received Oct/Nov. To monitor implementation April 2011.	Report and response of Cabinet and key stakeholders considered		Monitor Implementation of Recommendations	
HCC's relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector	Medium	To consider the value for money provided by voluntary and community organisations.	Paddy Hillary, Corporate Policy Manager, and Jane Goodwin, Corp. Equalities & Third Sector Manager, Chief Executive's Department	The committee considered a report March 09 that had gone to Cabinet regarding a review of HCC's relationship with the 'third sector'. Cabinet requested this committee consider undertaking a scrutiny review of the value for money provided by voluntary and community organisations. Report received Oct 09 on work already undertaken to review and improve dealings with VCS in relation to grants. Update requested in a year to consider progress.				

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Broadband Internet	Medium	To scrutinise what the County Council is doing in relation to supporting access to broadband internet connection in parts of Hampshire not yet covered.	Economic Development and I.T. officers	Item suggested by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in 2010. Interest reinforced at Oct 10 meeting. Links to 'Britain's Superfast Broadband Future' (Dec 2010) coalition government vision.				
Efficiency of New Elizabeth II Court North East & West Buildings	Medium	To consider if the efficiencies anticipated have been achieved, and to consider potential additional ways to maximise use of the buildings	Steve Clow, Assistant Director, Property Services	Suggested by Cllr Reid at July 2009 Meeting. Agreed to schedule when office moves have had time to bed in. Oct 10 Members wished to prioritise this update.		Report Due		
Flooding	High	To consider how flood risk in Hampshire is managed, how successful partnership working is in relation to flooding, and how prepared we are for the implications of new legislation.	Ian Houlton Head of Emergency Planning, plus relevant partner agencies	Following the light touch scrutiny of this subject by the Environment & Transport Select Committee, agreed March 2010 to undertake an indepth review of flooding following completion of the Winter Resilience Review. Oct 10 agreed to wait due to imminent changes from Flood and Water Management Act, to reconsider options for indepth review April 2011.	Timing reconsidered		Potential review to be reconsidered	

Managing Hampshire County Council Scrutiny Activity

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Responding to emerging legislation which affects local government scrutiny.	Legislation resulting from NHS White Paper 'Localism' Bill regarding Local Government		Legislation is expected in the Autumn to enact Coalition Government Policies regarding local government and the NHS.			Update?	
Proposals for in-depth scrutiny review from other committees	This committee has oversight of all Hampshire scrutiny activity, and any proposal for an in-depth scrutiny review put forward by one of the other local government scrutiny committees needs to be approved by this committee.			E&T SC highway works			
Collation of annual report of select committee activity	This committee reports back to full council each year providing a summary of the activity of all the select committees.		Draft report usually considered by this committee at the end of the financial year and submitted to full council in September.			Annual report approval?	
Total Items				Oct: 6	Jan: 2	April: 3?	July: 2?
Not Yet Allocated: 5							