

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
Policy and Resources Select Committee
PART II

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an annual update on the work of the following Hampshire County Council Select Committees from April 2017 to March 2018: Children & Young People Select Committee, Culture & Communities Select Committee, Economy Transport & Environment Select Committee and Policy & Resources Select Committee. The work of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee is reported elsewhere on this agenda.

2. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

- 2.1 **Chairman for this period:** Councillor Ray Bolton
- 2.2 **Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** None this period
- 2.3 **Statutory Duties Undertaken:** None this period
- 2.4 **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:**
- 2.5 Overnight Residential Respite Homes for Children with Disabilities: The Select Committee scrutinised prior to decision, the proposals to close two overnight residential respite homes for children with disabilities as the County Council moves towards a wider range of overnight respite services. The report set out the outcomes of the public consultation to close Merrydale and Sunbeams and the proposals to offer a wider sustainable overnight residential respite service to disabled children and their families. Significant questioning and debate was held, with the Select Committee resolving to support the proposals (later agreed by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services).
- 2.6 **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:**
- 2.7 Amalgamation of Fort Hill Community School and Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College, Basingstoke - The call-in of the Amalgamation of Fort Hill Community School and Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College, Basingstoke decision was requested by a quorum of the Select Committee on 10 July 2017, but not recommended following a vote by the Select Committee.
- 2.8 Proposals to close two overnight residential respite homes for children with disabilities - The call-in of proposals to close two overnight residential respite homes for children with disabilities was requested by a quorum of the Select Committee on 30 January 2018, but not recommended following a vote by the Select Committee.
- 2.9 **Referrals:** None this period

2.10 Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:

2.11 Transformation to 2019 – Revenue Savings Proposals: The Select Committee considered the savings proposals for Children’s Services, developed as part of the Transformation to 2019 programme, including feedback from the Balancing the Budget consultation, and an overview of the Department’s success in the Transformation to 2017 savings. Following debate, the Select Committee agreed to support the submission to Cabinet of the proposed savings options.

2.12 Revenue Budget for Children’s Services 2018/19: The revenue budget for Children’s Services for 2018/19 outlined the overall County Council financial position, and reviewed the savings made as part of ‘Transformation to 2019’. The position in relation to the local government grant settlement was reviewed, as well as other budget-related matters. The priorities and challenges for the Department were highlighted for the coming year, and the Select Committee resolved to support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services.

2.13 Capital Programme for Children’s Services 2018/19 – 2020/21: The capital programme for Children’s Services for 2018/19 – 2020/21 was considered by the Select Committee, where the approaches to funding the demand for additional school places were focused upon. Members explored the impact on the capital programme of additional need, inflation challenges and concerns regarding construction. The Select Committee resolved to support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services.

2.14 **Policy Review:** None this period

2.15 **Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:** The Select Committee received items on the following issues:

- Attainment of Children and Young People in Hampshire Schools
- Changes to Early Years Free Hours Entitlements
- Changes to the School Funding Formula
- Children with Disabilities Services
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms – Hampshire Area Post-Implementation Update

2.16 **Upcoming topics:** The following topics feature on the Select Committee’s Work Programme:

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Family Support Service
- Hampshire Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service
- Home to School Transport
- Religious Education in Hampshire and Living Difference III
- Revenue and Capital Budgets 2019/20

- School Attainment
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reform – Implementation Update
- Short Breaks

3. CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE

- 3.1 **Chairman for this period:** Councillor Anna McNair Scott
- 3.2 **Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** None in this period
- 3.3 **Statutory Duties Undertaken:** Not applicable to this committee
- 3.4 **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:**
- 3.5 **Grant Funding for Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2018/2019:** In November 2017 the Select Committee considered the proposed major grant funding for cultural and community organisations in Hampshire for 2018/19. The Committee supported the recommendations to the Executive Member for Culture Recreation and Countryside.
- 3.6 **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** None in this period
- 3.7 **Referrals:** None in this period
- 3.8 **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**
- 3.9 **2018/19 Revenue Budget for Culture, Recreation and Countryside:** The revenue budget for Culture, Recreation and Countryside for 2018/19 outlined the overall County Council financial position, and reviewed the savings made as part of 'Transformation to 2019'. The position in relation to the local government grant settlement was reviewed, as well as other budget-related matters. The priorities of the services were highlighted for the coming year. Members resolved to support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside.
- 3.10 **Policy Review:** None in this period
- 3.11 **Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:** The Committee received items on the following issues:
- Country Parks Transformation Programme
 - Energise Me update
 - Future Management of the Countryside Estate
 - Hampshire Cultural Trust update
 - Basingstoke Canal – Future Direction
 - Library Strategy to 2020
- 3.12 **Upcoming topics:** The following topics feature on the Select Committee's Work Programme:
- Records Office and Archiving update

- Energise Me Update
- Revenue and Capital budgets 2019/20
- Hampshire Cultural Trust update

4. ECONOMY TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

4.1 **Chairman for this period:** Councillor Floss Mitchell

4.2 **Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:**

4.3 Concessionary Fares – In November 2016 the Select Committee scrutinised a proposed change in policy that included stopping the automatic renewal of older persons passes that had not been used for 6 months. The Committee asked to review the impact of this change after it was implemented, and received a report in November 2017. The Committee was satisfied that only a small number of people whose passes were not renewed had subsequently applied to renew their passes, and therefore a saving had been made.

4.4 Road Safety – Following scrutiny of a change in policy in 2016 regarding road casualty reduction, the Select Committee resolved to set up a task and finish group to look in to road safety. This coincided with a referral of this topic from the Policy & Resources Select Committee, following consideration of performance information in June 2017 that showed an increase in the number of people killed and seriously injured on the roads. A cross party group of members was established in September 2017, and held meetings between November 2017 and March 2018. Recommendations arising from this review were put forward to the Select Committee at its April 2018 meeting.

4.5 **Statutory Duties Undertaken:** Not applicable to this committee

4.6 **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:**

4.7 Strategic Transport: Hampshire's Priorities – At the September 2017 meeting the Select Committee considered a report regarding strategic transport funding and policy prior to a decision of the Executive Member for Environment and Transport. Following debate, the Select Committee supported the recommendations being made to the Executive Member.

4.8 **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** None in this period

4.9 **Referrals:** Road Safety topic referred from Policy & Resources Select Committee (see above).

4.10 **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**

4.11 Economy Transport & Environment Department Transformation to 2019 Revenue Savings Proposals – At the September 2017 meeting the Select Committee pre-scrutinised the proposed savings under the Transformation to 2019 programme within the remit of this Committee. Following debate, the Select Committee supported the proposals to the Executive Member for Economic Development and Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

4.12 Economy Transport & Environment Department Revenue and Capital Budget – at the January 2018 meeting the Select Committee pre-scrutinised the 2018/19 budget proposals for the Economy Transport and Environment Department. Following debate, the Select Committee supported the proposals to the Executive Member for Economic Development and Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

4.13 **Policy Review:**

4.14 Waste Strategy – At the November 2017 meeting, the Select Committee considered a report regarding a revised overall strategic direction for waste management in Hampshire. Following debate the Select Committee supported the proposed direction to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport. A follow up briefing on waste management was provided in March 2018, to update Members on the latest thinking.

4.15 **Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:** The Committee received items on the following issues:

- Introduction to Scrutiny – at the June 2017 meeting the Select Committee received a presentation on scrutiny, as it was the first meeting of the Committee in a new administration.
- Introduction to Economy Transport and Environment Department Functions – at the June 2017 meeting the Select Committee received a presentation on the services within the Committee’s remit, as it was the first meeting of the Committee in a new administration.
- Air Pollution and Air Quality – at the November 2017 meeting the Select Committee received a report on air pollution and air quality.
- Highway Maintenance – in December 2017 a briefing was held for Select Committee Members regarding managing a declining highway network

4.16 **Upcoming topics:** The following topics feature on the Select Committee’s Work Programme:

- Transformation to 2019 savings for Economy Transport & Environment Department
- Review of 20mph speed limit pilots
- Update on Fly Tipping, following strategy agreed in March 2017

5. **POLICY AND RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE**

5.1 **Chairman for this period:** Councillor Jonathan Glen

5.2 **Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** None this period

5.3 **Statutory Duties Undertaken:**

5.4 Crime and Disorder - This Select Committee has the remit to cover the statutory duty to scrutinise Crime and Disorder issues as per the Police and Justice Act 2006 (However, this does not cover the Police and Crime

Commissioner, who is held to account by the Police and Crime Panel). At the November 2017 meeting, the Select Committee considered crime and disorder issues. The Select Committee received an update on Phase Two (2015-20) of Hampshire's Supporting Families Programme (SFP), part of the national Troubled Families Programme.

- 5.5 **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:** None this period
- 5.6 **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** None this period
- 5.7 **Referrals:** None this period
- 5.8 **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**
- 5.9 End of Year Financial Report – At the June 2017 meeting the Select Committee considered the 2016/17 End of Year Financial Report
- 5.10 Transformation to 2019 – At the June 2017 meeting the Select Committee considered a report setting out the overall Transformation to 2019 Programme. The Select Committee made a recommendation to Cabinet to lobby central government to re-consider the austerity measures impacting on local government. At the September 2017 meeting the Select Committee considered the Transformation to 2019 revenue savings proposals for the Policy & Resources budgets prior to decision by the Executive Member for Policy & Resources. Following debate the Select Committee supported the proposals to the Executive Member.
- 5.11 Annual Corporate Performance Report – At the June 2017 meeting the Select Committee considered the Shaping Hampshire 2016/17 Year End Performance Report. The number of people killed or seriously injured on Hampshire roads was identified as a performance concern, and the Select Committee referred this issue to the Economy Transport & Environment Select Committee for further consideration.
- 5.12 Serving Hampshire Strategic Plan for 2017 To 2021 – At the June 2017 meeting the Select Committee considered the Strategic Plan for the period of this administration.
- 5.13 Medium Term Financial Strategy – at the November 2017 meeting the Select Committee received an update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy
- 5.14 Budget Setting – At the January 2018 meeting the Select Committee considered a report on budget setting and provisional cash limits for 2018/19 that had been considered by Cabinet in December 2017.
- 5.15 Revenue Budget for Policy and Resources for 2018/19 and the Proposed Capital Programme for Policy and Resources for 2018/19 to 2020/21– At the January 2018 meeting the Select Committee pre-scrutinised the proposed revenue budget for policy and resources for 2018/19 and the proposed capital programme for policy and resources for 2018/19 to 2020/21. Following debate the proposals were supported to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources.
- 5.16 **Policy Review:** None this period
- 5.17 **Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:** The Committee received items on the following issues:

- Introduction to Scrutiny – at the June 2017 meeting the Select Committee received a presentation on scrutiny, as it was the first meeting of the Committee in a new administration
- Annual IT Update – at the January 2018 meeting the Select Committee received an update on IT developments
- Trading Standards – at the January 2018 meeting the Select Committee received a presentation on how the Trading Standards Service was approaching making savings under Transformation to 2019, as requested by the Select Committee when the Policy & Resources Transformation to 2019 savings were considered

5.18 Management of the Scrutiny Function/Oversight of Other Scrutiny

Committees: The Policy & Resources Select Committee has a remit to manage the work taking place across the scrutiny function. One of the ways this is achieved is through oversight of proposals to establish task and finish groups by other Select Committees.

5.19 Upcoming topics: The following topics feature on the Select Committee's Work Programme:

- Annual Corporate Performance Review
- Annual Budget Scrutiny
- Annual IT Update
- Annual Crime and Disorder Scrutiny
- Transformation to 2019 monitoring
- Local Enterprise Partnerships
- Vision for Hampshire to 2050
- GDPR monitoring

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Since the period to which this report relates, membership and in some cases Chairmanship and Vice Chairmanship of the Select Committees has changed. Tribute is paid to all Members who played such an important scrutiny role through the Select Committees over the 2017/18 year.

COUNCILLOR JONATHAN GLEN
Chairman, Policy & Resources Select Committee

