

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Policy & Resources Select Committee
Date of meeting:	11 March 2010
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, as of 3 March 2010.

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 – 2009/10

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	Issue	Lead Member / Officer	Status	21 Jan 2010	11 March 2010	22 July 2010	28 October 2010
Organisations that Receive Grants from the Executive Member for Policy & Resources	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.		Hampshire Association of Local Councils	Community Action Hampshire?	Citizens Advice?
IT update	Overview of I.T. issues and developments.	Jos Creese, Head of I.T.	Update received July 09. Cllr Reid requests next update to include Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity plans for I.T. Oct 09 Members request I.T. update once a year (at July meeting)			Annual Update due.	
Hantsdirect Contact Centre Implementation	Monitoring the implementation of this major corporate project.	Michelle Smith, Head of Resources, Chief Executive's Department	Oct 07 update. April 08 considered hantsdirect phase 2. October 08 considered hantsdirect phase 3. Update received Oct 09. Update requested in a years time.				Update due

Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan	Overview of progress against this plan, currently set for the period 2008-11.	David Pape, Head of Ecology, Environment Department	Item on this considered April 08. Update received Oct 09. Update requested in a years time.				Update due
Insurance Monitoring	Annual update on the County Council's insurance arrangements.	Peter Andrews, Corporate Risk Manager	Item on this considered Oct 08. Annual update requested.		Update report		
Budget and Performance Monitoring	To provide an overview of performance and budget issues as relevant to the terms of reference of this committee.	Bevis Ingram, Assistant County Treasurer	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.	Capital Programme and Revenue Budget Reports considered	Budget Monitoring Report	Final Accounts report due.	
Sustainable Communities Act	To introduce the committee to what this act enables, and the recommendation of the Governance committee that this committee be 'engaged in supporting the Executive to manage the progression of the County Council's responses to the Act'.	Rachel Higgins, Corporate Policy Officer, Chief Executive's	Recommendations of Governance committee were endorsed at County Council in July 09. Currently awaiting confirmation from national government regarding future 'rounds' of invitations for proposals under the act. Report to this committee to be scheduled once there is greater clarity around this.				

<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>To consider the key opportunities and challenges for this department and its future direction</p>	<p>Alison Quant, Director of Economic Development</p>	<p>Mentioned at Full Council in July 2009 that scrutiny of economic development comes under this committee's remit. New Director of the department taking over in summer 2009. Oct 09 members requested this item could cover more broadly how the county council is responding to the recession and preparing for the Economic Assessment required in the LDEDC Act 2009.</p>		<p>Recession Measures report</p>	<p>Draft Economic Assessment considered?</p>	
<p>Disaster Recovery Planning</p>	<p>To consider how the County Council plans to ensure business continuity in the event of possible disasters/emergencies.</p>	<p>Ian Houtt, Head of Emergency Planning</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Report received</p>			
<p>Budget Strategy</p>	<p>To consider the foundations from which each years budget is derived.</p>	<p>County Treasurers</p>	<p>Following consideration of the budget in January 2010, members requested potentially considering the budget strategy in future, before the budget proposals are formulated.</p>				

Landholdings Policy	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.				
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Scrutiny – to scrutinise priority areas agreed by the Committee							
Topic	Issue	Lead Member / Officer	Status	21 Jan 2010	11 March 2010	22 July 2010	28 Oct 2010
Review of HCC Recruitment and Retention of Staff	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 changes to local government.	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.			Update on issues raised by the committee requested	
HCC's relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector	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 at its meeting in 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				Update due

			work already undertaken to review and improve dealings with VCS in relation to grants. Update requested in a year to consider progress.				
Winter Resilience	To consider how robust the Counties planning is for adverse winter weather.	Stuart Jarvis, Director of Environment	Invitation from the Cabinet in January 2010 that this committee consider scrutinising this topic. The committee agreed at their January 2010 meeting to do so and give this topic priority. Review Group formed February 2010, to undertake indepth scrutiny, with a view to reporting to Cabinet in time to influence decisions in relation to next winter.				
Local Area Agreement	To scrutinise activity in relation to achieving targets under themes B 'Employment Skills and Business Support' and D 'Housing and Accommodation'	Robert Ormerod, Community Strategy Manager	The committee considered a report at its Oct 09 meeting regarding the LAA and agreed that each select committee should look at relevant themes more closely.				

Rural Broadband	To scrutinise what the County Council is doing in relation to supporting access to broadband internet connection in rural parts of Hampshire.	Economic Development and I.T. officers	Item suggested by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, links to the 'Digital Britain' white paper produced by central government in June 2009, which includes ambition to increase internet access and broadband speeds.			Report?	
Local Television Services	To consider options for the County to support different methods of communication to local people.		Item suggested at the January 2010 meeting by Cllr Anna McNair Scott.				

Monitoring Scrutiny & Overview Outcomes – to examine responses to the Committee's recommendations and monitor progress

Topic	Issue	Lead Member / Officer	Status	21 Jan 2010	11 March 2010	22 July 2010	28 October 2010
Review of Existing Scrutiny Arrangements (undertaken 2007/08)	Following progress made against the recommendations arising from this review of the processes currently supporting the scrutiny function.	Denise Holden, Corporate Scrutiny Manager, Chief Executive's Department	The cabinet response to the recommendations made by this review was considered and accepted by the committee in October 08. Over the ensuing year the committee will be monitoring the implementation of the recommendations as agreed.				

Potential Review Topics/items for scrutiny

Topic	Issue	Lead Member / Officer	Status	21 Jan 2010	11 March 2010	22 July 2010	28 October 2010
Use of Consultants	what benefit would there be in having a corporate policy/checklist for setting guidelines for the appointment of consultants? How could cost/benefit analysis and risk assessment form part of this policy/process?	Bevis Ingram? Assistant County Treasurer, County Treasurer's Department	Use of consultants initially considered in April and July 2007. Agreed in 2008 that a report on the IT Consultancy Framework could be included at a future meeting to enable Members to see a broader picture as to the rationale behind the use and recruitment of consultants however this was not received due to other priorities. Oct 09 Members reaffirmed their interest in following up on use of consultants.			Report?	
Efficiency of New Elizabeth II Court North East & West Buildings	To consider if the efficiencies anticipated have been achieved, and to consider potential additional ways to maximise use of the buildings	PBRs?	Suggested by Cllr Reid at July 2009 Meeting. Agreed to schedule when office moves have had time to bed in.				
Flooding	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 Hoults Head of Emergency Planning, plus relevant partner agencies	Following the light touch scrutiny of this subject by the Environment & Transport Select Committee, if the subject warrants further investigation, this committee could undertake an indepth review, involving relevant local authority partners.		Consideration of report from E&T SC		

Managing Hampshire County Council Scrutiny Activity

Topic	Issue	Lead Member / Officer	Status	21 Jan 2010	11 March 2010	22 July 2010	28 October 2010
Responding to emerging legislation which adds to local government scrutiny powers – potential joint scrutiny	Local Government and Public Involvement in Heath Act 2007 Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill		A Hampshire Scrutiny Conference took place in April 2009 involving HCC scrutiny chairs and district/borough scrutiny representatives to consider the emerging scrutiny agenda. For some elements of the legislation regulations are awaited. A further meeting with district/borough scrutiny representatives took place on 15 January 2010 to consider the latest developments.				
Responding to new powers – Councillor Call for Action			Draft protocol considered by committee in July 09. Agreed to review operation of protocol after six months. Revised protocol agreed by Cabinet Oct 09.			Review of protocol?	

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.			None received	None received		
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.			Draft report considered?	
Total Items				Jan: 2	March: 4	July: 8?	Oct: 4?