

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
**Policy and Resources Select Committee**  
PART II

**9. SUMMARY**

- 9.1 This report provides an annual update on the work of the following Hampshire County Council Select Committees from April 2016 to March 2017: 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.

**10. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE**

- 10.1 **Chairman for this period:** Councillor Ray Bolton

- 10.2 **Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** None in this period

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

*Family Support Service:* The Committee scrutinised prior to decision the proposals to redesign the family support service, as part of 'Transformation to 2017'. The proposals aimed to offer a fully integrated model across Hampshire, realigning the offers of children's centres, early help hubs and youth support services, and joining together with the Supporting Troubled Families Programme. The proposal, together with the change in approach outlined by children's services and consultation outcomes, as well as other supporting documents. Significant questioning and debate was held, with the Committee resolving to support the proposals (later agreed by the Executive Lead Member), as well as recommending signposting to universal early help services.

- 10.4 **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** The call-in of the Family Support Service decision was requested by a quorum of the Select Committee on 19 July 2017, but not recommended following a vote by the Select Committee.

- 10.5 **Referrals:** None in this period

10.6 **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**

*Revenue Budget for Children's Services 2017/18:* The revenue budget for Children's Services for 2017/18 outlined the overall County Council financial position, and reviewed the savings made as part of 'Transformation to 2017'; there were no new savings for 2017/18. The position in relation to the local government grant settlement was reviewed, as well as other budget-related matters. The priorities of the Department were highlighted for the coming year, which prioritised spend where it was most needed. The Committee also gave a particular focus to Home to School transport and the related costs incurred by the Council. Members resolved to support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services.

*Capital Programme for Children's Services 2017/18 – 2019/20:* The capital programme for Children's Services for 2017/18 – 2019/20 was considered by the Committee, where the approaches to funding the demand for additional school places was focused upon. Members explored the impact on the capital programme that a change in inflation was likely to have, especially given the impact of world events on the construction industry. The Committee resolved to support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services.

10.7 **Policy Review:** See 'Family Support Service' above.

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

- Attainment of Pupils in Hampshire Schools
- Children's Safeguarding
- Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service
- Transforming IT for Children in Hampshire (TITCH Programme)

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

- Joint Targeted Inspection of Multi-Agency Arrangements in Hampshire
- Revenue and Capital budgets 2018/19
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reform - further update
- Transformation to 2019

## 11. CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE

11.1 **Chairman for this period:** Councillor Anna McNair Scott

11.2 **Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** None in this period

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

*Grant Funding for Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2017/2018:* In November 2016 the Select Committee considered the proposed major grant funding for cultural and community organisations in Hampshire for 2017/18. The Committee supported the recommendations to the Executive Member for Culture Recreation and Countryside.

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

11.5 **Referrals:** None in this period

11.6 **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**

*Revenue Budget for Culture, Recreation and Countryside 2017/18:* The revenue budget for Culture, Recreation and Countryside for 2017/18 outlined the overall County Council financial position, and reviewed the savings made as part of 'Transformation to 2017'; there were no new savings for 2017/18. 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.

- 11.7 **Policy Review:** None in this period
- 11.8 **Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:** The Committee received items on the following issues:
- Country Parks Transformation Programme
  - Transformation of the Outdoor Service
  - Hampshire Cultural Trust update
  - Basingstoke Canal – Long Term Future Management Options
  - Customer engagement and marketing for cultural and community services
  - Use of technology to address social isolation for library service users
- 11.9 **Upcoming topics:** The following topics feature on the Select Committee's Work Programme:
- Energise Me Update
  - Revenue and Capital budgets 2018/19
  - Transformation to 2019
  - Hampshire Cultural Trust update

## **12. ECONOMY TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE**

12.1 **Chairman for this period:** Councillor Sharyn Wheale

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

*Highways Maintenance Trials* – In 2015 the Select Committee had undertaken a review of highways maintenance and recommended trials of new ways of working with District and Parish Councils to tackle certain maintenance tasks such as weed killing and grass cutting. An update on these trials was received at the 30 June 2016 meeting and the Select Committee supported the progress made.

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

*Household Waste Recycling Centres Service Efficiencies* – at the 19 July 2016 meeting the Select Committee considered proposed changes to the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) service, prior to decisions taken by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport. This included consideration of consultation responses. Following the debate, the Select Committee supported the proposals, and requested further details on a planned fly tipping strategy.

*Parish Lengthsmen Scheme for 2017/18* – at the 19 January 2017 meeting the Select Committee pre-scrutinised proposals for the parish lengthsmen scheme for the coming year. The Select Committee supported the proposals, and resolved to establish a task and finish group to input to a review of the scheme for the following financial year. This work is subject to the new committee in the new administration wishing to take this forwards.

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

12.5 **Referrals:**

*School Crossing Patrols* – at the 30 June 2016 meeting the Select Committee received a report regarding School Crossing Patrols, following this topic being

referred by the Children & Young People Select Committee. Following discussion it was agreed to include this topic within the planned task and finish group looking at road safety.

*Concessionary Travel Scheme* – at the 3 November 2016 meeting the Select Committee received a report regarding the concessionary travel scheme, following this topic being referred by the Policy & Resources Select Committee. The Select Committee requested to monitor the impact of the change in policy to not auto renew passes that hadn't been used for 6 months.

#### 12.6 **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**

*Economy Transport & Environment Department Revenue And Capital Budget* – at the 19 January 2017 meeting the Select Committee pre-scrutinised the 2017/18 budget proposals for the Economy Transport and Environment Department. Following the debate, the Select Committee supported the proposals to the Executive Member for Economic Development and Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

#### 12.7 **Policy Review:**

*Road Casualty Reduction* – Following pre-scrutiny in March 2016 of proposed changes to the Road Traffic Management Policy, a briefing was held for members of the Select Committee in May 2016 providing further detail on traffic management and road safety. This was followed by a further update on Road Casualty Reduction at the 30 June 2016 Select Committee meeting. As a result of the debate it was agreed to establish a task and finish group to consider the topic further, and make recommendations regarding future policy. However, due to the delay in agreeing the membership of this group and the prospect of the election, this work was deferred to the new administration.

*Fly Tipping Strategy* – Responses to the public consultation about HWRC changes had highlighted concern about fly tipping, so at the 3 November 2016 meeting the Select Committee received a report on a proposed strategy to address fly tipping, and supported the planned approach. A further update was received at the 19 January 2017 meeting, prior to sign off of the strategy by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport in March 2017.

*A Boards Licensing Trial* – At the 19 January 2017 meeting the Select Committee received a report reviewing a trial of A Board licensing that had been underway in Andover Town Centre between June 2015 and July 2016. The Select Committee supported the conclusion that the method that had been trialled was not suitable for further roll out at this time.

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

- *The Future Of Local Government In Hampshire* – at the 3 November 2016 meeting the Select Committee received a presentation providing an update on recent engagement with the parish and town councils and local businesses

#### 12.9 **Upcoming topics:** The following topics feature on the Select Committee's Work Programme:

- Transformation to 2019

The newly constituted committee for the new administration will input to the future work programme in due course.

### **13. POLICY AND RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE**

13.1 **Chairman for this period:** Councillor Elaine Still

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

*Consultation* - In February 2015 Cabinet agreed a new corporate consultation policy, following a Task & Finish Group of the Policy & Resources Select Committee making recommendations. At the 21 April 2016 meeting the Select Committee received an update on the implementation of the new policy.

13.3 **Statutory Duties Undertaken:**

*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 22 November 2016 meeting, the Select Committee considered crime and disorder issues.

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, Michael Lane, who had been elected to the role in May 2016, attended the meeting and spoke about his intended approach. Members also received a report providing an overview of County Council activity relating to crime and disorder over the past year, and a presentation regarding the work of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Prevent Partnership Board.

13.5 **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:** None this period

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

13.7 **Referrals:** None this period

13.8 **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**

*End of Year Financial Report* - At the 14 July 2016 meeting the Select Committee considered the 2015/16 End of Year Financial Report

*Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2020* - At the 14 July 2016 meeting the Select Committee considered the Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2020.

*Annual Corporate Performance Report* – At the 14 July 2016 meeting the Select Committee considered the ‘Shaping Hampshire’ 2015/16 Annual Corporate Performance Report.

*Budget Setting* – At the 20 January 2017 meeting the Select Committee considered a report on budget setting and provisional cash limits for 2017/18 that had been considered by Cabinet in December 2016.

*Transformation to 2017* - At the 20 January 2017 meeting the Select Committee considered the ‘transformation to 2017 report no. 9’ that had been considered by Cabinet in December 2016.

*Revenue Budget for Policy and Resources for 2017/18 and the Proposed Capital Programme for Policy and Resources for 2017/18 to 2019/20* – At the 20 January 2017 meeting the Select Committee pre-scrutinised the proposed revenue budget for policy and resources for 2017/18 and the proposed capital programme for policy and resources for 2017/18 to 2019/20. Following debate the proposals were supported to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources.

### 13.9 **Policy Review:**

*Hampshire Association of Local Councils* – At the 21 April 2016 meeting the Select Committee considered a presentation from Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) regarding the work they do to support parish and town councils in Hampshire, for which they receive a grant from the Executive Member for Policy & Resources. As a result of this item the Select Committee made a recommendation to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources regarding reviewing the future grant funding and agreement with HALC.

*Member Devolved Grants* – At the 20 January 2017 meeting the Select Committee considered an analysis of member devolved grant budgets, following this area being identified as a potential saving under Transformation to 2017. The Select Committee made recommendations to the Executive Member for Policy & Resources, that he agreed, to retain the current level of grants but no longer allow carry forwards of unspent grant from one year to the next.

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

- *Trading Standards* – At the 21 April 2016 meeting the Select Committee received a presentation regarding the work of the Trading Standards service
- *IT* – At the 20 January 2017 meeting the Select Committee received an annual update on IT developments

### 13.11 **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. This year this was achieved through oversight of proposals to establish task and finish groups by other Select Committees, and receiving a summary of activity taking place through the other Select Committees at each meeting.

### 13.12 **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

The newly constituted committee for the new administration will input to the future work programme in due course.

## **14. CONCLUSION**

- 14.1 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 past year.

**COUNCILLOR JONATHAN GLEN**  
**Chairman, Policy & Resources Select Committee**